

Acreage Added to Laurel Wood Conservation Corridor

A beaver-created pond surrounded by rich woods, containing beautiful blooming stands of Mountain Laurel, Lady Slipper, Blueberry and Canada Mayflower is now permanently protected as open space in Charlton off Stafford Street. An additional 11.5 acres have been added to an existing 136-acre conservation corridor in the town of Charlton. Although the property is not in the CGLT towns of Leicester and Spencer, the water on the land drains to Rochdale Pond and the French River watershed in Leicester, which furthers CGLT's mission of protecting our water resources.

Landowner Richard Kisten, a CGLT member and life-long Charlton resident, has been buying connected pieces of land along the Rochdale/Charlton/Oxford lines, and donating deeded Conservation Restrictions to Opacum Land Trust and CGLT in order to protect the property in perpetuity as open space and habitat for wildlife.



President's Message

Dear Members,

Our board and membership have been very active this spring and summer! Thank you to each of our dedicated volunteers for helping out with various work projects, often at short notice!

On Earth Day, CGLT volunteers in both towns helped clean up along Kettle Brook Path and Auburn St in Cherry Valley. Lots of junk was removed from the river and trail. Other members cleaned along Greenville Street, Turkey Hill Brook and Sevenmile River in Spencer.

Over the July 4th weekend, volunteer weeding crews cut down invasive Japanese Knotweed from the beginning of the Kettle Brook Trail on Auburn St. You can now see the trail entrance from Auburn St. More work is needed to control the Knotweed before it spreads down to the river. Take a walk on the Kettle Brook Path! There is parking for a few cars on the side of the road at the trailhead, just south of the bridge on Auburn St. A walk to Towtaid Park and back takes about 20 minutes.

The new Bixby Road spur trail in Spencer suffered major erosion damage from last year's heavy rains, and our board is advising SMOC on reconstructing the trail using best practices for trailbuilding. The trail connects to Spencer's Depot Trail and is protected under a Conservation Restriction held by CGLT.

In the meantime, our board continues to liaise with both Leicester and Spencer town governments on small and larger parcels of land protection in both towns.

Jan Parke, President



CGLT and Opacum Land Trust members enjoyed a guided hike led by landowner Dick Kisten on his land in Charlton, which is permanently protected by a Conservation Restriction held by both land trusts..

Celebrating Pollinator Week with Pollinator Plantings

National Pollinator Week was June 17-23rd, and CGLT did its part to help pollinators on its lands and public spaces. Look for these two planting barrels at the entrance to Leicester High School. CGLT has 'adopted' these planters, and added drought-tolerant eastern native plants that provide nectar and pollen for many pollinators, including bumble bees, butterflies, and beneficial insects!



Perennials planted were **New England Blazing Star** (*Liatris scariosa*), **Purple Coneflower** (*Echinacea purpurea*), **Lance-leaf Coreopsis** (*Coreopsis lanceolata*), and **Orange Butterflyweed** (*Asclepias tuberosa*).



Beautiful **Butterflyweed** is a native milkweed that loves sandy or well-draining soil (such as a large pot). It's a host plant for Monarch butterfly caterpillars and many other species.

Envirothon Team News

Congratulations to Leicester and David Prouty High School Envirothon teams for participating in the 2019 Envirothon competition at Sholan Farms in Leominster on May 17th. Teams studied topics with a theme of 'Abundant, Affordable and Healthy Food' during the spring semester, and then presented at the Envirothon competition on aspects of growing, harvesting and distributing food in their own communities. Over 30 other high school Envirothon teams attended.

As part of its educational mission, CGLT contributed the cost of transportation for both teams to attend the event.



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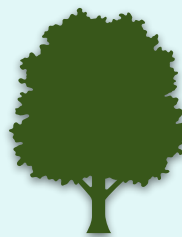
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*Intrepid CGLT members cleaning trash
along Kettle Brook Path in Cherry Valley for
Earth Day.*

Upcoming Events:

Look for the CGLT tent at the **Spencer
Street Party Festival on Saturday
August 24**, and the **Leicester Harvest
Fair on Saturday, September 21**.



Watch your email for notice
of more planting of blight-
resistant American Chestnut
tree seedlings at the Sibley
Farm orchard in Spencer.