



FALL 2023



# Celebrating 40 Years

Doing work that matters for present and future generations

# Dear Friends,

When you read the headlines “Hottest July on Record” or “Torrential rains bring flooding again,” have you found yourself wondering what kind of world we are leaving for the next generations? At Barnstable Land Trust (BLT), we are a “forever” organization, so we think about this question a lot.

In our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, we are taking a moment to look back and look forward. We are proud to have conserved nearly 1,200 acres in perpetuity and supported the Town of Barnstable in conserving 11,000 more. As we embark on a new strategic plan that will guide our mission for the next 3-5 years, this question feels especially urgent.

One element that has not changed since BLT was founded is Cape Codders’ support for the environment. In a recent extensive survey by the Town of Barnstable’s Local Comprehensive Plan Committee with 1,584 respondents, the top six priorities identified were all about conservation, including the top priority to “Protect, restore and enhance priority natural habitats, salt and fresh water resources, and open spaces.” It is wonderful to know that there is a bedrock of support for conservation here, and that we can be the organization to motivate that support.

This past year, we have protected key properties in Barnstable Village, Cummaquid, and Centerville. We opened a new barn — the Michael R. Kramer Center at Fuller Farm — to house our growing stewardship operations and engage the public in a variety of activities. Our new partnerships and expanded programming have connected hundreds of new participants, many exploring our trails for the first time.

Looking forward, we have some exciting land conservation projects in the works. Read about each of these in the following pages.

*According to NASA: July 2023 was hotter than any other month in the global temperature record.*



Blackbird painting by Mellissa Morris, an artist-in-residence at BLT’s Fuller Farm property.

Every step we take for conserving land may seem small given the scale of the ecological problems the Cape is facing, but we can all be part of the solution.

Locally crafted strategies make a difference. As a recent *Association to Preserve Cape Cod* report notes, only 14% of the land area on Cape Cod is left to conserve or develop, and 80% of that land exists in areas critical to protecting drinking water, and improving fresh and saltwater quality and habitat. We have a major job to do in protecting as much of this land as possible as soon as possible.

Thanks to the support from volunteers, members and donors, BLT continues to do work that really matters to all of us, as well as generations to come.

Your support matters. Thank you!

Leigh Townes  
Board President

Janet Milkman  
Executive Director



# Our Community Matters

Celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year, BLT's expanded programming and community partnerships provided more people with new ways to experience nature.

Offering over 70 programs and working with 30+ community partners, BLT has connected with more than 1,000 people this year. The return of popular events like BLT's *First Day Hikes Cape Cod*, *Words in the Wild* trailside poetry, and the Flowerpot Music Concert with the Cape Symphony were applauded by locals, seasonal residents, and visitors.

Several new initiatives also launched. The health benefit of getting outside was the focus of our summer-long *Hike Barnstable Challenge*. An enchanting new *Pollinator Pals* puppet series introduced budding young conservationists (and their adults!) to learn more about why a healthy environment matters.

And the first-ever *Thoreau's Cape Cod Readathon*, a weekend event at the Michael R. Kramer Center at Fuller Farm, live-streamed over 50 community readers who brought Henry David Thoreau's iconic work about Cape Cod and its natural beauty to new life.

Engaging with our community and educating more people about our natural environment has never mattered more!



## Making It Count This Year

**1** Town of Barnstable "BLT Day" Proclamation

**39** Acres Protected in 2022

**46** New Volunteers Added

**1,300** Program Participants To-date

**\$916,250** Wheeler Holly Preserve Fundraising Goal



# Our Landscape Matters

## Preserving a Family Legacy

Thanks to the conservation-minded Wheeler family, BLT has an agreement to purchase a historic 10-acre property in Marstons Mills.

The Wheeler Holly Preserve parcel will expand the conservation land on the adjacent Fuller Farm, extend a trail accessible from Fuller Farm, protect a breathtaking collection of holly trees as well as endangered species in Middle Pond, and provide housing for BLT Staff and property caretakers.

The Wheeler Holly Preserve property is thickly wooded, a haven for wildlife, and includes 600 feet of shore on Middle Pond which is a vital spawning ground for the herring coming up through the Marstons Mills River.

Conservation of the property will expand the wildlife corridor extending from Fuller Farm to the Danforth Recreation Area on Race Lane, which itself connects to the Cape Cod Airfield and the West Barnstable Conservation Area.

**With a goal to close on the property in June of 2024, BLT has kicked off a campaign to raise \$916,250 from private donors.**

We invite you to join us in protecting the beautiful Wheeler Holly Preserve and its unique hollies for generations to come. Contact Kelsey Ellis at [kelsey@blt.org](mailto:kelsey@blt.org) to learn more.



Rachel Jones





Barnstable Clean Water Coalition



## Restoring Cranberry Bogs in Marstons Mills

With the support of a \$1.3 million state grant in June, Barnstable Clean Water Coalition purchased 70 acres of cranberry bogs bordering the Marstons Mills River. Barnstable Land Trust will hold the conservation restrictions on these important parcels.

The primary purpose of the purchase is to restore the bogs to their original wetland to reduce the nitrogen flowing down the river to the Three Bays estuary. Walking trails and educational programming are anticipated.

## Protecting Open Spaces in Perpetuity

Land conservation projects often involve working with many partners including families, other nonprofits, sponsors, and the government. Many projects happen over a long period of time, but sometimes they happen quickly. All are the result of generous, patient, and conservation-minded members of our community.

This year, several important projects were finally realized.

It only took a few months for Felicia Penn to complete the donation of her buildable lot in Hyannis to BLT. After waiting three years for a state tax credit, Floyd and Ron Silvia's donation of 22 acres near the Centerville Elementary School was celebrated last December.

And Bowles Field, an iconic hillside and field of little bluestem grasses bordering Barnstable Harbor, was the final piece of a decades-long effort by the Brazelton family to protect this historic landscape.



Beth Greeley

# With Gratitude

Thank you for honoring those you care for and supporting their love of nature

Gift Dedications from September 13, 2022 – September 13, 2023

## IN MEMORY OF

### AI

Joyce Tomlinson

### Ben Auburn

Thomas & Pieter Burgess

### Redmond "Red" Bansfield

Matt Bansfield

John Ieni

### Brian Bernier

Emanuel & Susan Mason

### Judith Boyd

Terry Driscoll

Anita Fahy

Lynore Frew

Julie Jones

Elizabeth White

### Phil Brennan

Richard & Barbara Kiusalas

### Ann Brown

Andrew Callahan

### Joe Buono

Grace Galvin

### Bart Burgess

Thomas and Pieter Burgess

### John Burman

Michael Cohen

### Malcolm Burrell

John Skowronski

### Janina Cepkauskas

Vida Veitas

### Will & Marybelle Cochran

Martha Cochran

### Tim Coggeshall

David Banta & Caroline Coggeshall

### Robert Coombes

Dorothy Coombes

### Jon Cote

Kyle Cote

### William J. Cullen

Joan V. Cullen

### John Culver

Leonard & Carol Carter

### John DeFeo

Kathleen DeFeo

### Don & Barb

Theresa Cullen

### Catherine Freeman

Peter Freeman

### Judith Freedman

Dina Goldin

### Bert French

Susan & Rich French

### Michael Alan Frishman

Andrew Frishman &

Leigh Needleman

### Susan Hamilton

Richard D. Hamilton

### Susan Handy

Paul & Bunny Fitzgerald

### Edgar & Thelma Heselbarth

Ruth Anne Heselbarth

### Jean Hilton

Susan Cowmeadow

### Carol Ann Hurley

Joyce Kazanjian

Peter & Susan Morgan

Faith Kazanjian Stewart

### Virginia Iardi

Janet T. Leigh

### Guy Jackson

Dale Edmunds & Barbara Fay

Carolyn & Lincoln Jackson

Larry Odenca

Elizabeth Gould

### Anne & Francis Jenkins

Richard & Sarah Sammis

### Bill Jones

Richard Jones

### Emma & Fred Kern

Fred Kern & Anne Merdinger Kern

### Mary Lavin

Clay & Beth Gilmore

### Dr. Anthony P. Lovell

Kathleen P. Lovell

### Oliver & Ellen Martin

Carl Martin

### Russ & Amy Mather

John & Susan Brennan

### Janice McChesney

Donald McChesney

### Bruce H. McPhee

Maureen McPhee

### Marianne Milkman

Jeanne Haws

Christine & Richard Paugh

Mary Gaines Standish

### Larry Mulaire

Julie Jones

### Bernice Ann Munsey

Everard Munsey

### Robert Murray

Marilyn Kelleher

### Sallie Williams Neubauer

Geoffrey Connor

Connie McPheeters

Susan W. & Wilson H. Pile

### Joan Neuwirth

Roanne Neuwirth

### Jeffrey O'Neil

Cheryl O'Neil Weber &

Hans-Peter Weber

### Ivan Partridge

Joan Zanotti

### Kimmy Pilotte

Connie McPheeters

### K. Walcot Powers

Gary & Jane Frieders

### Rita Quinn

Susan Rosie

### Barbara Jean Still Ritter

Jon & Eliza Lewis

### Gene & Mary Rooney

Ellen Rooney

### Shirley Sanborn

Robert & Louise Sanborn

### Howard Sanders

Robert Andrews & Carol Chellino

### Geoffrey G. Schneider

Jody St. Hilaire

### Barbara L. Smith

Joseph & Sarah Hawley

### Prudence Stewart

Jon & Eliza Lewis

### AI & Lillian Stone

Herbert & Anita Weinblatt

### Penny Sullivan

Maurice Sullivan

### John "Swanee" Swanson

Anne Swanson

### H. Seely Thomas, Jr.

John & Catherine Langley

### Patrick Thomason

Laura Lamar

### Bruce Thompson

Robert Andrews & Carol Chellino

Christine Thompson

### William Thompson, Jr.

Martha Thompson

### Bruce Tripp

Elga O'Dell

### Alan F. Van Winkle

Gail B. Van Winkle

### Nala Walker

Dianne & Ken Walker

### Walking Partner, Alan

Beverly J. Donheiser

### Jackie Wanda

Eileen O'Rourke &

Julieann Malvarosa

### Lillian and Joseph Wilker

Leslie Wilker-Manfredonia

## Leave a Legacy with a Planned Gift

A legacy gift is simple, flexible and has immense impact.

Simply contact your legal advisor to add a sentence to your will or estate plan that bequeaths a percentage or dollar amount to BLT to be used to preserve the special places you love forever.

A legacy gift is flexible because it can be revised at any time, it provides a federal estate charitable tax deduction and it will have a lasting impact, ensuring open spaces for future generations. Have you already included BLT in your estate plans? We would love to hear from you!

## IN HONOR OF

**462 Main Street**  
Traci Finnerty

**Kelly Barber**  
Thomas Barber

**Henry "Bud" Bassing**  
Michael & Monica Slamowski

**Judy Bonci**  
Don Bonci

**Lois & Greg Cronin**  
Timothy & Jeanine Cronin

**Earth Day 2023**  
Marie Kalat

**Alex Elefterakis**  
Frederick Phillips &  
Elaine Bromka

**Paul Grover**  
Matt Burke

**Jane Harvey**  
Mark Robinson

**Joseph Hawley**  
Bruce & Kimberly Williams

**Joyce Kazanjian**  
Carla E. Kazanjian

**Bill Keto**  
Karen Nichols

**Leslie & Greg Koch**  
Katherine Anderson

**Farley Lewis**  
Denise Milardo

**Patricia Merriell**  
Michael Fitzgerald  
Theresa Fitzgerald

**Janet Milkman**  
Helene Lauffer  
Maureen Thomas

**Noelle, Albert, & River**  
Catherine Cummings

**Paul & Susan Parece**  
Molly Sadowsky

**Rita Parisi**  
Daniel & Kimberly Cammarata

**John & Jean Quigley**  
Kristen Coe

**Mark Robinson**  
Carolyn Weimar

**Karl Schumacher**  
Joan Beal

**Paul & Rachel Schumacher**  
Barney Beal

**Donna Ranta-Still**  
Kristie Chapman

**Tim Johnson's  
Educational Programs**  
Kathryn Carey

**Leigh Townes**  
Richard & Patricia Ossen

**Volunteers**  
Bob & Dottie Coombes

**Maggie Walsh**  
Dave Whitmore &  
Alison McMurry

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

For Year Ended December 31, 2022

### Operating Revenue

Contributions & Grants	\$413,251
Memberships	\$107,808
Special Events	\$ 14,929
Programs, Merchandise	\$ 2,663
Investment Income w/out Donor Restrictions	\$ 33,011
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$571,662</b>

### Operating Expenses

Program		
<i>Land Protection</i>	\$293,672	42.9%
<i>Land Stewardship</i>	\$205,570	30.0%
<i>Outreach</i>	\$ 88,102	12.9%
Fundraising	\$ 59,095	8.6%
Administration	\$ 37,903	5.5%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$684,342</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Other Support  
(non-operating)<sup>1</sup>** \$196,123

**Changes in Net Assets<sup>2</sup>** \$ 83,443

<sup>1</sup> Includes funds for land and other capital projects.

<sup>2</sup> Consists mainly of funds restricted for land conservation.

## Your Donation Matters

Your donation signals you understand the value of green spaces, clean water, and fresh air that contribute to our well-being and the sustainability of our environment. Contributions and memberships sustain our operating expenses, help save more land faster and allow BLT to take care of the beautiful open spaces you love.

### Donations are used to...

- Support outreach to and negotiations with landowners to protect priority lands and help BLT respond quickly as conservation opportunities arise;
- Support the promise to maintain the stewardship of conserved properties;
- Provide professional staffing to build volunteer efforts;
- Communicate BLT's role in preserving the environment; and
- Educate our community on conservation and stewardship strategies.

Sandy Neck  
West Barnstable



Tel: 508.771.2585

[BLT.org](http://BLT.org)

 [@barnstablelandtrust](https://www.facebook.com/barnstablelandtrust)

 [@barnstablelandtrust](https://www.instagram.com/barnstablelandtrust)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Leigh Townes**, President

**Karen Daley**, Vice President

**Jill McCleary**, Treasurer

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Robert Carey

Michael Cohen

Tobey Collins

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Lisa Drake

Karen Weston Hanesian

Joseph Hawley

Deb Reuman

## STAFF

**Janet Milkman**

Executive Director

**Kelly Barber**

Director of Land Stewardship

**Kelsey Ellis**

Director of Development\*

**Kelly Grant**

Land Protection Specialist\*

**Sandra McNulty**

Marketing & Communications Associate\*

**Chris Paugh**

Development & Administrative Assistant\*

**Sandy Perez**

Administrative & Development Associate\*

**Sue Dahling Sullivan**

Director of Communications & Programs\*

\*denotes part-time staff

## PHOTO CREDIT

Cover: Michael R. Kramer Center, Fuller Farm, by Rachel Jones

*Barnstable Land Trust is a non-profit charitable 501(c)(3) organization, registered with the Massachusetts Attorney General with ID #22-2483963. Your gifts are tax deductible within the extent of the law.*

## Barnstable Land Trust

1540 Main Street

West Barnstable, MA 02668



# Local Business Support Matters

In August, we hosted fifty *Cape Cod 5* college interns at Fuller Farm for a volunteer project as part of the bank's business sponsorship benefits. *Rockland Trust Charitable Foundation* provided leadership support for the Thoreau's Cape Cod Readathon, the Tour de Barnstable charity bike ride was made possible by *Sea Sports Cyclery & Outdoor*, and *Cape Cod Healthcare* partnered on the launch of BLT's Hike Barnstable Challenge.

Thank you to all the local businesses who value the critical links between a healthy environment, economic vitality, and the quality of life on Cape Cod.

## Getting Involved Matters

There are many ways to support BLT's mission, so please consider one of the following ways to give:

- Membership
- Gifts of Property
- Business Sponsorship
- Volunteering
- Planned Giving

## About Barnstable Land Trust

Barnstable Land Trust (BLT) is a community-supported nonprofit whose mission is to preserve the natural resources and special places in the Town of Barnstable and nearby areas. We have conserved nearly 1,200 acres and have supported the Town in protecting over 11,000 more.