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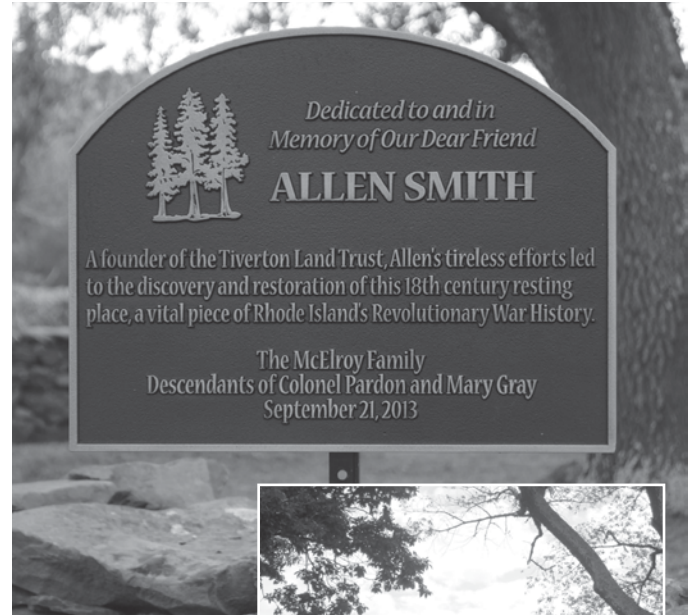
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Fall 2013

## Plaque Dedicated to Allen Smith

On Pardon Gray Day 2013, members of Allen Smith's family, along with descendants of Col. Pardon Gray, gathered to pay tribute to Allen, one of the founders of the Tiverton Land Trust. Allen had discovered the abandoned Gray Family cemetery (Rhode Island Historical Cemetery #4) on the Pardon Gray Preserve. He enlisted family, friends, and some Gray descendants in what turned out to be an eleven-year project to restore the neglected cemetery. The project involved research, grant requests, and much physical labor. All 15 headstones and footstones were eventually found and reestablished in the family plot. The project was completed in December 2011.

The John H. McElroy Family, descendants of Pardon and Mary Gray, dedicated the plaque to Allen who died in February of this year. Capt. Eric Wiese (USN), a McElroy family member, noted that Pardon Gray, Eric's grandfather John McElroy, and Allen Smith were all patriots who served in the military – not



in a showy way – but with strength, dedication, and humor. The memorial plaque is a thank you to Allen for his tireless effort in restoring the cemetery. To view a video about the restoration project, you can log on to <https://vimeo.com/36204277>.



## Grant Writer and Field Botanist – Nancy Weinstein of the TLT

Soon after Nancy Weinstein moved to Tiverton ten years ago she volunteered for the Tiverton Land Trust (TLT). The short application form asks the volunteer to list her skills. Nancy said that she could write grants: she has been the TLT's grant writer ever since.

Serving as the grant writer brings together two of the important parts of Nancy's life. First, Nancy is a professional grant writer and has been so for more than 30 years. The other element of Nancy's life that her role with the TLT allows her to express is her

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Let children walk with Nature, let them see the beautiful blendings  
and communions of death and life, their joyous inseparable unity.

~ John Muir

*Dear Friends of the Land Trust,*

As most of you know, TLT consists of an all-volunteer Board of Directors. Over the past thirteen years, as our success has grown, so too have the demands of running our non-profit organization. During the past year, the Board realized that too much of its time was spent on executing the day to day tasks, and not enough was spent focusing on TLT's broader, strategic issues such as land acquisition, land management, stewardship and membership.

In order to function more efficiently and improve the longer term sustainability of our organization, the Board identified specific tasks that can be carried out by local, skilled residents for a reasonable fee. TLT now has engaged help for three part-time positions: office manager, bookkeeper, and accountant. All three come with first-rate experience and recommendation. We are grateful and fortunate to have these positions filled so that the work of the Board can focus on the "big picture" issues of land conservation.

As you read through the newsletter, you will get a good sense of TLT's latest accomplishments and events. Many of you were a part of them and many of you supported them through your generous donations. TLT is grateful for all your volunteer and financial support. It takes this kind of community spirit and mutual interest in preserving Tiverton's rural character that make land preservation work rewarding and successful.

I hope you are able to renew your TLT membership. We thank you for your continued support.

Constance Lima, President

Tiverton Land Trust

## Please Support the Tiverton Land Trust

*We ask you once again to be generous with your contributions to the Land Trust.*

*Please complete and return the enclosed envelope with your contribution.*

### Support the Land Trust through

- **Your Membership** – Renewals and new members
- **Stewardship** – Help us maintain, manage, and monitor TLT's protected properties
- **Highland Woods Campaign** – Almost there!

To renew your membership using PayPal: go to our website [www.tivertonlandtrust.org](http://www.tivertonlandtrust.org)  
(You don't have to be a member of PayPal to take advantage of this method of payment)

# Updates from the Land Trust

**Rotational Grazing.** Grazing at Pardon Gray Preserve has been an exciting project. This spring, 9 head of cattle lightly top-grazed the spring lush of forage, leaving plenty of standing grass for the ground nesting birds. After the nesting season finished, we brought in an extra 6 head of small feeder calves to help with the heavy work of our project's goals: soil improvement and invasive control. The extra liveweight stocked at a higher density has really started to put pressure on our biggest threats: knapweed, swallow wart and multiflora rose. We've started to see thick lush stands of clover (indicator of a healthy soil) and the cattle are munching away happily. It's been great so far, and is now exciting to head into a productive fall. ~ Geoff Beresford



**Accreditation Update.** In April of this year, the TLT submitted the completed accreditation application to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. In September, the Commission sent a letter posing questions and suggesting a telephone conference call between the Accreditation Commission and the TLT Accreditation Team. The team met, prepared the answers, and convened at Mike's home for the call. The call seemed to go well. We received positive feedback regarding the Highland Woods Campaign and the recently held Pardon Gray Day.

The Accreditation Committee asked for more documentation in a few specific areas. The team is now in the process of addressing the issues that need clarification and will submit the information in the near future. The Board of Commissioners will meet in February to decide on our application for accreditation. ~ Mike Shand

**Bird Nesting Summary Report – June.** Excerpts from a report from bird surveyor Rachel Farrell on birds and nesting at Pardon Gray Preserve (PGP). There were 2 male Bobolinks in the field at PGP, and there was a very high number of active Red-winged Blackbird nests. A number of females were sitting on nests or feeding hatchlings. Common yellowthroat, song sparrow, cedar waxwing, American goldfinch, and European starling were all observed during the survey which occurred on two days in June. Nests were on the ground or woven into grasses one or two inches above the ground. Mowing was not done – or was delayed – until all young had left nests and were flying on their own. ~ excerpted from report by Rachel Farrell



**Workday at Highland Woods.** The kids from the Youth Conservation League showed up a bit late because their van broke down on Rte. 195. But once they arrived, boy, did they work! Mountains of invasives were eliminated (well, at least temporarily) and lots of brush removed from the area where the cabin was once located. We lucked out with the weather and the mosquitoes and horseflies eased up for us. 50+ hours of labor were performed.

One photo shows the youth volunteers writing up their day-ending critique and diary entries – or just resting.

Another photo includes the adult volunteers (l-r):



Wayne Browning, Garry Plunkett, Phil Schuyler, Desiree Brunton, and Carl Dumas. Eileen Browning also worked a shift and Jim Spears came in for the afternoon schedule.

~ Wayne Browning

**Highland Woods Concept Plan.** Recently, Sara Bradford and Kristen Pereira from Bradford Assoc. met with Board Members from the TLT and the Tiverton Open Space Commission (TOSC) to present a master concept plan for the development of Highland Woods. The presentation included a Draft Context Plan, Historic Landscape Records, and a Conceptual Trails Base Plan. Special attention was given to improved accessibility to the Fort Barton overlook and trails. The TLT and TOSC will now offer input on trail routes, maintenance, invasive management, and interpretive signage with emphasis on an historic perspective. Funding to develop the design for Highland Woods was awarded to the TLT through The Newport County Fund of the Rhode Island Foundation and was supplemented by TOSC's approval of funds from the Rhode Island Foundation's Pocassetlands Stewardship Fund.

# A Country Day at Pardon Gray—2013



My almost-4-year old daughter got to ride a horse, got her face painted, she pet an alpaca, toured firetrucks, climbed around sailboats, and got to drive a tractor with Mr. Rego, which was THE best!!!! Thank you so much – for such a great event! (She also loves the “recycling man,” and the ice cream, and we hope to make a scarecrow next year – wow – you guys know how to make kids happy. Thanks again.



## Nancy Weinstein

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long standing interest in and love of the natural world. Growing up, Nancy remembers paying careful attention to plants and birds. She took a number of biology and ecology courses in college and recalls that one particular course in ecology, and its professor, galvanized her interest in conserving wildlife.

Once Nancy joined the TLT, she began taking courses in field botany. After four years of studying wild flowers, plant communities, trees and shrubs, she received a New England Wild Flower Society Certificate in Native Plant Studies. Nancy's knowledge of plant life informs in an important way her grant writing for the TLT.

Nancy writes two to four grants per year for the Land Trust. The grants are submitted to government agencies such as the Department of Environmental Management, The Nature Conservancy, and private foundations. Grants to private foundations are usually three to four pages in length and those to government agencies are a good bit longer. Each grant takes 15 to 35 hours to complete. Nancy usually starts preparing a grant several months before the due date but some grants require a year or more of preparation including meetings with people from the funding source. After the grant is submitted, the funding agency often conducts a site visit as part of the evaluation process. Before committing funds, the agency or foundation wants to have a look at the land involved as well as the viability of the project. Nancy notes that preparing a

grant is a team effort. Garry Plunkett, Stu Hardy, and Connie Lima are some of the local experts who provide her with valuable advice and help.

The grants Nancy applies for usually range from \$10,000 to \$250,000. A good number of these are matching grants in which acquisition of funds from other sources is required in order to receive the grant. Her overall success rate is about 80%. Nancy believes that to be successful at grant writing it helps to be a quick study, to enjoy writing, to be able to work as a team, and to present a project in a compelling manner.

The funds received as a result of the grants Nancy has written have helped the TLT acquire a number of properties including Highland Woods and parcels of Pocasset Ridge. A consummate grant writer and strategist, Nancy spends a lot of time gathering information about potential funding sources and determining the extent to which the mission of the funding source is consistent with the goals of the TLT. Nancy then goes about tailoring the grant to suit both the needs of the TLT and the requirements of the funding source.

Nancy's commitment to the TLT is fueled by her commitment to preserving the beauty and open spaces of Tiverton. Nancy is going strong but she is quick to point out that the TLT could use an additional grant writer. Volunteers would get a chance to work with a master. If interested, please contact us through our web site or phone.



## Call for Volunteer Coordinator

One way to help the TLT is to volunteer. We are in need of a Volunteer Coordinator. Please call 401-625-1300 or contact us via the web site ([www.tivertonlandtrust.org](http://www.tivertonlandtrust.org)) to discuss details.



We are still compiling a list for those who would rather receive e-versions of the newsletter. Please go to our website and leave a message if interested.

## OUR MISSION

Dedicated to preserving the rural character and scenic beauty of Tiverton for generations to come.

Tiverton Land Trust  
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