



WINTER 2022

NEWSLETTER

Conservation of the Night Pasture

By Cynthia Henshaw

When Ray Robinson was a youngster, and for three generations before him, his family's dairy herd would spend the summer nights grazing these 33 acres, just across from the barn. In recent years, the land was the first spring pasture for the Robinson's mixed herd of Normande, Jersey and Holstein cows. Ray and his wife Pam fondly recollect their cows' joyful reactions to the first day out on pasture in the spring, "kicking up their heels and dashing toward the fresh grass" after spending the long winter in the barnyard.

Ray and Pam recently retired from farming. They are the last of four generations of Robinsons to farm the land, which was originally purchased in Hardwick in 1892. As they transition the core part of the farm letting other farmers try their hand at building their own agricultural business, it's with their donation of the Night Pasture to EQLT that they can assure that farming can continue on at least a portion of the original farm. "It feels good to see it preserved, and we hope the gift of the Night Pasture is the start of a larger block of conserved land in the future," says Ray.

Local wildlife benefit as well. Last year Ray saw a moose walking through the fields. Coyotes are drawn by the many rabbits using the stone walls and multiflora rose

bushes for cover. Bears have been known to claw their way into a round bale of hay. Just down-slope is the Danforth Brook, with sections ponded with active beaver dams. During mating season, the spring peepers make so much noise it's hard to have a conversation. Plus, the birds love the area.

The Robinsons transitioned from conventional milk production to organic raw milk and cheese in 2006. At the time, one recommendation was to expand their herd and stick with conventional milk. They chose instead to downsize. Producing 100% grass-fed and certified organic milk was better for the cows and made a higher quality, value-added product. Pam and Ray's lifestyle was also improved with more time spent rotating cows on pasture instead of on the tractor, using diesel fuel, to produce corn silage for feed. They had control over their prices, too. Ray's advice for farmers today is to "see the big picture, have a long view and be flexible enough to think outside the box. That's hard to do when you're in the daily grind, but is important." That's good advice for us all.

With cows on 100% grass, the raw milk and cheese produced reflected the local flora or terroir of the pasture. This was a key part of why the Robinson's Farm cheeses won numerous awards over the

years. That means that all their fields, including the Night Pasture, were managed with no herbicides or pesticides, among other qualifications. The rotational grazing pattern lets the cows keep the multiflora rose and other woody plant growth in check. It'll be important to get animals back into the Night Pasture in 2022 to continue that work. The EQLT stewardship committee started discussions with local farmers about grazing and haying the land next growing season.

Ray shared that "there was a lot of emotion going into the decision to sell the farm, but being able to preserve a part of the land helps. It's a good thing." We appreciate Ray and Pam's care for the land and their generous gift. The Robinson family and the folks that came before all made decisions that allowed the land to grow good food and stay healthy. EQLT looks forward to continuing that tradition, which might include a walking trail, grazing animals and wildlife monitoring. There's also an old cellar hole with historic stone work to explore and interpret. We will start by getting to know the land, and hope that when the Robinsons are visiting in Hardwick, they will walk the land appreciating how future farmers and the East Quabbin Land Trust are keeping it conserved. ■



The newly conserved Night Pasture in Hardwick

"There was a lot of emotion going into the decision to sell the farm, but being able to preserve a part of the land helps. It's a good thing."
-Ray Robinson

MESSAGE FROM THE Executive Director

Cynthia Henshaw



Yes, we're in the midst of a deadly pandemic, but that makes it all the more important to have fun together, in whatever ways we can. We giggled and guffawed at our combined holiday greeting with the stupid animal puns and cameo appearances. Check it out if you haven't seen it yet, we expect that you'll get a laugh too! https://youtu.be/8bxTkEuAz_g

Making sure that our volunteers can express themselves with humor and creativity is important. Many of our volunteers are spurred-on knowing that their ideas and enthusiasm to create exceptional outcomes is welcomed at the East Quabbin Land Trust. Just stop at Wendemuth Meadow (25 Bates Street in North Brookfield) or the Mass Central Rail Trail (off Church Street in Ware) to see two areas that are cared for by volunteers who love being on the land

and encouraging others to get out too.

There are so many ideas that haven't been expressed and fun projects yet to be done. How about more outdoor art installations along the rail trail? Or what about sharing garden plants with our neighbors? Or even mentoring young people during outdoor adventures?

We are encouraging you to share your creative spirit. How do you want to get involved? Sign up at <https://eqlt.org/about-us/volunteers/> to start having fun and making a difference in our community today.

My kids no longer sing nursery rhymes, but this tune may still be familiar to many of you... Here is a new verse to have fun with!

Volunteers make the bus go round and round, round and round, round and round. Volunteers make the bus go all through the town. ■



THE EAST QUABBIN LAND TRUST

works to foster the sustainable use of our natural and historic resources for the benefit of all through the conservation and stewardship of the farms, woods and waters in our region of Massachusetts.

For more information about the land trust, to become a member, or request a change of address, please contact us at:

East Quabbin Land Trust
 P.O. Box 5, 120 Ridge Road
 Hardwick, MA 01037-0005
 413-477-8229
 Email: EQLT@comcast.net

Visit our website at www.EQLT.org or "Like" us on Facebook!

BOARD & STAFF

- Judith Jones.....NEW BRAINTREE, *President*
- Jerry Reilly.....HARDWICK, *Treasurer*
- Martha KlassanosWARE, *Clerk*
- Stan White.....HARDWICK
- Stephen Brewer.....BARRE
- Ann HicksNORTH BROOKFIELD
- Philip Hubbard.....BARRE
- Jody KablackNEW BRAINTREE
- Ginny RichBARRE
- Rick RomanoHARDWICK
- Harry Webb.....HARDWICK
- Cynthia HenshawExecutive Director
- Richard CavanaughDevelopment Coordinator
- Pattie RichBookkeeper
- Jess Cusworth.....Program Coordinator
- Louisa Rossel.....Youth Education Coordinator
- Terry BriggsBoard Emeritus
- Chris BuelowBoard Emeritus
- Lucinda Childs.....Board Emeritus

Get to Know Brian Trimby

By Jess Cusworth

Next time you're driving near Ware Corner Road in Oakham, be sure to stop by the newly expanded trail at Eva's Woods. We have volunteer Brian Trimby to thank for spearheading this great trail expansion!

Brian has lived in Oakham since 1986, where he and his wife raised their children and continue to reside. At the time they both worked in Worcester, and they loved the idea of living in the rustic and rural area in Oakham. An avid mountain biker, hiker, and skier, Brian has always had a great appreciation for the outdoors and being in nature.

He spends much of his free time "doing anything outdoors," whether it's mountain biking, hiking, kayaking, skiing, or building trails with the New England Mountain Bike Association. He's a strong supporter of land conservation because he sees open space dwindling each year. "Just in my lifetime, so much of the open space in our region has been developed. It's so valuable for everyone to get out into nature to de-stress and slow down. The sights and sounds are very relaxing," he adds.

Brian learned about the East Quabbin Land Trust over the past few years and admired the mission and land-use policies. Having recently helped develop trails behind the Oakham Center School, Brian knew there was interest from locals in trail development in Oakham. "When I heard that Eva Grimes donated her 74-acre property to the Land Trust, I knew I had to get involved in getting trails built there." While there are a variety of projects that Brian likes helping out with at EQLT, trail

building and maintenance take the number one spot on his list.

Brian was there on the first trail building day at Eva's Woods in late 2020, and he has been helping out with trail maintenance and expansion on the property ever since. "It makes me happy when I see signs of the trail being used, and I want to do what I can to help facilitate getting folks out onto this beautiful land." Thanks to Brian and the other great volunteers who came to our most recent work day at Eva's Woods in December 2021, there are now two trail loops at Eva's Woods. First is a shorter loop that's just under a half-mile, second is a full one-mile loop that stretches onto the property of adjacent neighbors, who generously gave permission to expand the trail onto their beautiful wooded land.

This winter, Brian is looking forward to getting out on his cross-country skis as well as back-country skiing around Mt. Greylock. Before we know it, spring will be returning and Brian can enjoy mountain biking along his favorite trails, especially EQLT's trails in Hardwick.

We give a hearty "thank you!" to Brian for all his hard work and enthusiasm for land stewardship and conservation. ■

[Download the updated trail map for Eva's Woods by visiting EQLT.org or scanning:](#)



Brian trimming trees along the trail at Eva's Woods



Brian, Cynthia, and Mark installing the roadside preserve sign

***"It makes me happy when I see signs of the trail being used, and I want to do what I can to help facilitate getting folks out onto this beautiful land."
-Brian Trimby***

2021 Annual Donor List

Every gift is important to us and helps fulfill our mission together. We are only able to accomplish important conservation, stewardship and education efforts with your support. Thank you for your generosity!

∞ = Sustainer

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Anonymous (8) | Suzanne and Daniel Cashman | Evelyn Enos | Paul and Janice Hills | Christine Komenda | Anne and Timothy Morin |
| Paula and Ken Abair | Corwin Castonguay | John Ewing | Pamela Hinckley | Matthew A. Koziol | Deborah and Douglas Morrison |
| Harrison Achilles | Richard and Annie Cavanaugh ∞ | W. Gerard and Lynette Fallon | Alan Hodder and Harbour Fraser | Elizabeth Lenahan and Daniel | Katherine Morrison |
| Carl Ahonen | Andrew Champagne | John Falxa and Valerie Raymond | Hodder | Kuhnen | Jennifer and John Mott |
| Kathy and Paul Airoidi | Lucinda Childs and Eric Vollheim | Laura Fasano and Charles | Jon Hogan | Robert and Susan LaFlamme | Gladys Mountain |
| Judith M. Alfano | Michael Cicero | DiCapua | Bonnie Kay House | Phyllis Lagomarsino | Diane Nassif |
| Harvey Allen | Elizabeth Clark | Rebecca Fay | Deborah Houston and Lee | Maria A. Lasagna | Albert Navitski |
| Patrick F. Allison, Jr. | Pamela Clark | Susan Brooke Finn | McLaughlin | Christopher Laursen | Elizabeth Newell |
| Candace Anderson | Robert Clark and | David and Joan Fitzgerald | Wendy J. Howes | Daniel Leahy and Julia Rabin | Debra and Jordan O'Connor |
| Doug Anderson and Dan Salvucci | Fifi Scoufopoulos | Maureen Flannery | Anne S. Hrobsky | Charlie and Aline LeMaitre | Cheryl O'Donnell |
| Sarah Anderson ∞ | Barbara Clough | Gyano Gibson and Donald | Philip Hubbard and Iva Kazda | Susan and Roger Lincoln ∞ | John O'Keefe |
| John Baker | Thomas Clough | Fletcher | Patrick Hughes and Amanda | John and Joyce Lofgren | Kim Otis |
| Richard Ballon | Lisa Cohen and Neil Halin | David and Kay Flick | MacArthur ∞ | Stephen Lofgren | Carol E. Ouellette |
| George and Maria Barnes | Al and Kathy Collings | Susan and Richard Fly | Kim Hunter Carruth | Barbara Long | Barbara and Bob Page |
| Karen and Dana Baron | Nym Cooke and Daphne | Don Flye | Louise Dwyer Huppert | Sam Lovejoy and Kathy | Marc and Sandy Page |
| Eli Barrieau and Amy Stukuls | Slocombe | Helen Foyle | Darrell and Elisabeth Hyder | Schermerhorn | Abby Parent |
| Lydia and Wes Barter | Gail Coolidge and Michael Lauer | Jim French | Lukas and Susanne Hyder | Tracie Lukaskiewicz | Michael Paris |
| Whitney Beals | William Cote | Paul Gardiner | Patricia and Malcolm Ide | David Maher | Jim and Elsa Partan |
| James C. Beaman | Michael Creighton | Michele and Donald Girard | Rebecca S. Ikehara | Stan and Barb Martowski | Gail Payette |
| Stephanie Benoit | Jane Cronin | Julie Gittins | Brian and Kathlyn Inman | Donna and Ray Matthews | Michael Peckar |
| Jordan M. Bernstein | Priscilla and Tom Skowron | Alice and Rick Godfrey ∞ | Janice Jacobson | Doris Matthews | Bruce and Betsy Pennino |
| Roger M. Bernstein | Patrice Cronin and Wayne Cullen | Martha P. Grace | William Jankins | Ian Mattson | Mike Perkins |
| Dee Blanton | Jessica Cusworth | Catherine Graham | Lawrence and Lee Ann Jaquith | Mark Mattson and Judy Lane | John and Ginger Petraglia |
| Kim Bleimann | Nancy and Walter Czabaj | Nancy B. Grimes | Catherine Jenkins | Roger Mattson | Brad Petrishen |
| Erica and Patrick Bodden | David and Karen Davis | Cassandra Guzman | Cynthia Jenkins | Charles and Judith McArthur | Janet and Brian Pierce |
| Wendy and Bolo Bolognesi ∞ | Gregory Davis and Nancy Brown | Richard and Marcia Haas | Brian and Tracy Jette ∞ | Donald McBeth | Herbert and Nancy Pollard |
| Marilynn Borst | Frederick Day | Margaret Haight and James | Sherrill and Warren Johnson | William and Nancy McComas | Powers Farm |
| Judith L. Bothwell | Ed DeVenne | Lagomarsino | Susan Johnson | John McHugh and Christine | Bud and Janet Pratt |
| Bob and Becky Bottomley | John Dieckmann | Kimberly Haling ∞ | Judith and Tim Jones ∞ | McHugh Purington | Kenneth Prestwich and |
| John Bowden | Elaine Dill | Daniel and Sharon Hanson | Jody and Mark Kablack ∞ | Sarah McMaster | Catherine Langtimm ∞ |
| Thomas J. Boyden | Robyn Bernstein Donati | Clifford and Susan Harris | Donald Kalischer | Robert McNally | Robin Prouty |
| Thomas and Jassy Bratko | Melvin and Linda Dorman | Timothy and Debra Hawley | Robin Kelley | Tamar Meadowhawk ∞ | Michele Pugnaire |
| Gary Brigham and Lisa Brinkman | Lee Dougan | Clare and Rick Hendra | Ann Kidd | Alan Medville and Roberta Miller | Yvonne L. Pulchtopек |
| Susan Brooks | George Dresser and Margaret | Bayard Henry | Dedie King | Ann Meilus and Thomas Hallgren | Megan and Joe Raskett |
| Claudia and David Broschart | McCandless | Cynthia and John Henshaw ∞ | William King | Max Melad | Richard and Claire Reavey |
| David and Eva Brown | Sarah Durham and Craig Winer | Robin and Kelly Henshaw | Edie Kirk | Karen Miarecki | Sheila and William Rees |
| Sharyn Buelow | Marcia Dwelly | Roger Henshaw ∞ | Chuck and Linda Kirousis | Richard and Patricia Miller | |
| Patricia and Sheldon Burnham | Judy and Mark Edington | Ellen Herbert | Richard J. Kisten | Jim Moore | |
| Ralph Buzzell | Regina Edmonds and Albert | Bradley and Anna Mae Hibbard | Mark and Jacqui Klee ∞ | Daniel and Janet Moran | |
| Caren Caljouw | Navitski | Ann and Jeff Hicks ∞ | Phyllis Klem | James Moran and Denise | |
| Lucy M. Candib, MD | Lindsay Ellison | Susan and Ronald Higgins | Glenn Koenig | Slowik-Moran | |



Thank you to all of our supporters!

James and Karen Regan

Jerry and Liz Reilly ∞

Thomas Reney

Ginny and Don Rich

Patricia and Eugene Rich

Jeff Robbins

Pamela and Raymond Robinson ∞

Richard Romano and Lisa Nash

Keith Ross and Louise Doud

R. Todd Rossel and Jennifer

Taylor-Rossel

Richard and Barbara Rossman

Ruth Rubin

Michael and Mary Ellen Sanford

Kathy and Eric Scheriff

Cynthia Schlener

Donalyn Schofield

Stephanie Selden

Bonnie Shattuck and Ira Hoffman

Clinton and Lynn Shaw ∞

Fraser and Jean Sindair

Nancy Skamarycz

Patricia and John Skutnik

Ellen and Bob Smith

Holly and Jeffrey Smith

Lorre Smith

Jim and Linda Snider

Pam and James Spurrell

St. Mary's Monastery

Margos and Janet Stone

Jane Taylor

Octavia and Stephen Taylor

Lisa Teong

Harold Tibbetts

Janine M. Tollestrup

Linda and John Tomasi

Ann Townsend and Richard

McCrae

Amy Trevvett

Marcia Triggs ∞

Gloria and John Turner

Katharine and Gregory Tyler

Will and Anne Van Arsdell

Philip and Mary Warbasse

Sarah and Eric Ward

Doreen and James Waz

Harold and Michelle Webb

Jochen and Mary Ann Welsch

William and Faith Welsh

Richard and Eleanor Werle

Charles and Margaret White

Frank White

Stan and Abbie White

Anna Wilkins

Lloyd Williams

Sandra Williams

Glen and Sue Wojcik

Diana and David Wood

Sargent Wood and Bonnie Chen

Henry and Annie Woolsey

John and Ann Woolsey

Mary Woolsey and Mark Peterson

Susan Worth and Rick Jones

Paul and Sheila Youd

Ann and Paul Zapun

Bill Zinni

Sherry Zitter

Emily Zona

Judith and John Zona ∞

Dean Zuppio

In Honor

Wendell Berry

Caren Caljouw

Richard Cavanaugh

Louise Garwood

Loren and Elaine Gould

Cynthia Henshaw

Paul McQuaid

Anita and Kevin Quinn

Jerry and Liz Reilly

John Warner

Sam Zona

In Memory

JoAnn Waite Bennett

Walter and Catherine Bortnick

Martha Bowden

Ray Buelow

John Buffum

A. Fenton Carruth

George Castonguay, Jr.

Wes Dwelly

Margaret Dymon

Christopher Ellison

Susan Adlai Foster

Julie Henry

Lorna Henshaw

Mick Huppert

Nason A Hurowitz

Chuck Kidd

Peter King

Deb Petrishen

Jean Pierre Pugnaire

William Rogers

Magi Durham Ziff

Foundations

Amazon Smile Foundation

Cardinal Brook Trust

Fields Pond Foundation

Fleming Family Foundation

J. Irving and Jane L. England Trust

JoAnn Waite Bennett Memorial

Fund of Greater Worcester

Community Foundation

Lionel M. and Cynthia E.

Lamoureux Fund of Greater

Worcester Community

Foundation

Lofgren Family Charitable Trust

Plourde Family Charitable Trust

The Bafflin Foundation

The Benjamin and Miriam

Bernstein Family Foundation

The Boston Foundation - Skylight

Fund

The Fine Fund

William P. Wharton Trust

Business Supporters

Agronomy Farm Vineyard

Ahearn Equipment, Inc.

Atlantic Capital Strategies, Inc.

B. P. Carpentry

Bell and Hudson Insurance

Agency, Inc.

Berube Real Estate

Blue Darner Granola

Burnshirt Hills

Cherie Benoit, Realtor - ERA Key

Realty Services

Cold Springs Country Club

Common Grow, LLC

Cornerstone Bank

Country Bank

Dresser and McGourthy, LLP

Dunkin Donuts

E.P. Wine, Inc.

Flexcon Company, Inc.

Gardener's Supply Company

Garrett Wade

Great West Financial

Hardwick Farmers' Cooperative

Exchange

Hardwick Kilns Division of

Cersosimo Lumber

Hardwick Sugar Shack

Hartman's Herb Farm

Higgins Energy Alternatives

Homefield Kitchen & Brewery

Hubbardston Veterinary Clinic

Hunter Farm, Inc.

In Balance Healing Massage and

Bodywork Center

Klem's Tractor

Laura Foley Designs

Look 'N' Good Landscaping &

Garden Center

Lost Towns Brewing

Mace Chasm Farm

Mass Mutual Life Insurance Co.

Misty View Equestrian

Norwottuck Network

Paypal Giving Fund

Pioneer Valley Environmental, LLC

Post & Boot

Quirk Wire Co.

R.N. Glidden Landscaping

Services

Ragged Hill Cider Co.

Ragged Hill Dairy

Ragged Hill Orchard

Ragged Hill Solar, LLC

Raitto Engineering

Reed's Country Store

Rose 32 Bread

Russian Icon Museum

Salvadore Chevrolet

Sati Associates, LLC

Sherman Oil Co., Inc.

Shrubblly, LLC

Stillman's Farm

Stillman's Quality Meats

Sugar Maple Trailside Inn

The Centered Place Yoga Studio

The Country Gourmet

The Cultural Center at Eagle Hill

The Kitchen Garden

The Senator Stephen Brewer

Committee

TidePool Bookshop

Tower Hill Botanic Garden

W.R. Robinson Lumber Co., Inc.

West Brookfield Art and Frame

White's Landing

Wholesome Farmers Market

Wilton's Children Store

Workshop 13



Learning to Lead with Gratitude

By Louisa Rossel

What is gratitude, and how can it be cultivated? Little did I know back in September, when I began my time serving with the East Quabbin Land Trust, that these essential questions would guide my service year. I've learned that expressing empathy towards the land and other living creatures is an essential skill to develop within young children, particularly between the ages of 4-7 years old. Through my year-long project called "Connecting the Youngest Among Us with the Earth," I am searching for creative ways to ignite passion in caring for the Earth. One highly successful method of working towards this mission is incorporating "gratitude" practices into my lessons. The process of building compassion for the Earth must begin with a deep love and appreciation for the natural world, along with a sense of belonging in the place we call "home."

Living out my service year with gratitude as my guide led me to create a "Gratitude Trail" event in November. I created ten different signs along the trail that conveyed how living and non-living beings within the forest environment, ranging from mushrooms to moles, are grateful for their forest home and resources. In creating this self-guided walking tour, I simply looked around at all the different creatures and natural systems in the environment around us. Throughout the "Gratitude Trail," participants not only learned about the ecology of the East Quabbin region, but they also learned about reciprocal relationships between a variety of species and the environment where they are adapted to live.

Through preparing for this "Gratitude Trail" event, I began to notice little details of the forest that typically I'd walk right past. For example, everywhere I looked, bright green lichen grew on all the rocks and trees along the trail. I was reminded of the book "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer, an enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, which

taught me about the reciprocal relationship between algae and fungus and how they work together as partners, forming lichen. The presence of lichen indicates that the air we breathe is pure, which is surely something to be grateful for. This is just one example of fascinating biological knowledge that I was thrilled to share along the "Gratitude Trail." The important lessons from the forest just needed to be uplifted through my signs. It became clear to me that the participants of this event walked away with something new to be grateful for. Whether it was the action-packed process of foraging for acorns to pound into flour, learning something new about inter-species interactions within the forest, or even standing in awe of the clouds above us as they drew closer with their gift of snow, there was something within this event for everyone.

I've also learned that gratitude can be shared in virtual spaces. This fall, I set out on a mission to create my first of four seasonal children's books. This journey all began with one simple walk through Mandell Hill Preserve. On that fall afternoon, I witnessed woolly bear caterpillars inching through the grass, the beautiful hues of a mountainside speckled in yellow and red, and I even stopped to listen to the beautiful songs of the red-winged blackbirds. One discovery after the next, the story came to life. I captured footage of all these elements of fall, wrote the words that accurately and succinctly described these pictures and videos, and began illustrating. Through this story-writing process, a deep appreciation for the wonder of this season prompted the title of my book, "Thank You, Fall." My virtual read-aloud video has been shared with libraries and youth organizations across the East Quabbin region for children of all ages to enjoy. In the months ahead, I am looking forward to discovering more ways to build empathy and compassion within the hearts and minds of the youngest among us. ■



Examining acorns at the Gratitude Trail event



Informational sign on the importance of brush piles for wildlife

"The process of building compassion for the Earth must begin with a deep love and appreciation for the natural world, along with a sense of belonging in the place we call 'home.'"
-Louisa Rossel

Two Ways to Get Involved in 2022!

By Jess Cusworth

1. Plant Your Own Veggies at the Wendemuth Community Garden in North Brookfield:

Practice regenerative, carbon-positive gardening with straw bales at the newly expanded community garden. Virtually no weeding all summer long!

Price: \$30 for 4 straw bales – each bale can hold 2-3 veggie starts. Seeds can be sown using recommended spacing for each variety.

What's provided: water, conditioned straw bales, and guidance on planting in straw bales.

What you can plant: any veggies you'd like! Most plants grow wonderfully in straw bales. Squash will be grown separately by EQLT and shared with all garden members.



Why practice no-till gardening? Tilling damages soil health and contributes to climate change. Soils can store the excess carbon absorbed by plants through photosynthesis. When soil is tilled, the stored carbon comes in contact with the air and releases carbon dioxide back into the atmosphere. Carbon is a main component of soil organic matter, so this carbon loss also reduces soil's ability to retain water and decreases soil fertility.

No-till gardening replaces tilling with mulching of organic matter to lock

in soil moisture, suppress weeds, and add nutrients to the soil as the organic matter breaks down. Vegetables in the community garden will be grown in straw bales with a layer of compost added on top. These straw bales will undergo a special conditioning process to begin the decomposition process, which turns the straw into compost throughout the season. As the straw breaks down, it adds a new layer of organic matter to build the soil for future planting.

The community garden at

Wendemuth is also a great asset to our community, as a portion of the garden is reserved for growing produce for the North Brookfield Senior Center and local food pantries.

Maura Herrick, who is joining the garden in 2022, comments that she is excited for the opportunity to learn about this new way of gardening. "Plus, it's a great way to connect with neighbors and get more involved in the community." Contact Jcusworth@eqtl.org for more information on joining!



2. Propagate Native Plants This Winter:

Looking to get your hands in the dirt this winter? Join the growing movement to expand pollinator habitat in our region by propagating native plants!

Our pollinators are in sharp decline as their natural habitats are lost to development and monoculture farming. Planting native plants at home and at EQLT preserves is a great way to help our pollinators. Propagating these plants from seed is easy, inexpensive, and fun!

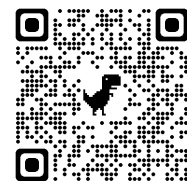
Last year, EQLT volunteers propagated over 100 native plants during the winter which were planted at our pollinator meadow in Petersham and given to volunteers to plant at home. This year, we are again propagating native plants to give away to the community at the end of the summer of 2022, and we're looking for volunteers to help with this project.

Propagating native plants is easy, and EQLT provides all materials for free. Here's the general process:

1. Pick up native plant seeds, potting soil, and small plant pots from EQLT office.
2. Fill the small plant pots with potting soil and plant seeds in each pot (number of seeds will vary by species)
3. Cover your pot with rodent-proof cage wire OR use a covered plastic container such as a milk jug
4. Leave your pots outdoors over the winter, spring, and summer. Water as needed during summer.
5. Repot seedlings as they grow larger.

6. Bring your plants to EQLT at the end of the summer for our plant giveaway!

A how-to video is available at:



Contact Jess at Jcusworth@eqtl.org to join the plant propagation project this winter! ■



East
Quabbin
LAND TRUST

P.O. Box 5, 120 Ridge Road
Hardwick, MA 01037
Phone 413-477-8229
www.EQLT.org

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 106
Barre, MA

INSIDE: Conservation of the Night Pasture



WINTER 2022 | VOLUME 19 | ISSUE 1



FSC Certified

Make Giving to the East Quabbin Land Trust a Habit of the Heart

By Rich Cavanaugh

Writing [Democracy in America](#) from 1835 to 1839, Alexis de Tocqueville identified what he called “habits of the heart” that helped sustain free institutions and maintain the democratic republic in America. Over one hundred and eighty years later, many of de Toqueville’s observations still ring true, especially regarding the importance of associations in our civil life.

East Quabbin Land Trust Sustainers are those who make a habit of supporting the East Quabbin Land Trust by making regular monthly gifts. Sustainers schedule convenient and easily-budgeted gifts to the East Quabbin Land Trust through credit card transactions or automatic bank payments (also known as EFTs). To set up credit card payments, simply go online to www.eqlt.org and hit the Donate button. To set up EFTs, simply contact your bank. Donations made through EFTs go further for programming because credit card fees do not apply. Plus, you’ll never worry about updating expired or compromised cards. With automatic renewals, there are no more renewal notices or wondering if you’ve missed an annual gift. You can cancel the payments at any time.

Those who remain or become Sustainers in 2022 will receive an aluminum EQLT water bottle as a thank you for their ongoing support.

If you would like additional information on EQLT’s Sustainer program, please feel free to call (413) 477-8229 or send an email to rcavanaugh@eqlt.org. But please remember, a gift at any level and by any means is meaningful, deeply appreciated, and contributes significantly toward what the East Quabbin Land Trust can do in our region. ■



**Sustainers in 2022 will
receive a 25oz EQLT
water bottle!**