



# **Citizens for Lexington Conservation**

PO BOX 292, LEXINGTON, MA 02420-0003

<http://www.lexingtonma.org/clc/HomePage.htm>

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Kate Fricker, Editor

September, 2005

Eileen Entin, President

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Citizens for Lexington Conservation is a non-profit organization that relies on dues paid by members to cover its expenses. Look at your mailing label to check your membership status. If it says "Dues paid 2005," you are up to date. If it says "Dues paid 2004" (or earlier), then it is time to renew your membership for 2005. If it says "Complimentary Copy," you are receiving a complimentary copy of our newsletter because you are a Town Meeting member or other public official in Lexington. We hope that those who receive complimentary copies will find our organization of value and will become dues-paying members. To join CLC or renew your membership, please send \$7.00 for a regular membership or \$10.00 for a sustaining membership to CLC, P.O. Box 292, Lexington, MA 02420-0003.

## CLC PUBLICATIONS

Over the years CLC has encouraged members to write guides to the open spaces in Lexington. These guides have now been scanned and are available at no charge on our web site, <http://www.lexingtonma.org/clc/HomePage.htm>. You may also use the web site to contact us about conservation-related happenings or sightings of unusual birds and wildlife that we can use on our web site and in our newsletter.

The files are saved as Adobe Acrobat .pdf files, and require the free Acrobat Reader. You can obtain this reader at <http://adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/readstep.html>.

Available titles are:

A Wildflower Walk at Whipple Hill
A Walk Through Hayden Woods
Birds of Dunback Meadow
Birds of the Great Meadow
Birds of Whipple Hill
Building a Brushpile
Checklist of Lexington Birds
Discovering the Paint Mine
Ferns of Whipple Hill
Flowers and Shrubs of Whipple Hill, 1982
Flowers and Shrubs of Whipple Hill, 2000
Geological History of Lexington
Guide to the Great Meadows: A Walking Tour
Gypsy Moth
Insect Pests of Shade Trees
Introduction to Hayden Woods
The Red Fox in Lexington
Wildflower List for Lexington
Winter Feeder Checklist



Turkey Tail fungus

If you would like copies of the guides and do not have access to the Internet, you will find computers available at Cary Memorial Library.

## Thank you, Spring Walk Leaders

Our thanks to Nell Walker, Boot Bertwell, Keith Ohmart, Fran Ludwig, and Tom Whelan for their leadership and inspiration on CLC's Spring Walks.

## **Citizens for Lexington Conservation: Fall Walks, 2005**

### **Whipple Hill and Locke Pond**

Thursday, October 20th, 2:00 PM to 4 :30 PM

Join naturalist Boot Boutwell for a walk over these two areas on the Lexington-Winchester border to look at the variety of plant life that is found there. Boot particularly welcomes school-age children and their parents to his nature walks -- they're fun and informative for all! The entrance to the area is on Winchester Drive immediately east of Russell Road. If the tiny parking lot at the entrance is full, park on Berkshire Drive, the side street opposite.

Leader: Boot Boutwell (781-729-4712)

### **Trail Walk and Talk**

Sunday, October 23, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Citizens for Lexington Conservation presents a field talk at Arlington's Great Meadows by local trail crew leader, Mike Tabaczynski. Learn about trail design and construction and other land management issues such as invasive plant control, visitor experience, and habitat restoration and maintenance. We will take a short walk over easy terrain to view and discuss past and future work on wetlands protection and erosion control, including the new boardwalks. Meet in the parking lot behind the Waldorf School, 739 Mass Ave, East Lexington. The Waldorf School is behind the East Lexington Branch Library and the Follen Church,

Contact Mike Tabaczynski with any questions, ([mit1@rcn.com](mailto:mit1@rcn.com) or 781-861-1537)

### **Birds of Arlington Reservoir and East Lexington**

Sunday, October 30th, 7:30 AM - 10:30 AM (Note: this is the first day of daylight savings time)

Join Chris Floyd to view autumn bird life at the Arlington Reservoir and adjoining areas of Lexington. Meet Chris at the playground off South Rindge Avenue in Lexington (parking on the playground side of the street). We'll observe the reservoir with scopes, then circle through the Cataldo Reservation, Busa Farm, Minuteman Bikeway, and the eastern edge of the Great Meadow. Wear comfortable, water-resistant boots/shoes. This walk is co-sponsored by the Friends of Arlington's Great Meadow and the Menotomy Bird Club.

Leader: Chris Floyd ([chrisf@mitre.org](mailto:chrisf@mitre.org); 781-862-2841)

### **Lexington's Geological Roots**

Sunday, November 6, 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Learn about the stuff of which Lexington is made on this walking tour of our highest peak. Whipple Hill is one of the best areas in town to explore our local geology. Wear sturdy walking shoes. Meet at the Whipple Hill parking lot. The entrance to the area is on Winchester Drive immediately east of Russell Road. If the tiny parking lot at the entrance is full, park on Berkshire Drive, the side street opposite.

Leader: Fran Ludwig (781-861-7231)

### **A Winter Walk**

Saturday, December 3, 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Keith Ohmart will lead a walk along the Lower Vine Brook from North Street to Hayes Lane. Keith will discuss the importance of this greenbelt corridor throughout the seasons based upon his experiences from his many walks over the years along this route. Please bring binoculars if you have them. Meet at Hayes Lane and Grant Street. For further information, contact Keith, (781-862-6216).

For further information on all walks, contact Andrea Golden at 781-646-3941.



## Other Walks and Events

### **Saturday, October 15 8:30 AM – 4 PM, Boardwalk Construction**

Please join the Lexington Bicycle Advisory Committee and Lexington Conservation Stewards as they continue their boardwalk construction project in the Dunback Meadow conservation area. Meet at the trailhead near the playground behind the Bowman School in Lexington, any time Saturday October 15th between 8:30 and 4. The Bowman School can be reached via Philip Road or Worthen Road East, both of which intersect one-way Rockville Ave at the school. Bring work gloves, a hammer, and drinking water. Some poison ivy may be present. Lunch and instruction will be provided. Students interested in community service, please contact Mike Tabaczynski via email to pre-register. Contact Mike Tabaczynski with any questions. [mjt1@rcn.com](mailto:mjt1@rcn.com) or 781-861-1537

**Tuesday, October 18, 7:30 PM, Conservation Stewards Meeting. See p.6.**

**Wednesday, October 26, 6:30 PM, Housing Corporation of Arlington, Annual Meeting** at Arlington Town Hall, 730 Massachusetts Ave. Douglas I. Foy, Secretary, Office for Commonwealth Development, will speak on “Smart Growth Principles in Dense, Suburban Communities”. Contact David Levy for more information. [dlevy@housingcorporation.org](mailto:dlevy@housingcorporation.org), or check <http://www.lexingtonma.org/HCAMeeting.pdf>

**Discounted Rain Barrel for Lexington Residents:** Reduce rainwater runoff and save water. Get more information at <http://www.lexingtonma.org/clc/RainBarrel.PDF>, or contact Robert Beaudoin at [rbeaudoin@ci.lexington.ma.us](mailto:rbeaudoin@ci.lexington.ma.us).

## **Dunback Meadow Trail Improvements Nearly Half Done**

by Mike Tabaczynski




Consistent 90+ temperatures and oppressive humidity weren't enough to thwart the dozens of volunteers who helped advance the progress of the Dunback Meadow trail improvements. Conceived by the Lexington Bicycle Advisory Committee, funded by a Recreational Trails Program grant from the DCR (Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation), and managed by the Lexington Conservation Stewards in conjunction with the Bicycle

Committee, this is probably Lexington's largest conservation project to date.

Our first workday on June 12 drew around 50 volunteers, including 35 Lexington High School freshman doing earth science stewardship work. Fueled by 10 pizzas courtesy of donated conservation funds, and 15 gallons of ice water, our crew completed the base work of constructing 4 new bridges totaling approximately 228 feet in length. A handful of persistent volunteers returned for 3 follow-up workdays to complete the work near the Clarke Middle School in 228 person-hours. This isn't just about boardwalks, though. Part of this project included the relocation of 250 feet of trail near the Clarke School basketball court that previously ran through a low muddy area and was experiencing erosion caused by runoff from the court asphalt. We also relocated another 150 feet of the same trail in the pine grove to higher ground to avoid a mud area and cut and mowed the thick brush and stinging nettles along the trail.

On the group's second large scale workday on Aug 13, 276 feet of new boardwalk was built very efficiently, partially due to the 8 volunteers who helped prepare the site near the Bowman School playing fields on the preceding Tuesday. Highlights of the work were the demolition of two 20 foot long bridges that had served their purpose and the reuse of much of the lumber that accumulated in the area over the years, resulting in a savings of hundreds of dollars of new materials purchase and the avoidance of a half ton of pressure treated lumber waste. Despite several bee stings, a total of 25 people did 170 hours of labor to finish the job on schedule. Press coverage of the workday was excellent. The Lexington Minuteman sent a staff photographer to record our efforts and published a photo of Castedo sawing lumber on the front page of the August 18 issue.

As a finishing touch to all this great work, volunteers refurbished trailhead signposts or installed them where they were absent. The next construction day in Dunback Meadow will be on October 15 at 8:30 am, also at the Bowman School, when we will start building 5 smaller new boardwalks and bridge extensions. In spring 2006, we hope to build a completely new trail connecting the Bowman school to Blossomcrest Road, currently a 3½-mile drive on public streets.

When all the planned improvements are complete, the trails of Dunback Meadow will be dry virtually year round. In keeping with the largely flat and open character of the land, a minimum trail width of 30 inches and a maximum step of 4 inches will make Dunback Meadow an easy walk for visitors of a wide range of mobility levels. The major trails will be safe to ride by anyone comfortable with basic off-pavement cycling (not coincidentally, almost all kids qualify), and should accommodate skiers with as little as 6 inches of snow. Birdwatchers will be able to look at birds instead of at the ground to avoid sinking in mud or tripping on wobbly planks. In short, thanks to the tireless volunteer efforts of citizens representing various local and regional conservation groups, Lexington will have gained a model trail system in one of its largest natural areas. 

## **Correction**

In Nell Walker's article about alternatives to invasive species in the April 2005 newsletter, one of our largest native trees, the Tulip tree, was shifted by mistake from the GOOD column to the Darkside (the left column). The editor apologizes.

## **Robert Beaudoin Receives Environmental Merit Award**

Lexington is proud that our Superintendent of Environmental Services was awarded the Environmental Merit Award by the EPA. Below is the citation for Mr. Beaudoin:



**Robert Beaudoin**

Robert Beaudoin, Superintendent of Environmental Services for Lexington, oversees curbside waste and recycling in the town. Although Robert was hired to run the Pay-as-You-Throw program, this program was tossed out by a court and he had to continue to reduce trash while increasing recycling rates. Robert managed to do this through a number of methods, including public recycling receptacles, recycling flyers and hazardous waste postcards sent to homes, free recycling boxes to civic organizations, complimentary

kitchen scrap composting buckets, and a public fluorescent bulb recovery program. Robert also manages the regional Minuteman Household Hazardous Products Facility at the former landfill, where nearly 4,000 cars delivered products in 2004. His most daunting challenge was developing a composting program that maximized the breakdown of yard waste and made the program self-sufficient. He negotiated with another town to deliver yard waste to this facility, then marketed compost products to local landscape companies. In the past year, Robert has improved the environmental health of the town, earning him a nomination for this award from the town DPW and the local Chamber of Commerce.



**Coming Event: Tuesday October 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 at Cary Hall  
Lexington Conservation Stewards Annual Fall Meeting**

### **A Multi-media Celebration of Wilderness Songs, Stories, Visions by Walkin' Jim Stoltz**

Jim Stoltz is known to most folks as "Walkin' Jim." The name stems from nearly 26,000 miles of wilderness travel on annual months-long backcountry treks through America's last wild places. His music, recorded on 9 different releases, stems from this extensive wilderness experience. The songs get regular airplay on National Public Radio.

When he's not out walking, Jim travels the country with a multi-media show (more than a concert) "Forever Wild," combining his photography, poetry, stories, and live music. The show promotes preservation of America's last wild places and has received an Outstanding Achievement Award from the EPA for "sharing nature and wilderness with

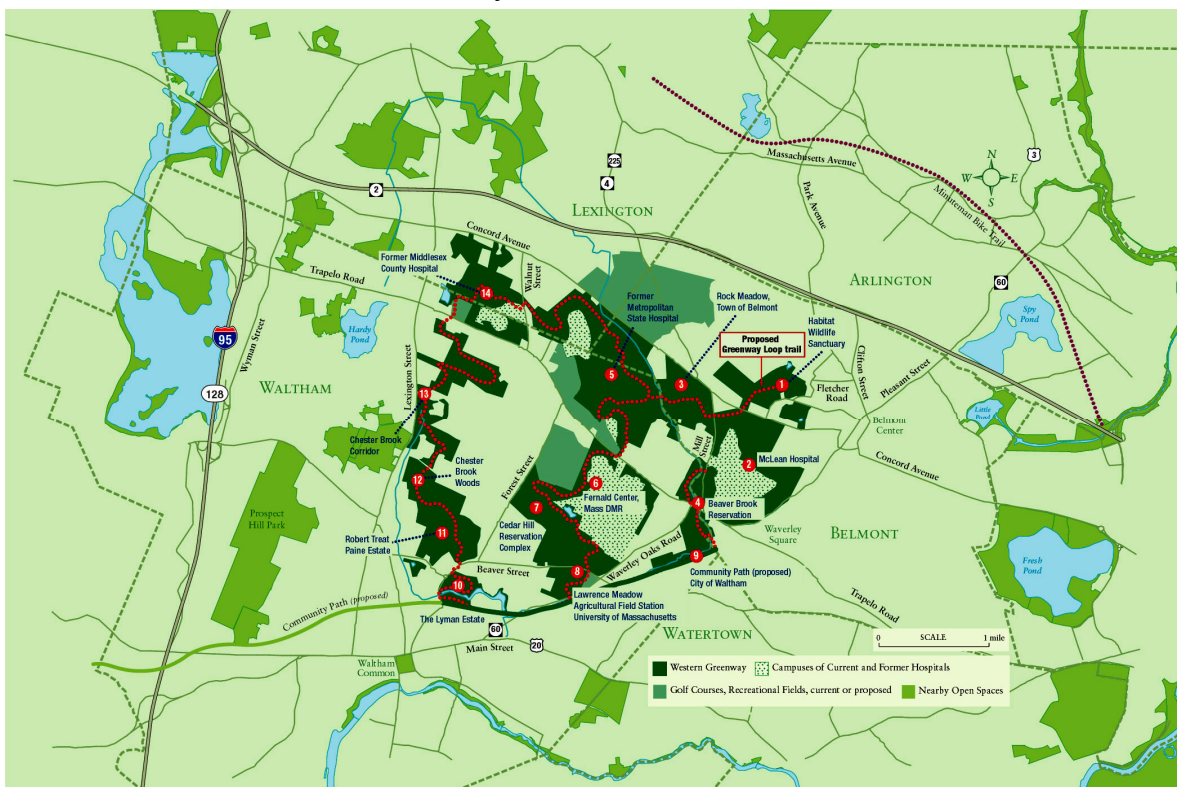


others across America through his extraordinary words, images, and music." It is an inspiring, uplifting event.

The Forever Wild show is a celebration of wilderness, and acts as a springboard for promoting consciousness toward wildlands and deep ecological values. Throughout the show Jim does a variety of songs (with slides) written in unprotected wild areas; 75% of the photos in his show are from undesignated wilderness areas. Jim tours with an extensive array of leaflets and informational pamphlets informing folks what they can do to help preserve these wild areas. He has been touring nationally with this show since 1985.

A short discussion relating to stewardship issues will follow the presentation.

### Friends of the Western Greenway By Keith Ohmart



As an outgrowth of the efforts this past year to preserve Lot 1 of the former Middlesex County Hospital as open space, representatives of several organizations from the communities of Belmont, Lexington and Waltham have agreed to form an umbrella organization dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the collection of open space parcels known locally as the Western Greenway. Charter member organizations of this coalition at this writing include Belmont Citizens Forum, the Waltham Land Trust, Mass Audubon Habitat Sanctuary and Citizens for Lexington Conservation. The parcels

comprising the Western Greenway span the borders of the three communities, are in both public and private hands, and total in excess of 1000 acres.

Initial actions being undertaken by this coalition include soliciting formal statements of support for the Western Greenway concept from the governing bodies of each community. Preparations are also being made to contact the owners of each parcel constituting the Greenway to obtain permission to establish and maintain hiking trails linking all parcels. The coalition intends to apply for grant funding to underwrite the material costs of trail signs and other trail development needs. Volunteer hours will be solicited from the coalition's member organizations to develop the trail network as envisioned. Ultimately the group would like to establish links to open spaces in other neighboring communities with a long-term goal of eventually linking up with the trail system of the Bay Circuit Alliance, itself a network of trails connecting communities lying between Routes 128 and 495 and extending from the North Shore to the South Shore.

For further information on the Friends of the Western Greenway, contact Keith Ohmart at 781-862-6216, or e-mail [kohmart@verizon.net](mailto:kohmart@verizon.net).



## **Lot 1 Vernal Pool Report**

By Keith Ohmart

The interest focused on Lot 1 of the former Middlesex County Hospital in the past year has led a small group of citizen volunteers to undertake a survey of potential vernal pools on this property during this past spring. Vernal pools are seasonal woodland bodies of water that have no outlet and often dry up by mid to late summer. Due to these characteristics, vernal pools provide critically important habitat to a wide variety of species that could not survive in waters that support fish populations. Consequently, they also carry a higher degree of protection from development than other wetlands.

The group undertaking this effort consisted of adults and middle school students from



the communities of Belmont and Lexington led by Erika Whitworth, a staff instructor at Mass Audubon's Habitat Sanctuary. The group first obtained maps of the area, which indicated that two existing vernal pools had been previously certified, and that three other potential pools might exist on the property. Beginning their work in late winter, the group walked the property to identify the location of each of the three pools, only to discover, when the snow had



melted, the existence of a fourth pool. By the time the project was concluded in early June, a fifth, smaller pool was found and surveyed as well.

Several site visits were conducted during the months of April, May and June to document the existence of plant, insect and other animal species in the five pools, with the bulk of the survey work being done by the middle school student members of the team. Sufficient evidence was collected from all five pools to warrant seeking certification for each as a vernal pool. This information was submitted in mid-June to the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, a division of the state's Department of Conservation and Recreation, which is the agency that certifies vernal pool designations. It is expected that the processing of these applications for certification may take several months.

Once a vernal pool has been certified, notice is given to the local community's Conservation Commission to ensure that proper actions are taken to protect each site. While certification of these five pools would not be sufficient to prevent development of the entire Lot 1 parcel, obtaining these certifications would provide an additional measure of protection for those portions of the property occupied by these pools. It should be noted that the concentration of this many vernal pools in one location is unique in Lexington, not to mention the surrounding communities. The pools, combined with the relatively undisturbed nature of the forested upland surrounding them, makes Lot 1 a rare property within the inventory of remaining undeveloped land in our community.



## **Lot 1 Update, September 6, 2005**

By Keith Ohmart

Recapping events of the last several months, the determination of the future of Lot 1 is in temporary abeyance pending the outcome of legislative deliberation now in process that is concerned with revising or replacing the state's process for disposing of surplus state owned properties. As readers may recall, the threat to Lot 1 in the earlier part of



this year was from the fast track auction process known as Outside Section 548. Thanks to an overwhelming outcry from concerned citizens and advocacy groups and the leadership of our entire local legislative delegation led by Representative Tom Stanley, this temporary legislation, passed in 2003, was allowed to expire on June 30 of this year rather than being renewed by the legislature. The immediate result is that, for now, the state must follow the underlying

**Photo Quiz: Where in Lexington was this photo taken?**

legislation governing surplus land disposition under Chapter 7, Section 40L of the General Laws, a careful and deliberative process considered by opponents to be slow and cumbersome. There is thus ongoing interest from certain quarters in both the legislature and the administration to legislate a faster and less restrictive procedure to either modify or replace Chapter 7.

House Bill H4278, known as the Jones-Stanley bill, was introduced in late July of this year in response to the concerns regarding Chapter 7. Representative Tom Stanley has co-authored this bill. In addition to setting forth a revised disposition procedure for surplus state properties in general, this bill also contains a clause specifically requiring a two-thirds vote of the legislature for the disposition of Lot 1 and certain other state properties near the Lexington/Waltham border. This clause has been inserted by Representative Stanley as an additional measure of protection regarding any attempts by the state to develop a portion of Lot 1.

This bill will be coming before the House for consideration and approval sometime this fall. If approved by the House, it will then go to the Senate for further debate and, if approved by the Senate, will then go to a joint House/Senate committee for final consideration.

CLC's concerns in these matters are two-fold: protecting Lot 1 from development, and seeking a fair process for the disposal of state land that balances the state's powerful authority to divest itself of property in its domain with the host community's rights to influence the process according to local interests and needs. In reviewing H4278, the CLC board finds that this proposed legislation falls short in the following critical areas:

- No role for local stakeholders other than attending public meetings.
- No planning role for local municipalities other than a right of first refusal at 85% of appraised value.
- Codification of an 85% valuation cost to municipalities rather than allowing for a negotiated price.
- Elimination of automatic creation of reuse committees for key or large parcels.
- Automatic approval of DCAM recommendations for parcels should the legislature not act within 75 days of recommendation filings.
- Loopholes allowing administrative by-pass actions that would concentrate decision-making powers in the hands of key bureaucratic officials and legislative leaders.
- Elimination of the requirement that local legislators must sponsor any legislation for the disposition of state properties.

CLC also has concerns with the specially designed protection for Lot 1, requiring a two-thirds vote of the legislature. Relying solely on the legislative process, which might be prone to manipulation at some time in the future, may ultimately provide fewer protections than taking the time now to establish a transparent and balanced process applicable to all state properties.

CLC asks its members to review this legislation and then let your representatives know how you feel about this important matter. A specimen letter addressed to Representatives Stanley and Jay Kaufman can be found on the CLC web site. This

legislation as proposed would be in effect until 2010. For the sake of Lot 1, let alone the many other critically important state parcels in communities across our Commonwealth, we ask each of you to make your concerns known.



***Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed***, by Jared Diamond  
Reviewed by Stew Kennedy

In this 2005 book Jared Diamond has turned the same probing intellect that brought us *Guns, Germs, and Steel* to the question of why past societies collapsed and how modern societies can avoid making the same mistakes. One takes up a new book by Diamond with very high expectations. It's a pleasure to report that *Collapse* does not disappoint.

A polymath who began his scientific career in physiology and expanded into evolutionary biology and biogeography, Diamond approaches a subject by asking intriguing questions and then goes on to entertain, while educating, with the answers he finds. Thus the chapters on the collapses of the Mayan, Anasazi, Easter Island, Greenland Norse and other societies are fascinating. Equally interesting are his accounts of how the ancient Icelandic, Tokugawan Japanese, and New Guinea highland societies overcame severe environmental challenges and succeeded. But valuable surprises in the book come in the stories of modern societies' environmental challenges and how they are (or aren't) being faced. The chapters on Rwanda's genocide, the reasons for the differences on the two sides of the island of Hispaniola, the significance of China's challenges, and Australia's problems (but signs of hope) are vintage Diamond. Along the way he explains why we can feel good about buying lumber at Home Depot and seafood at Whole Foods. (Incidentally, the appendix "Further Reading" alone is probably worth the cost of the book, and its last five pages should be must-reading for every environmentalist, if not for everyone.)



In his conclusion of *Collapse* Diamond says, "I'm a cautious optimist...That's the reason why I decided to devote most of my career efforts at this stage of my life to convincing people that our problems have to be taken seriously and won't go away otherwise. On the other hand, we shall be able to solve our problems – if we choose to do so." The only way for such a short review as this to do justice

to a good book on such an important topic is to convince you all to read the book. When a natural treasure of a thinker like Jared Diamond is motivated to write such a book, the very least we can do is read it.





## **The Community Preservation Act and Conservation**

By Art Katz and Keith Ohmart

Next March, Lexington will have the opportunity to join 100 other Massachusetts communities in gaining the benefits of the Community Preservation Act (CPA). After getting Town Meeting approval this past spring, the proposed program, supported by a 3% surcharge on real estate taxes, needs to be accepted by a majority vote in the 2006 election.

The proceeds of CPAs, which are currently matched at 100% by the state, are divided between acquiring and protecting open space, preserving historic buildings and landscapes, and creating and maintaining affordable housing. If passed in its current form, the Lexington tax would raise a total of over \$2,000,000 for the town, with the amount doubling with the addition of state funds. According to the enabling state legislation, a minimum of 10% of each year's funds is allocated to each of the three areas. The balance of 70% is allocated by Town Meeting, following recommendations from a CPA committee, which will include a representative of the Conservation Commission among its 9 members, as mandated by the statute.

The funding in each category may be spent on an appropriate project, or banked for a future use. Possibilities for use of the "open space" portion of the CPA money include the purchase of land to protect water supplies and watershed areas; purchasing permanent conservation restrictions or agricultural preservation restrictions to prevent future development; restoring wetlands or marshlands to their original state; and removing invasive species from ponds



and wetlands to protect existing open space environments. CPA money can also be used to rehabilitate landscapes denuded by the removal of buildings on public properties. Recreational projects can be funded from the 70% of discretionary dollars, as the committee might recommend, but are not automatically included each year.

The state legislation allows for a sliding scale of surcharges, but setting Lexington's at 3% ensures that for the next several years, at least, the state will match our revenues under the CPA at 100%. In Lexington, the enabling legislation will exempt the first \$100,000 of assessed value of each household, and there will be relief for certain low-to-moderate income households and some seniors. One estimate, for a house assessed at \$491,163, puts the added tax, after the \$100,000 exemption, at about \$122 a year.

The CLC Board of Directors has taken a position in support of this issue and is urging its members to vote in favor of this question during town elections next March. Passage of the CPA Act in Lexington would create a dedicated fund that could then be used to acquire additional desirable open space parcels in our community, such as Lot 1 of the former Middlesex County Hospital, without the need to rely exclusively on debt exclusion measures.

As part of its effort to support approval of the CPA, CLC is actively looking for one or more volunteers from among its membership to work as representatives of CLC with the CPA for Lexington committee. CLC would also like to compare the Lexington Open Space Plan's list of desirable open space acquisitions with the details for open space acquisition provided for by the CPA. Anyone interested in volunteering for this effort should contact Keith Ohmart (781-862-6216, e-mail [kohmart@verizon.net](mailto:kohmart@verizon.net)).

For more detailed information on the CPA, go to the CPA website, <http://www.communitypreservation.org/index.cfm>. Another relevant website is [www.communitypreservation.org](http://www.communitypreservation.org). To join the CPA for Lexington Committee, contact Betsey Weiss at [betseyweiss@hotmail.com](mailto:betseyweiss@hotmail.com) or call 781-863-5602.



## **Photo Credits**

Katie Toulman: pages 1, 14  
Harvey Bingham, pages 2, 4, 9, 12  
Erika Whitworth: page 8  
Kate Fricker: pages 6, 11

## **Answers to Photo Quizzes**

Page 9 – Chiesa Farm  
Page 11 – Hayden Woods

## **A Palette of Drought-Resistant Plants in my Garden**

By Nell Walker

Lexington has had a very droughty late summer. In six weeks (August 3 to Sept 14th) about 1 inch of rain fell in my part of Lexington. Eighty percent of that one inch fell in a quick thunderstorm on August 14. Fortunately, we had a very lush spring, so groundwater levels were higher than usual. This year I did not do any watering until after Labor Day. By then even the toughest plants like Epimedium and American Ginger had their tongues hanging out as a result of the long dry hot stretch of weather.

What garden perennials fared best in the drought? Can we save water resources by planting more drought-resistant gardens? The table below provides some hints, but first some qualifications: the perennials have been in the ground in my garden for at least two years, the woody ground cover more than three years.

The drought-resistant plants listed below are divided into two main groups:

(1) those needing sun between 10 am and 2 pm or more than 6 hours a day, and  
 (2) shade to part-shade tolerant plants. A very few do well in either sun or shade and are marked with ++. Many plants have a mulch of pine needles which is slow to break down and I believe does not make soil more acid. A fun way to get a look at each plant in leaf and in flower is to go to Google's web site, click on [images](#) and insert the botanical (Latin) name in the search window.

## SUN

Achillea sp. (Yarrow)  
 Amsonia tabernaemontana (Common Amsonia)++  
 Antennaria rosea (Rosy Pussytoes)  
 Arctostaphylos uva ursi (Bearberry)  
 Asclepias tuberosa (Butterflyweed)  
 Aster azureus (Prairie Heart-Leaved Aster)  
 Aster linariifolius (Stiff-Leaved Aster)  
 Baptisia australis (Blue False Indigo)++  
 Boltonia asteroides 'Snowbank'  
 Coreopsis verticillata (Threadleaf Tickseed)  
 Echinacea sp. (Coneflower)  
 Empetrum (Crowberry)  
 Heuchera sp. (Coralbells)++  
 Heliopsis helianthoides (Oxeye)  
 Hemerocallis 'Stella d'oro'  
 Hypoxis hirsuta (Yellow Star Grass)  
 Liatris sp. (Blazing Star)  
 Malva (Mallow)  
 Nepeta (Ornamental Catmint)  
 Paeonia sp. (Peony)  
 Penstemon sp. (Beardtongue)  
 Perovskia (Russian Sage)  
 Phlox bifida (Sand Phlox)  
 Platycodon (Balloon Flower)  
 Potentilla tridentata (Three-Toothed Cinquefoil)  
 Rudbeckia trilobum (Brown-Eyed Susan)  
 Scabiosa (Pincushion Flower)  
 Sedum, sp. (Stonecrop) 'Autumn Joy' a classic  
 Silphium sp. (Rosinweed)  
 Solidago sempervirens (Seaside Goldenrod)  
 Thymus, sp. (Thyme)  
 Waldsteinia ternata (Barren Strawberry)++  
 Zizia aptera (Heart-Leaved Alexanders)



## SHADE- PART SHADE

Alchemilla mollis (Lady's mantle)  
 Aquilegia (sp.) (Columbine)++  
 Asarum europaeum (European Ginger)  
 Aster cordifolius (Blue Wood Aster)  
 Aster divaricatus (White Wood Aster)++  
 Asclepias purpureascens (Purple Milkweed)++  
 Brunnera macrophylla (Siberian Bugloss)  
 Chrysogonum virginianum (Green and Gold)  
 Cyclamen hederifolium (Hardy Cyclamen)  
 Dicentra formosa (Bleeding Heart)  
 Epigaea repens (Trailing Arbutus)  
 Epimedium, sp. (Barrenwort, Bishop's Cap)  
 Hosta (sp.), if well established  
 Lamiastrum 'Herman's Pride'  
 Maienthemum canadense (Canada Mayflower)  
 Podophyllum peltatum (Mayapple)  
 Polystichum achrosticoides (Christmas Fern)  
 Porteranthus trifolius (Bowman's Root)++  
 Rudbeckia triloba (Sweet Black-Eyed Susan)  
 Smilacena racemosa (False Solomon's Seal)  
 Solidago caesia (Wreath Goldenrod)++  
 Waldsteinia ternata (Barren Strawberry)



Tent caterpillars on a CLG walk