



# NEWSLETTER

PO Box 400, Leicester MA 01524 | 774.371.0156 | [commongroundlt.org](http://commongroundlt.org)

## *Progress at Common Ground @ Greenville Pond*



*Above: Students from David Prouty High School helped plant native shrubs and trees at Greenville Pond. CGLT continues to partner with local schools to provide work and internship opportunities for students in the Environmental Science program taught by James Barnett.*

### **Welcome to New Members:**

- Roger & Liz Foss
- Steven Lewis
- Anna Foss Dionne
- Kurt Parliment
- Colleen Graham
- P & H Property Consulting

### **Gifts in Memory of:**

- Adriaan Walther

Last year, we were ghosted by the company treating the Japanese Knotweed, and the final treatment was not completed. As a result, we were horrified to see the remaining Knotweed came back strongly this year at Greenville Pond! Thanks to Steve Crowe from Sunshine Landscaping for stepping in to finish the Knotweed treatment, which now needs to continue into 2025.

We held a total of 4 work sessions this fall at Greenville Pond, aided by volunteers and 10 David Prouty High School students, to continue removing invasive plants and replanting with native plants purchased through the Leicester ARPA Community Grant received in 2023.

Tree work is now scheduled at Greenville Pond to remove several dead trees, and we will be using the wood chippings to create the trail to the new picnic area. Planting at both sites will continue in the spring!

### CGLT’s Mission

As an all-volunteer, non-profit organization, our mission is long-term preservation of natural resources in Leicester & Spencer for natural ecosystem services, food security, recreation and educational benefits for town residents and the region.

Contact us at:

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Visit our website at:  
[COMMONGROUNDLT.ORG](http://COMMONGROUNDLT.ORG)

### CGLT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Jan Parke, *President (L)*
  - Mary Baker-Wood, *Vice-Pres. (S)*
  - Joanne Savignac, *Treasurer (L)*
  - Ellen Sousa, *Secretary (S)*
  - Sandy Snow (S)
  - Patricia Faron (L)
  - Jeremey Snow (S)
  - Lou Anna Hinckley (S)
- L=Leicester, S=Spencer

### Welcome New Board Member

**Lou Anna Hinckley** was voted in as a write-in candidate to the CGLT Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting on October 17th. Lou Anna is an avid hiker and biker who enjoys living in a wooded area of Spencer surrounded by nature and peacefulness, and says that “the land trust's mission to preserve open space is in sync with my respect for the sanctity of nature. As a donor, a volunteer member, and presently the newest member of the board, I am excited to learn, share, and help CGLT continue its mission.”

### Spencer ARPA Grant Application Submitted

*CGLT is awaiting notification of a grant application submitted to the Spencer ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Grant Program to establish a Turkey Hill Brook/Wire Village Heritage Corridor in Spencer, to run from Small’s Farm Memorial Trail at Rte 31N, through land being gifted to CGLT at Derby Farm Woods, and up through Wire Village along Turkey Hill Brook.*

*Our application requests funding for 3 outdoor sign panels depicting the history of the mill industries once powered by the brook. The Wire Village Heritage Corridor was initially proposed in Spencer’s Heritage Landscape Program report in 2008, and also mentioned in Spencer’s last Open Space Master Plan from 2021.*

### President’s Message

This year, CGLT has been promoting the use of native plants in the landscape to provide pollinator and bird habitat and bolster ecological health and resilience. At Leicester’s Harvest Fair, we handed out many fliers with native plant recommendations, and raffled off some beautiful native plants! The Leicester ARPA Community Grant we received in 2023 enabled us to purchase \$1272 of native perennials, shrubs and trees for planting at Greenville Pond and Kettle Brook Path, to replace the Japanese Knotweed which is slowly but surely being eradicated.

We are looking forward to 2025 when the remaining native shrubs and trees will be planted at both sites, the trail completed and the donated picnic table finally installed!