



**Citizens for  
Lexington  
Conservation**

PO BOX 292, LEXINGTON, MA 02420-0003

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
LEXINGTON MA  
PERMIT NO 3314

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

**September, 2000**

**Kate Fricker, Editor**

**Eileen Entin, President**

**IN THIS ISSUE**

**Page**

CLC Publications	2
Fall Walks	3
CLC Annual Meeting	4
Legislation Report	5
Who is Polluting Your Neighborhood?	6
New Ideas for CLC Walks	6
Big Backyard Program Funded	7
The Pat Doherty Wildflower Meadow	7
Solid Waste Update	8
Garden Club Speaker to Discuss Environmentally Sound Landscaping	8
Wildlife Sightings in Lexington	8

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 2000," you are up to date. If it says "Dues paid 1999" (or earlier), then it is time to renew your membership for 2000. 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



Since these publications are available at no charge on our web site,  
<http://www.lexingtonma.org/clc/HomePage.htm>,  
 CLC will no longer sell them

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>

Publication Number	Title
LG-1	Birds of Dunback Meadow
LG-2	Ferns of Whipple Hill
LG-3	Introduction to Hayden Woods
LG-4	A Wildflower Walk at Whipple Hill
LG-5	Discovering the Paint Mine
P-1	Building a Brushpile
P-2	The Red Fox in Lexington
P-3	Insect Pests of Shade Trees
P-4	Winter Feeder Checklist
P-5	Checklist of Lexington Birds
P-6	Wildflower List for Lexington
P-7	Checklist - Birds of Whipple Hill
P-8	Flowers and Shrubs of Whipple Hill
P-9	Geological History of Lexington
P-10	Checklist of Birds of the Great Meadows, Lexington
P-11	Guide to the Great Meadows: A Walking Tour.



**CLC Fall Walks - 2000**  
Citizens for Lexington Conservation

**Fern Identification at Whipple Hill**

Saturday September 30, 10am-12 noon

The summer of 2000 has been a bountiful year for our native ferns. Learn identification techniques and other horticultural information about this important part of our local woodland ecosystem, from local fern expert, Kate Fricker. Meet at the Whipple Hill parking area at the top of Winchester Drive. Leader – Kate Fricker (862-8868)

**What Tree is That?**

Sunday October 8, 1:30-3:30pm

Learn to identify our native trees and shrubs in their fall foliage splendor from Nell Walker, local horticulturist and resident authority on our forested landscape. We will walk through the Paint Mine area which has a splendidly varied assortment of both trees and shrubs. Meet at the end of Robinson Road (off Grove Street) behind the Estabrook School. Leader – Nell Walker (862-6943)

**Foods, Medicines and Paints from Nature**

Sunday October 15, 1:30-3:30pm

Discover sources of food, medicine and even pigments from which paints can be made, right here in our own backyard. Take a walk through the Paint Mine Conservation area to discover what a bountiful source this area was to the pre-colonial native peoples who lived in this part of the North American continent. We will even learn how to construct a toy from natural materials during our walk. Meet at the end of Robinson Road (off Grove Street) behind the Estabrook School. Leaders – Fran Ludwig and Gretchen Denison (861-7231)

**Historic Hayden Woods**

Saturday October 21, 10am-12 noon

Savor the beauty of the fall foliage season with a walk through history as we explore Hayden Woods. Highlights will include reflections on evidence of Lexington's past, a visit to a vernal pool, and the fall foliage spectacle in what is supposed to be a very colorful year. Meet at the end of Munroe Street (Spring to Woodcliffe and right onto Munroe). Leader – Wyn Green (861-8837)

**Great Meadows Clean Up**

Saturday November 4, 1:30-4pm

Join forces with members of Citizens for Lexington Conservation to perform an end of the season clean up of Great Meadows, one of the largest blocks of open space within the Lexington's borders. We will meet at the rear of the Waldorf Elementary School parking lot (Massachusetts Avenue adjacent to Pleasant Street intersection). Bring work gloves and wear sturdy foot wear. Call 862-6216 for details. -

For further information on any walks contact Keith Ohmart, 781-861-8448

All walks will be held rain or shine.

The public is invited to the  
**CLC ANNUAL MEETING**  
featuring  
**Glen Garber, Lexington's Planning Director**  
Speaking on

Development trends in the new millennium and what they mean for the environment

**Date:** Tuesday, November 14

**Time:** 8:00 PM

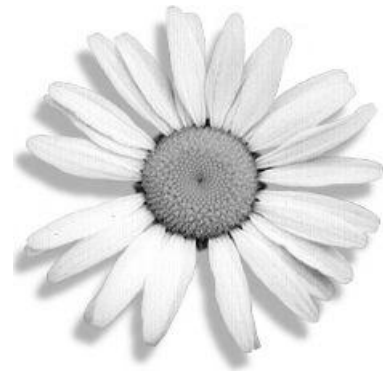
**Place:** Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Office Building, 1625 Massachusetts Ave.

Glen Garber has been on the staff in Lexington since December, 1998 and has been Planning Director since December, 1999. He has had a diverse 25-year career in local and regional planning, community development programs and private consulting. His professional passion is to explore cutting edge innovations in the devising of better planning and regulatory tools. He has worked on the redevelopment of Fort Devens, on planning for the MAPC, and as a development director in Peabody MA and Portsmouth NH. As a member of a large international engineering firm, he was responsible for major environmental impact statements in western United States.

**Nominations for CLC Board Members**

A short business meeting to nominate and elect the CLC Board Members will take place before the featured speaker's presentation at the annual meeting. The Board of Directors of CLC consists of the officers and associate members who are appointed by the officers. Nominations for the Board for the coming year are listed below. Also included in this list is the area in which the Board member has primary responsibility. Additional nominations from the floor will be accepted at the meeting.

President: Eileen Entin  
Vice President: Keith Ohmart (Walks)  
Treasurer: Rosemary Green  
Secretary: Ann Schaffner  
Associate Members: John Andrews (Legislative Issues)  
Kate Fricker (Newsletter)  
Alan Levine (Legislative Issues)  
Fran Ludwig (Education)  
Jill Stein (Health Issues)



**ADMISSION IS FREE**  
**REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED**

We will have cups available, but to avoid waste, bring your own mug if possible.



## **Legislation Reports**

By Kate Fricker

### **Lumbering at Wachusett Mountain**

Superior Court Judge Mitchell J. Sikora, Jr. recently ruled that Wachusett Mountain Associates could go ahead with their plan to clear-cut 12 acres of 100-140 year old oak forest on publicly owned property in a conservation zone with a biodiversity significance overlay at Wachusett Mountain State Reservation. Since a further appeal is anticipated, it is still not too late for concerned citizens to contact the Governor, Secretary Durand, DEM Commissioner Peter Webber, and/or your state legislators to ask that healthy mature forests adjacent to the unique old-growth forest at Wachusett Mountain not be destroyed to expand capacity by only 300 more skiers/snowboarders. The ski area has already increased its capacity from 1,900 skiers/snowboarders per session to 3,825 in the past decade.

### **Conservation and Reinvestment Act**

The Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) has been passed by the U.S. House of Representatives, but has not yet been scheduled for consideration by the Senate. Although it has widespread support, there are so many other priorities in this limited time before the October 6 adjournment that its passage is not assured.

CARA would provide significant new Federal funding to help provide leverage for raising revenue at the state and local levels for a wide variety of conservation programs. It would authorize nearly \$3 billion a year for 15 years to acquire open space, restore damaged coastlines and estuaries, and protect endangered and non-game species. The bill will not impose new taxes. The funding mechanism is derived from royalties from offshore oil production. Should CARA become law, Massachusetts stands to gain nearly \$50 million annually for important conservation programs- including \$17 million for state and local open space protection, \$6 million of non-game wildlife conservation, and \$2 million for historic preservation.

If you would like your voice heard about this legislation:

- Contact Senator Kennedy in Boston at 617-565-3170 or in Washington, D.C. at 202-224-4543. His email address is: senator@kennedy.senate.gov.
- Contact Senator Kerry in Boston at 617-565-8519 or in Washington, D.C. at 202-224-2742. His email address is: john\_kerry@kerry.senate.gov.

### **Community Preservation Act Finally Enacted**

The original funding mechanism for this act, which allows towns in Massachusetts to raise money for conservation purposes above Prop. 2 ½ limits, simply let towns put a surcharge on all real estate transfers. That was totally unacceptable to the real estate industry, which had held up the comparable Cape Cod land bank legislation until the provision for a real estate transfer surcharge was dropped. For Cape Cod the legislature finally appropriated \$15 million to match the share raised by the fifteen Cape Cod municipalities. For the rest of the state the impasse was overcome by imposing new surcharges on certain Registry of Deeds services as a way to raise the state matching money.

Governor Cellucci, however, decided that the surcharges were too high, and that some services should be exempt, such as homestead declarations, which are often made by the elderly to protect their homes from foreclosure or to protect them from bankruptcy proceedings. Finally, a compromise package of fee surcharges was worked out between legislators and the Governor, and the Governor agreed to sign the bill.

Present estimates are that the state match will produce about \$25 million a year, and the municipal real estate taxes raised for the program could, if all municipalities participate, raise a total of \$200 million.

## **Who Is Polluting Your Neighborhood?**

by John Andrews

Want to find out who is releasing toxics upwind of your neighborhood? You don't have to wade through files of government reports to find out. All you have to do is go to the Scorecard website sponsored by Environmental Defense, a national non-profit organization. The address is <http://www.scorecard.org/>. Here the data from the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) are available at the click of a mouse. You enter your zip code and the list of the largest nearby pollution sources appears. The table below presents the data that results from entering the Lexington zip code 02421.

Largest Reported Environmental Releases from TRI Sources in 1997 near Zip Code 02421 (Numbers are in pounds):

1. IDEAL TAPE CO. LOWELL 177,317
2. HUB FABRIC LEATHER CO. INC. EVERETT 169,336
3. BRADFORD IND. INC. LOWELL 106,100
4. POLAROID CORP. WALTHAM 104,468
5. MAJILITE MFG. INC. LOWELL 74,600
6. DUNCAN GROUP EVERETT 63,306
7. SURFACE COATINGS INC. WILMINGTON 51,447
8. HIGHLAND IND. FRAMINGHAM 42,190
9. LISTA INTL. CORP. HOLLISTON 39,936
10. OAK FINISHERS INC. LOWELL 38,913
11. MILLIPORE CORP. BEDFORD 36,200
12. HAARTZ CORP. ACTON 33,147
13. HOLLINGSWORTH & VOSE CO. WEST GROTON 27,470
14. CAMBRIDGE PLATING CO. BELMONT 24,155
15. IONICS INC. WATERTOWN 23,548
16. BOSTON SCIENTIFIC CORP. WATERTOWN 21,600
17. EASTERN CHEM-LAC CORP. MALDEN 21,495
18. C.F.C. INC. WALTHAM 20,440
19. DENNISON MFG. CO. FRAMINGHAM 16,711
20. PRINTED CIRCUIT CORP. WOBURN 16,521



## **New Ideas for CLC Walks**

Citizens for Lexington Conservation sponsors walks on conservation land in Lexington in the spring and again in the fall each year. We realize that there may be many gifted walk leaders among the membership of CLC. If you know some potential walk leaders, if you would be interested in leading a walk, or if you have some ideas about walk topics, contact Keith Ohmart at 862-6216. Some topics from past years are: mushrooms, geology, herbal value of plants, kite flying, historical map tracing, nature photography, edible wildflowers, the Great Meadow, nature sketching, and painting.

## Big Backyard Program Funded

By Fran Ludwig

Big Backyard, a volunteer-run environmental education program now organized in five of Lexington's elementary schools, was recently funded by the Lexington Public Schools. Initiated at Estabrook School six years ago, the program was established through a grant from the Lexington Education Foundation, with some assistance from the Citizens for Lexington Conservation. Currently Bowman, Bridge, Fiske and this year Harrington are participating. Bev Morrison, an environmental consultant and educator at Mass. Audubon's Broadmoor, has written seasonal nature walks that support the science and/or social studies curriculum for grades K-5 at each of the Big Backyard schools. Bev offers training for teachers and volunteers as part of the program. The volunteers then take small groups of children out to their "Big Backyard"--the playground and conservation land near their school-- to observe and appreciate natural cycles. Some of the topics include:

Kindergarten: Seasonal changes in plants

Grade 1: Animals over the seasons (especially birds)

Grade 2: Native American use of plants; snow and ice, soil

Grade 3: Colonial plants; food chains (land and water)

Grade 4: Winter twigs; Lexington geology

Grade 5: Forest ecosystems



Children and parents who had visited Hennessey's Field as part of Estabrook's Big Backyard bird and soil explorations gave compelling testimony at Town Meeting in favor of placing the field under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission. Through this program they understood Aldo Leopold's contention that we should treat land as a community to which we belong rather than merely a commodity to be bought and sold.

CLC members are invited to participate as volunteers in this educational effort. An introductory training session will be held on Sept. 28 at Fiske School from 9-11am. An evening version will take place at Bowman School on Mon. Oct. 2 from 7:30-9 pm. Specific training sessions for grade level walks are scheduled in the weeks after that at individual elementary schools. For more information, call Fran Ludwig, Elementary Science Specialist at 861-7231, or e-mail her at: [ludwig@sch.ci.lexington.ma.us](mailto:ludwig@sch.ci.lexington.ma.us).



## The Pat Doherty Wildflower Meadow

The CLC Board with the guidance of Nell Walker, is in the process of planning a wildflower meadow in memory of former CLC president Pat Doherty. The site, a part of the Lincoln Park meadow, is now being prepared by pulling up ragweed, invasive weeds and woody roots. Native grass seed will be spread on the exposed soil, and plugs of wildflower plants will be planted. Later in the fall there will be several collecting trips in the park to get ripe seeds of local plants, such as: *Baptisia leucantha* (White false indigo), *Helianthus helianthoides* (Ox-eye daisy), *Helianthus mollis* (Downy sunflower), *Rudbeckia triloba*, and grasses as the seeds ripen. Any CLC members who are interesting in collecting seeds for Pat's Meadow, can join a group collection effort that will be led by Nell. This is a chance to learn more about meadow wildflowers and grasses, and even collect a few seeds for your own garden. For more information call Nell Walker at 862-6943 ([nelwalk@earthlink.net](mailto:nelwalk@earthlink.net)) or Eileen Entin at 862-6418 ([ebe@alphatech.com](mailto:ebe@alphatech.com)).

## **Solid Waste Update**

The Lexington recycling information calendar ended on July 1, 2000. Because of uncertainty about the disposal of television screens and computer monitors, which can no longer be put out with regular trash, a new instruction sheet has not yet been issued. The DPW Publications section of the town web site, <http://patriot.ci.lexington.ma.us/DPW/DPWpub.htm>, also still has only the old instruction sheet, but the new version of the calendar is currently at the printers and should be mailed to residents soon. For much more information about Lexington trash, look at the SWAT website, and check out the articles by Laura Dickerson, <http://www.lexingtonma.org/swat/TrashTalk.htm>.

## **Garden Club Speaker to Discuss Environmentally Sound Landscaping**

CLC will be a co-sponsor of the Lexington Field and Garden Club's annual meeting, to be held at the Museum of our National Heritage on Wednesday, October 11 at 7:30 pm. The featured speaker will discuss horticultural concepts for environmentally sound landscaping. For more information about this meeting, contact Susan Solomon (862-7954) or Nancy Hubert (861-0798).

## **Wildlife Sightings in Lexington**

As part of the CLC display at Discovery Day last May, we posted a map of Lexington and asked people to note what wildlife they've seen in Lexington and where they saw it. Residents reported a number of sightings in a variety of locations in Lexington. In many cases one group's sightings were corroborated by another's. Here's an overview of wildlife that people reported seeing in the first months of the new millennium.

A number of folks reported seeing rabbits, chipmunks, squirrels, and ground hogs in various parts of Town. Coyotes were spotted in the area of Emerson and Thoreau Roads, around East and Grant, on Brent Road, Partridge St, Whittier Road, and Fuller Road. Weasels were seen in the conservation land behind Clarke Middle School. A woodchuck was seen on Lowell St. An opossum was seen on Maple St and on Sunny Knoll. Foxes were spotted on Ledge lawn, York St., Nickerson Road, and on Sunny Knoll. Deer were reported on Grove St., on Marrett Road around Minuteman Technical School, and on North St. near Willards Woods. Beavers were seen off Adams St. near the Burlington-Lexington line. A snapping turtle and a spotted salamander were seen on Peachtree Road.

Many different kinds of birds were reported. Pheasants were seen on Lowell St. Turkeys were reported on Mass Ave., Bedford St. near the bike path, Fulton Road, and Cooke Road. Hawks were seen on Doran Farms Lane. A hardy woodpecker and a flicker were seen on Ingleside Road. A red tailed hawk was reported at Diamond Middle School and a killdeer at Lexington High. Barred owls were seen on Lowell St, Willards Woods, and in the Paint Mine Conservation area. A screech owl was seen on Carmen Circle. Owls were also spotted on Sunny Knoll and on York St.

What wildlife have you seen this year in Lexington? Keep your eyes open. Report what you've spotted to the CLC web-site at <http://www.lexingtonma.org/clc/HomePage.htm>. Tell us what you saw, where you saw it, and in what month. We'll keep track on our web-site of what's reported. Help us compile a record over several years. We can look for consistencies and changes in patterns over time.

Stop by our table next May at Discovery Day, and have a look at our updated map of wildlife sightings. Find out whether others have seen the same kinds of wildlife as you have.