



By the Education and Outreach Committee and Attleboro High School

What's Going on at the Land Trust?

It has been a very busy spring. Cleanups were done at Larson by the Masonic Lodge and at Richardson by the District Community Service Crew and a work party. Part of Deborah's Garden has been cleared, wood chips were placed on the muddy areas of the loop trail, there was cleanup and fencing prep at the front of Richardson after several trees had to be removed, and the parking lot was leveled.



Upcoming Events

June 2 - 7:30 Sunday Morning Walk at Attleboro Public Library—Friends of the Ten Mile

June 18—7:00pm Board of Directors Meeting

June 22—10:00am Garden Party at the Community Garden

Sensata A Day of Service



Tom Simbron, Tyler Hanna, and Harshad Tadas at Richardson

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President's Message

Last year in May a group of four individuals from Sensata of Attleboro came and installed a split rail fence on the western edge of the Deborah and Roger Richardson Nature Preserve.

On May 24th of this year, three of those individuals, Tyler Hanna, Harshad Tadas, and Tom Simbron came back and installed 270 feet of a split rail fence on the eastern side of the Richardson Preserve. This completes the fencing for the Richardson Preserve.

We would like to thank them and our ongoing relationship with Sensata for the great work they have done donating time and personnel for projects to help the Land Trust.

The Attleboro Conservation Commission provided funds to purchase the materials for this project. Generous support was also received from National Fence of Attleboro and Liston Portables.

Students Work Toward Improving Attleboro High School and Community Gardening

We began our Science and Public Policy course in December 2018. The purpose of this course is to identify a cross section of science and social impact. With the guidance of our teachers, Gregg Finale and Ari Weinstein, we decided to focus on the impact that the human diet has on our environment. According to our research, we found that a plant-based diet is actually better for the environment. While we have a thriving Community Garden in Attleboro that is run by the Land Trust, we are losing the greenhouses at our high school. Upon learning that the City of Attleboro recently purchased Highland Park, we saw an opportunity to expand our Community Garden and build new greenhouses to be utilized by AHS students.

In order to put our idea into motion, we sought out the advice of our Principal, Bill Runey, and composed a letter to Mayor Heroux. To our excitement, the Mayor was very enthusiastic about our proposal and we were granted a meeting. During our meeting with Mayor Heroux, he informed us about the city's "Highland Park Committee". Like us, this committee is in favor of creating more space for community gardening. In our discussion with the mayor, he was encouraging and supportive of our cause. He also provided us with resources so we can continue to explore the logistics of this project and see it to fruition. Our meeting was very productive and we feel positive about moving forward.

Our overall goal is that AHS students will continue having access to agricultural education and hands-on learning opportunities regardless of where our greenhouses may be. We feel we owe it to the future students of Attleboro High School to make sure that they still have this opportunity. Our next step is to reach out, with the help of Mayor Heroux, to the Attleboro Parks Department and URI Master Gardener Program. With their expertise, we will be able to make informed decisions and be able to facilitate new greenhouses for our school either at Highland Park or another feasible location. While we are all graduating from AHS this year, we are all committed to seeing this project through and doing what we can to improve our community.

-Leah Randall, Alexis Compton, Kathleen Kerrins



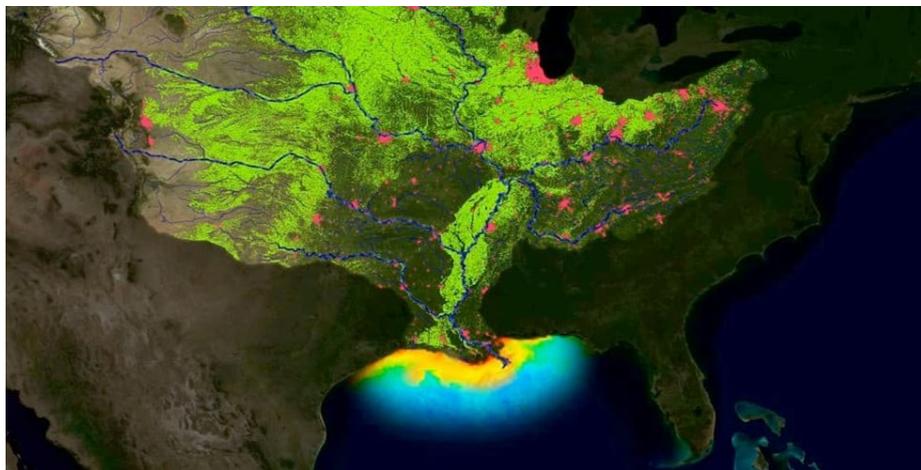
Will more CO₂ mean more crops?

Experiments have been done that do show that doubling the CO₂ in the atmosphere will indeed increase the yield of certain crops as long as there is enough sunlight, nitrogen and water for the plants. Wheat by 11% and corn by 8%. Nitrogen can be added with fertilizers but high amounts of fertilizer has also been shown to kill the fish and other creatures in our rivers, streams, and lakes by causing algae blooms that use up the oxygen in the water. This now contributes to an average 5,780 square mile dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico each year, an area the size of Connecticut, from the outflow from the Mississippi River and it is getting larger. This increase in nitrates in the soil also increases the levels in the groundwater and reservoirs, increasing the cost of processing our tap water. Red – cities, green – farms, yellow and blue – dead zone.

Correspondently, with the increase of growth of plants, will be a decrease in the nutrient content of the crops, particularly iron, zinc, and protein. Some of this deficiency can be compensated for with chemicals, but natural products are far superior for our bodies.

The more we burn fossil fuels, the more CO₂ and sulfur dioxide in the air, resulting in increased acidity in the rain as the CO₂ and SO₂ are dissolved in the rain. Since the CO₂ goes up, that also decreases the level of O₂ in the air which we need to breathe.

While we can't get the world to stop using fossil fuels, we do need something to compensate. That something is trees and shrubs. We need our open spaces with trees and shrubs to absorb the CO₂ and convert it to O₂. The Land Trust and the Conservation organizations are trying to preserve "open space" to help the future of our world. It has been shown that cities with a good amount of "open space" have more breathable air and a healthier environment.



What is Happening at Colonial Barrows Farm in 1719

Plowing of the hay fields has started. They will be planting English hay with seed brought over from England and meadow hay, native to New England. After the fields are plowed, some seeds retained from last year will be planted, but there is always a reserve held back to protect against loss from a late frost. This is referred to as "old" seed and the "old" seed from the previous year is always planted first.

The Wampanoag planted their "Three Sisters" (correction from the last issue "Three Seasons") on small mounds while the colonists planted in rows as they had draft animals to plow. In England, the colonists planted wheat, oats, and barley but those wouldn't grow well here, so they have switched to maize, beans, and rye with seed from the Native Americans. As the ground warms up they will be planting varieties of potatoes including sweet potatoes and other vegetables.

Sheep are shorn when the weather gets warmer before lambing so the ewes would go to shelter to protect the new lambs. Areas that had been clear cut during the winter will have the stumps removed to make more hay fields initially and crop fields later. Baby animals are being born which will increase the livestock and flocks.

How did Attleboro come about?

North Purchase

Back in 1658 the inhabitants in Rehoboth were feeling crowded with there being 10 people per square mile. (Today there are 250 people per square mile in Rehoboth and 1,665 people per square mile in Attleboro.) Therefore, they looked to expand to the “Northern Plains” above their border even though they did not own the land. They allocated a strip of land just north of their border into 50 acre shares and gave the shares to the proprietors of the town by lot.

By 1661, they wanted more land so they sent Captain Thomas Willett to make a deal with the Native Americans. Back during that time, the Native Americans made treaties for the “use” of their lands by other tribes, but the colonists expected they would have the ownership of the land and could exclude the Native Americans. On April 8, 1661, a treaty was signed. This property was called the North Purchase and included what is now Attleboro, North Attleboro, and Cumberland. King Phillips War would occur as a later result of this misunderstanding and the Native Americans being displaced by the colonists. 5 to 8% of the colonists in the area would die as a result of this war and many more Native Americans.

In 1694, the new town was incorporated as Attleborough. There are two villages named Attleborough in England, one is a market town between Norwich and Thetford in Eastern England and one in the city of Nuneaton. Which one Attleborough was named after is unknown. The “borough” came from “burgh” meaning it was fortified at an early date.

Then in 1745 in order to settle a dispute between the Plymouth Colony and Rhode Island, the Attleboro Gore (a gore is a triangular piece of land) of the North Purchase was designated as part of Rhode Island and became Cumberland. This left the remaining land as Attleborough. There were two main settlements in the North Purchase at this time, the largest being called Attleborough where North Attleboro is now, along the “Old Post Road”, and the other where Attleboro is now, called “East Attleborough”. There was a town hall between the two on West Street where there is a monument now. In 1856, a study committee recommended the two populations be split into two towns because of the two separate population centers. In 1887 the two sister cities split with Attleborough becoming North Attleborough and East Attleborough becoming Attleborough. Finally, in 1914 Attleborough was incorporated as the city of Attleboro.

Of course in the two cities there were many villages, or locally named areas including Barrowsville (on Norton line), Bearcroft, Blackintonville, Blaneyville (North Attleboro), Brady’s Corner, Briggsville, Buttonville, Christian Hill, Dodgeville, Deantown, East Junction, Falls Village (NA), Farmer’s Village, Featherville, First Veterans Project, Fisherville, FourLogs, Germantown, City Center, Gracy’s Pasture, Hebronville, Hillside (NA), Holmes Neighborhood (NA), Ide’s Hill, Lanesville (NA), Lonicut, Lymanville (NA), Mechanicsville, Mortgage Hill, Muggsville, New Boston (NA), Old Town (NA), Prosperity Lake, Robinsonville (NA), Second Veterans Project, Sibleyville, Sheffield’s Pond, Slattery’s Hill, South Attleboro and St. Jean’s Plat. There was once a great rivalry between these villages for sports, funding, and schools. How many do you remember?

Community Garden News



Plants are starting to bloom at the Attleboro Community Garden. Gardeners are already harvesting radish, lettuce, spinach, chard and other greens. Warm weather crops are just starting to be planted. Beautification efforts continue. Gardeners recently planted flowers around the Garden's front border. A third Boy Scout worked on his Eagle Scout project bringing in crushed stone for the entire front of the Garden. This adds beauty to the Garden and will help with weed control. Gardeners are building a Little Library (see pictures) which will be installed at the Garden later this Spring.

Upcoming June events:

Saturday, June 22 10:30 am to 1 pm – Annual Garden Party at the Community Garden. The event will include a gardening workshop at 11, an activity table for children, and a noon-time potluck barbecue - we will supply burgers/hot dogs and gardeners and guests will bring the side dishes. Please bring a chair.

Friday, June 28 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm – Third Annual Ladybug Release at the Garden. Sponsored by Bloom Gardening for Good, this is a fun and educational event for all ages. Learn about good bugs for the garden and then help us release 9,000 ladybugs into the Garden.



For updates on these events and other happenings at the Garden follow us on Instagram [@attleborocommunitygarden](https://www.instagram.com/attleborocommunitygarden).

Like our Facebook page [Attleboro Community Garden](https://www.facebook.com/AttleboroCommunityGarden).

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Hebronville: A slice of small-town life in Massachusetts Part One

The following account is of events that occurred 50+ years ago in Hebronville, MA. Much of this information can be found in one of the seven geocaches located in Hebronville. (Geocache names: 2 of 5: A Historic Stop GC69GA8) All seven geocaches are designed to introduce you to moments-in-time in Hebronville's history. [Test your memory: What was Hebronville's zip code?]

Driving south on Route 152 you will pass through two towns, Dodgeville and Hebronville. Both towns grew up around the mills that were constructed there along the Ten Mile River for power. The Dodgeville Mill (built in 1809) and the Hebron Mill (c1816) originally housed the Hebron Cotton Manufacturing Company. Located on the same site as the Hebron Mill was Chaffee's Mills; a sawmill and gristmill.

In its early years, life in Hebronville centered on the Hebron Mill. The complex included manufacturing buildings, worker housing, and railroad bridges, including the now-dismantled "step-bridge" that connected the two sections of Knight Avenue. (Remnants of the step-bridge can still be seen in a field behind 140 Knight Avenue.) The main function of the mill was reprocessing of cotton waste material from 20 other company mills located in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. According to the Attleboro Historical Preservation Society, the Hebron Mill is the location from which the now-famous "Fruit of the Loom" cotton fabric was made.

By the mid 1900's, "the 10" was severely polluted from industrial and residential waste that emptied into the river. By 1967, it was considered by many to be a "dead river"; recreational use such as swimming and boating all but came to a halt by accelerated growth of algae, aquatic weeds and chemicals dumped into the river over the years. Beginning with grants from the Clean Water Act of 1972, efforts to improve the quality of the water and bring the river back to life have been successful. The river is much cleaner today thanks in part to the construction of two wastewater treatment plants and the introduction of pre-treatment of wastes by industries along the river. It has also been the focus of several organizations that are committed to land preservation, the Ten Mile River Watershed Council, Friends of the Ten Mile River and Attleboro Land Trust.

Pivotal to town life from 1940's and into the 80's was the Hebronville Community Association (HCA). Incorporated January 20, 1942, the HCA (the Hall) was a club that organized and/or oversaw many town activities. It ensured that flowers were sent to neighbors who had lost a loved one. Its members organized and sponsored several sports teams, showed movies to the town folk and held social events. During wartimes they gave support to families with relatives serving in the military. The HCA had been all about helping people and creating a sense of community. It was originally located on Knight Avenue, and later relocated to a larger custom built building on Harriet Thayer Avenue. There is a trust fund set up as a Hebronville Community Association Scholarship for students who live in Hebronville after the HCA dissolved in 1986.

Oh yeah! Did you remember the zipcode? It was 02737.

Spring Rock Harvest

"Rock Harvest" Why would anyone want to harvest rocks? Early farmers had to harvest rocks every spring to protect their expensive plows. During the winter the water from the rain and snow would percolate down into the soil and would pool under the rocks left there by the glaciers. When the ground froze, "frost heaves" would push the rocks up through the loosened topsoil. In the spring, before plowing, the farmers would look for mounds and dig up the rocks and move them to the side of the fields or on top of areas where the bedrock came near the surface to show where not to plow. The rock walls you see everywhere are the edges of fields and the result of the Spring Rock Harvest.

President's Message

Making summer plans? Thinking about the end of the school year and enjoying some warm weather outdoors. Why not plan to spend some quality time on conservation land?

There are many parcels to choose from in our area – and there's sure to be one close to home. Besides hiking, picnics, nature trails and geo-caching, there is always the need for volunteers to help take care of local conservation land.

From trail maintenance to marking boundaries, cleaning up litter to removing invasive species there is always plenty for volunteers to do.

Many hands make light work, and you'll feel good about chipping in your fair share to keep our community "GREEN". Just send us an email at attleborolandtrust@gmail.com, and we'll match you up with a project you'll enjoy and be proud of.

Enjoy summer outdoors!

Roy

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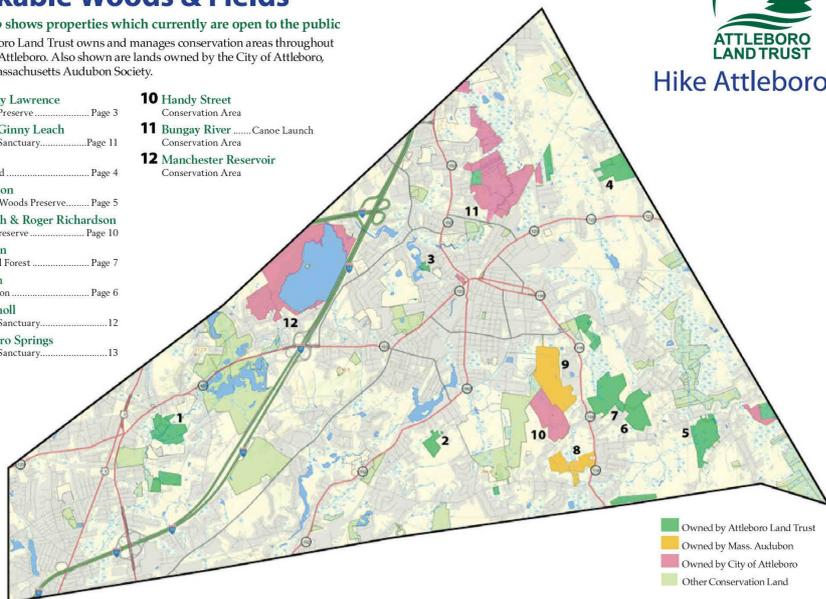


View of the Ten Mile River flowing out of Mechanics Pond with Larson Woodland on the right

ATTLEBORO AREA Walkable Woods & Fields

This map shows properties which currently are open to the public. The Attleboro Land Trust owns and manages conservation areas throughout the city of Attleboro. Also shown are lands owned by the City of Attleboro, and the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

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| <p>1 Anthony Lawrence Wildlife Preserve.....Page 3</p> <p>2 Phil & Ginny Leach Wildlife Sanctuary.....Page 11</p> <p>3 Larson Woodland.....Page 4</p> <p>4 Nickerson Walking Woods Preserve.....Page 5</p> <p>5 Deborah & Roger Richardson Nature Preserve.....Page 10</p> <p>6 Vaughan Memorial Forest.....Page 7</p> <p>7 Colman Reservation.....Page 6</p> <p>8 Oak Knoll Wildlife Sanctuary.....12</p> <p>9 Attleboro Springs Wildlife Sanctuary.....13</p> | <p>10 Handy Street Conservation Area</p> <p>11 Bungay RiverCanoe Launch Conservation Area</p> <p>12 Manchester Reservoir Conservation Area</p> |
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Hike Attleboro!

THANKS TO OUR LOYAL DONORS!

From our founding in 1990, faithful members have contributed thousands of dollars that have made a huge difference in the quality of life in the Attleboro's. Each year we work hard to put those dollars to the best use. A small percentage goes toward administration: Insurance, office supplies and mailings. But the lion's share goes to preserve land in its natural state and maintain public access to much of that land.

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