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www.tivertonlandtrust.org

Summer 2016

Goatscaping at Pardon Gray

Since early April, Pardon Gray Preserve has had a herd of goats working hard to recondition the areas of pastures that have invasive and unwanted weed encroachment. The crew of goats has been provided by Weatherlow Farms, a grass-based diversified livestock, vegetable, and flower farm on Sodom Road in Westport, Massachusetts. Goatscaping services are part of Weatherlow's new mobile off-site land restoration enterprise. "First and foremost, we focus on soil management in all of our agricultural endeavors," states farm owner Ryan Wagner. "Through the manure deposits and hoof action of the weed-eating goats, we are actually managing the soil."

Weatherlow had good luck last year introducing cattle to Pardon Gray, which resulted in a noticeable decline in the multiflora rose. Goats have been brought in this year to magnify those positive results. The impact that animals can have on influencing



Before and After

ecosystems is significant, and consequently grazing is becoming an important land management tool. A well-managed, intensive grazing strategy can rapidly improve the soil, which in turn discourages the presence of targeted undesirable plants. "Instead of managing against plant species we don't want, we are aiming to encourage those we do want," says Mr. Wagner.

Managed grazing has become a critical tool for land restoration by progressive landowners and preservation organizations. Rebecca Brown, now the livestock manager at Weatherlow Farms, previously owned a goatscaping company on Martha's Vineyard. She and her goats had very good success with clearing stone walls, restoring meadows, and controlling unwanted plants such as poison ivy, bittersweet, and Russian olive. In addition to numerous homeowners, a primary client of Rebecca's was The Martha's Vineyard Land Bank, which had not been satisfied with the results of its heavy reliance on brush cutting for open



Happily Munching

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“AN ARTFUL ALLIANCE”

The notion of art inspired by nature led Chas. Hickey, a longtime member of the Tiverton Land Trust, to the theme of NATURE PRESERVED for the summer art exhibition he is co-curating at Gallery 4 in Tiverton Four Corners. The exhibition portrays the vision and character of nature interpreted and preserved forever through the creative eyes of artists. To advance the Tiverton Land Trust's mission, *preserving the rural character and scenic beauty of Tiverton for generations to come*, a percentage of art sales from the exhibition will be donated to support the Trust.

NATURE PRESERVED opens on July 2, highlighted by selections from the keen eyes of artists Susan Freda, Gay Gillies, Ruth Hamill, Joan Jardine, Brad McDougall, and Susan Strauss with vivid works in oil, acrylic, encaustic, mixed media and sculpture. Land Trust members are invited to visit the gallery for a preview reception on Saturday, July 2 from 4–7 p.m. and any time through Labor Day.

Gallery 4 is also the home of Silk Road Traders, Elaine Hill and Alix Campbell's emporium of treasures from the Near and Far East, including heirloom quality rugs, Turkish textiles, ceramics, furniture, and hand crafted jewelry. Mention your TLT membership and receive a five percent discount on non-artwork purchases from July 2–10. Enjoy the beauty of NATURE PRESERVED this summer while helping to support the Tiverton Land Trust.

GALLERY 4

Nature Preserved

Visions of nature preserved through the works of 6 exceptional artists

July 2 - Labor Day
Join us for a Preview Reception
Saturday, July 2, 4-7pm

With a portion of art sale proceeds designated in support of
TIVERTON LAND TRUST

3848 Main Road • Tiverton 4 Corners, RI
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Mon-Sat 10-5, Sun 12-5



“The Little Things that Run the World” at Tiverton Land Trust’s Annual Meeting

Did you know that ants recycle more top soil than earthworms? Or that the invasive honeysuckle on your property could be a favorite host for ticks? These were some of the take-home points from prominent biologist, educator and scientific illustrator Dr. Elizabeth Farnsworth, keynote speaker at the Tiverton Land Trust’s annual meeting on April 17 at the Brookdale Sakonnet Bay Manor. TLT advisor Garry Plunkett, who introduced Dr. Farnsworth, noted that “there is hardly any major New England initiative she hasn’t had a hand in, or led the effort.” Her topic highlighted the role of insects as indicators of ecological functioning and environmental quality, as well as a way to engage people with nature, especially children. When she and her colleagues led groups in Tiverton and Block Island for three days of sampling, they discovered nine ant species new to Rhode Island, using Pecan Sandies as bait.

Farnsworth also cited some of the ways insects change the environment. The hemlock wooly adelgid, named for its cottony white egg sacs, sucks the sap of eastern hemlock shoots and has already decimated hemlock forests in the southern Appalachians. A scientist at URI is studying hemlock species resistance, and various experimental treatments are underway at the Harvard Forest. Furthermore, evidence from paleo-botany shows that hemlocks recovered from a similar contraction 5,500 years ago. Other insects of concern include the Asian longhorn beetle, the emerald ash borer and, close to home, the winter moth. Answering questions from the audience, Farnsworth cautioned that few pesticide sprays are species specific, though timing can help. Broad-brush controls can kill too much, as shown by collapse of some native bee colonies.

The vital role of volunteers was emphasized with TLT’s first ever volunteer awards. Sue Thayer-Kramers presented the award to Bill Jenkins, “our faithful and dedicated postman.” Connie Lima recognized Marcia Phillips’ work as “pie lady, thank-you note writer, and steadfast back-room helper.”



Above:
Connie Lima with
Marcia Phillips



Left:
Bill Jenkins receives
an award from
Sue Thayer-Kramers

Land trust president John Foley issued another important take-home message, a call for new volunteer leadership. “We are an organization made up of our members, our leaders, our volunteers. We came into existence because of our volunteers. We’re at a point as an organization entering a new phase of leadership.” He asked for help in finding volunteers to bring new skills, new interests and new energy to the board of directors. Many of the longtime volunteers will have completed ten years as members of the board of directors, the maximum service allowed by TLT bylaws. Connie Lima, president for eight years and board member for ten, relinquished her post to Foley in 2015. Both Foley and treasurer Mike Shand must step off the board in December 2016. Anyone interested in learning more about board service can contact Foley at John@tivertonlandtrust.org.

Goatscaping at Pardon Gray

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land management. The Land Bank was so impressed with the success of goatscaping to reclaim historic pastureland in a single year that they purchased the business (and all the goats) from Rebecca.

Ryan and Rebecca are excited about contributing to the stewardship of Pardon Gray Preserve. They invite you out to visit the goats, and view their website at www.weatherlowfarms.com.



Before and After

Mark Your Calendar for A Country Day at Pardon Gray

Though it's summertime, some of us at the Tiverton Land Trust are already thinking of fall. Why, you may ask; because that's when our traditional family fair, *A Country Day at Pardon Gray*, occurs. On Sept. 17, 2016 (rain date Sept. 18) the usually pastoral and tranquil Pardon Gray Preserve will be alive with activities for all ages. Everything from hayrides to grilled foods, a Native American interactive cultural experience, tractors and more will be available to enjoy. We are in the midst of planning additional musical entertainment for all ages to enjoy while they eat their homemade pies with ice cream donated by Gray's Ice Cream. *A Country Day at Pardon Gray* is a popular part of the statewide R.I. Land Trust Days.

Those of you who have attended in the past know what a charming and engaging event this is. Last year there were well over 1,000 attendees who had the choice of numerous activities from preschooler games to fast-pitching baseballs or face painting. With animals to see close up, old tractors and antique service vehicles to explore, along with making your own scarecrow or bird house, there is always something enjoyable for you and your family. You can even get a start on your holiday shopping by choosing items from an array of artisan vendors.

All that *A Country Day at Pardon Gray* represents is part of the spirit of the Tiverton Land Trust and the many volunteers who help make it possible. Our organization is made up of nearly all

volunteers from the president of the board of directors to the students serving you soda or helping you park at *A Country Day at Pardon Gray*. We are always happy to speak with you about volunteer opportunities for short or long term commitments; we can always use more help. Just send an e-mail message to info@tivertonlandtrust.org or contact us on Facebook and we will be in touch. See you September 17, 2016 at Pardon Gray Preserve, Main Road in the southern end of town just north of the Town Farm Recreation area.

—Sue Thayer-Kramers



Having fun at A Country Day for Pardon Gray

TLT Welcomes Michele Jalbert to its Board of Directors

TLT is pleased to announce that Michele Jalbert has joined the Board of Directors. Michele, an attorney and trained mediator, brings to TLT a wide range of capabilities and experience, both with private-sector Fortune 500 companies, associations, and non-profit organizations, and in government. Michele built an extensive career in a variety of business roles with large corporations, including Liberty Mutual and Polaroid. She also served as Massachusetts Congressman William Delahunt's Washington Director, where she managed operations, spearheaded appropriations, and led strategic policy initiatives. More recently, she served as Chief of Staff and General Counsel for the New England Council, the nation's oldest regional business association.



Michele also has a strong interest in, and involvement with, environmental concerns. She is chief operating officer of The Renewable Chemicals and Materials Alliance, a national group which advocates federal policies that encourage development of bio-based products as alternatives to petroleum-derived chemicals. Locally, she is the owner and operator of the Barksfield Shop, a Tiverton Four Corners shop that celebrates the "art of green living." Barksfield offers healthy, chemical-free home, personal, and pet care products as well as eco-friendly artisan works that Michele carefully curates from around the country, selected for the artist's and Michele's commitments to sustainable business practices, use of natural and reclaimed materials, or use of bio-based dyes and other nontoxic materials.

We are grateful and excited that Michele has volunteered to contribute both her broad expertise and her time to promoting TLT's mission of preserving the rural and scenic beauty of Tiverton.

The Blue Haired Girl: Reflections from Connie Lima

My home overlooks Fogland beach and marsh. I grew up here along with my four siblings. The house sits on a small parcel of land once part of a large farm purchased by my Azorean grandparents in June 1921. The farm, now owned by Ferolbink Farms, grows potatoes and butternut squash as its primary crops. In September 2010, the purchase of the farm's development rights for 140-acres – almost the entire property – preserved the land as open space to be used solely for agriculture.

Five generations of my family have had the good fortune to live, work, and play at Fogland, our word for home. My parents welcomed family and friends who were only too happy to spend some time in this special farming, seaside spot. Two years ago, on a summer's day, a friend from Los Angeles called to ask if he and his eighteen year old daughter might pay a visit. He is originally from Fall River; familiar with the Fogland area, he thought his daughter would enjoy the beach.

They pulled in to the driveway around 6 PM. When his daughter, with perfectly coiffed sky blue hair, got out of the car, she threw her arms in the air, spun around and said, "I always dreamed of open space like this!" As then president of the Tiverton Land Trust, I couldn't help but tell her I had just the job for her. Her joy was that of a child, unjaded, exuberant – rather unexpected from an older teenager.

We strolled to the beach where she collected shells and rocks, stuffing her pockets and ours, with her sandy collection. An avid photographer, she captured shots of the setting sun sending them immediately to her mother and friends. After sunset, we lingered outside. Fireflies were now putting on their captivating display in the hedges. The blue haired girl ran to the hedges to catch one. She did! With her left hand cupped over her right index finger, she ran up to us. We watched as the firefly's light glowed intermittently in her hand. She was wide-eyed with enchantment.

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The Blue Haired Girl

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My ten years on the board of the Tiverton Land Trust enriched my life; it gave me a deeper appreciation for conservation work. Though my ties run deep in Tiverton, sometimes it takes a joyful, blue haired girl to make you feel grateful for the work you do to preserve what makes our farm-coast area special.

This land is your land This land is my land
From California to the New York island;
From the redwood forest to the Gulf Stream waters
This land was made for you and Me.

~ Woody Guthrie

Please be generous in your support of the Tiverton Land Trust – as you have been in the past!

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

OUR MISSION

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