

August 2020

ATTLEBORO LAND TRUST NEWS

A Monthly Newsletter on Outdoor Adventure and Conservation



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ALT and the “New Normal”

Like all the rest of us, the Attleboro Land Trust has had to adapt to the “New Normal” due to Covid19. But that doesn’t mean we stop functioning, rather we change our procedures to meet the new health requirements. We are still maintaining our properties, working on our many projects and programs, continuing our educational instruction with schools, maintaining a Community Garden, and working on the conservation of more protected open space. We are also working in conjunction with the city and other organizations to preserve and make Attleboro and the surrounding area a better community.

The “Great Natural Purifiers”, sun, air, water, and earth helps make the outdoors still a great place to be. UV-C rays from the sun, the air’s ability to disburse and dry out viruses, water’s ability to disburse and neutralize viruses, and the natural bacteria and organisms in the earth all help to purify the natural world. This helps make our properties a good place to recreate as long as we still maintain the three new health rules: Social Distancing, wearing masks when near others, and washing hands often. **Hike Attleboro** is still going strong and our many trails and open areas are available for people to get the exercise they need to thrive and the emotional benefits of communing with nature. Open Space is more important now than ever before to promote the health of the world.

We still need our members and volunteers to maintain and develop our properties and donations to keep our programs moving forward.

Stay safe and healthy while you enjoy our properties.



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HABITAT LOSS

Birds and wildlife are very adaptable in what they can find to eat or a place to live. We should be thankful for that, if you enjoy seeing them, as our communities continue to spill out into their environs. It is not uncommon to have a Wren or Phoebe build a nest in the curve of a downspout or a Robin or Sparrow having young in a shrub beside the house. The occasional skunk or woodchuck under the shed or even a porch does happen. Places that they might not have used 70 or 100 years ago because there was much more open land with just the right cover and food sources for them which is now disappearing at an ever increasing pace.



Habitat disappears for housing, commercial retail space and manufacturing which is important to a community or even a region. All these are critical functions to meet the needs of society. All too often, what gets pushed aside are the complex environmental components that the natural world relies on for its survival. Land as open space or woods can be fragmented by roads. Waterways of any size can be compromised for wildlife use or traditional wildlife corridors are lost or severely interrupted creating unintended encounters with humans. There are many safeguards in place to deal with the development and construction but in the long run it is the wildlife and birds that must move on and adapt.

For migratory birds, the story of the environmental impacts they face is much the same once they arrive at their winter destination. Economies are trying to grow to meet the needs of people so habitat loss exists through land clearing and the development of housing, hotels and the necessary infrastructures of these warmer climes. Once the birds arrive, they must find food, water and shelter as many of these birds raise complete new families at the end of their instinctual, hardwired migrations. Birds will always migrate. In the face of mounting difficulties,



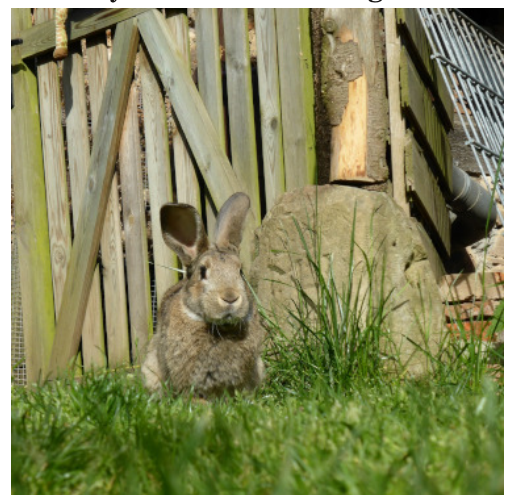
the question is whether they will continue to produce additional families or adapt to only raising young in the North? Or the Southern end of their routes? The best reliable habitat will be the winner and as evolution goes, that is a long way away. So we have time to straighten this out for the bird's sake.

This brings us back to the solutions of protecting habitat by thinking a little bigger. It will always be a local concern but not simply by saving small parcels or tracts of land for birds and wildlife. It needs to include going bigger and protecting ecosystems that

are deemed important. This is being done already but time to acquire and follow a regional plan is a race that we may not win easily, if at all. People need to have food, shelter and employment opportunities much the way wildlife has similar needs. There are ways to build housing and the necessary infrastructure that can still accommodate wildlife and pleasurable open space for all to enjoy. If we are serious and concerned we need to get involved to see how this can be accomplished.

If you enjoy wildlife we should be thankful for their abilities to adapt and willingness to live so close to people. They seem to have taken the opportunity to learn more about us than we have of them. There is a connectedness that we share and to me there is nothing better than a critter encounter walking in the woods. It is enriching and we should all think about preserving this opportunity for our children, grandchildren and beyond. We can and should make it happen.

Phil Boucher



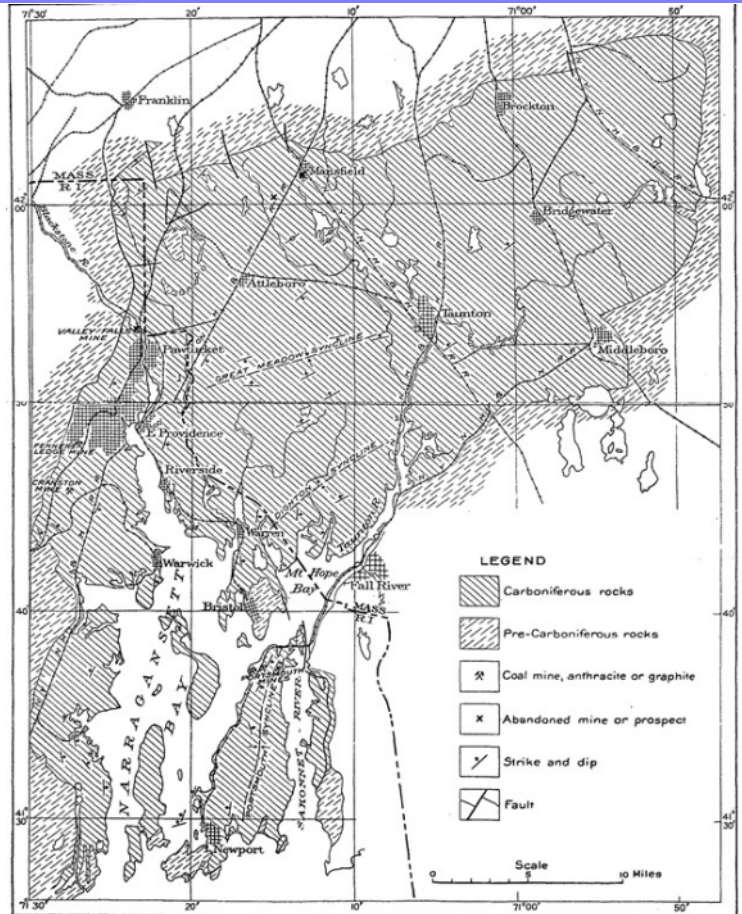
Coal was Mined Here

What most people do not know is that there is a vein of anthracite coal, under the ground, here in Attleboro. It runs from Narraganset, RI up through Brockton, MA. It is not good for residential use as it has a high ash (mineral, mostly graphite) and high water content. It needs to be seasoned by placing it in ventilated buildings, so the moisture can evaporate off. It was used commercially, with some companies, such as the Taunton Copper Co., having their own mines. The Taunton Copper Company smelted and produced rolled copper plate for covering the bottom of ships. Marine growth would not attach to the copper. It is prohibited now for conservation reasons as copper kills marine life.

In Mansfield three coal companies were formed; the Massachusetts Mining Co., the Mansfield Mining Co., and the Mansfield Coal Co.

Interestingly, most of the mines were close to the north-south railroad line. It ceased being mined when Pennsylvania mines could transport a better igniting coal here, less expensively than it could be mined here.

Bill Lewis, editor



Colonial Occupations

Who knew that a snobber was a cobbler in colonial times. Obviously a good profession at the time, as in 1894 there were four cobbler shops on Railroad Ave in Attleboro. Unfortunately, not now as so much is factory produced.

In colonial times there were a lot of occupations and skills. Many people had several titles. Often there were apprenticeships that were served to gain a profession. People would serve as indentured servants for a term of 7 to 14 years in order to get passage here, food and lodging, and the training for a profession. Most were treated well as they provided the master with help in their occupation and more income.



Of course there were occupations we recognize today like butcher, baker, blacksmith, carpenter, minister, cooper, printer, etc.

Let's see if you can figure out what the following occupations were:

ALNAGER, AMANUENIS, ANKLE BEATER, ANTIGROPELOS MAKER, ARCHIATOR, ARPENTEUR, AURIFABER

BACK'US BOY, BANQUETER, BATTLEDORE MAKER, BEAVER, BELLY BUILDER, BLACK BORDERER, BODGER

Answers on page five.

The Attleboro Land Trust is looking for Supporters by becoming a member, making a Tax-Deductible Contribution and/or as a Conservation Volunteer. Membership, contributions or volunteering can be done securely at Attleborolandtrust.org or by mail at Attleboro Land Trust, P.O. Box 453, Attleboro, MA 02703. Thank you for your support.

Attleboro Community Garden - Garlic Harvest Danielle Cournoyer

Here at the Attleboro Community Garden it has been garlic harvesting season! Many of our gardeners plan their summer garlic harvest the previous fall when they plant their cloves in the garden beds.

Gardener Juliet Teixeira grew a bumper crop of garlic this year at the Attleboro Community Garden. She says, "I started growing garlic at the Garden 6 years ago. I started off just planting a few cloves that produced a few bulbs. Now I grow several dozen plants each year. Growing garlic is easy but takes patience. I plant in the late fall; in late May I harvest the garlic scapes; I harvest the garlic in July, and then I cure the garlic for several weeks. The garlic that I grow is delicious and tastes so much better than the garlic I can buy in a store. After curing, I store some to use through the year; some I roast and freeze and some I give away. I always keep aside my larger sized cloves to use for planting in the late fall. My one tip for those of you looking to grow your own garlic: for starter garlic cloves, purchase your garlic from a local farm or purchase from a reputable seed company."



Juliet Teixeira's garlic harvest

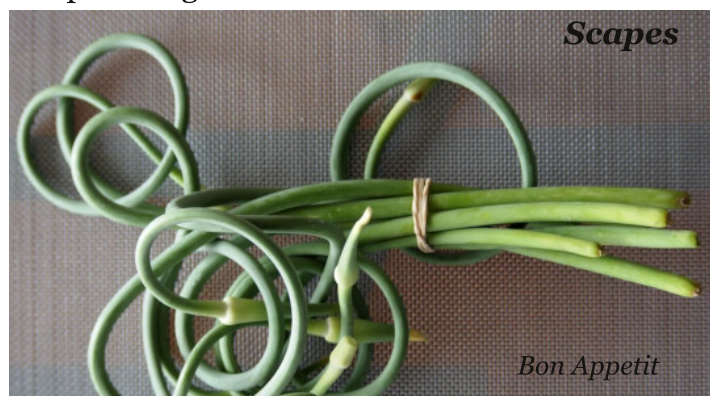
Gardener Danielle Cournoyer also grew garlic this year at the community garden. "This was my second year growing garlic and it has become one of my favorite harvests! In my house, garlic is an essential ingredient", Danielle explains. "However, I really grow garlic for the scapes. Garden fresh veggies always taste better to me, and garlic is no exception. But the scapes!!! I love harvesting my scapes mid-to-late spring. It is one of those foods you will never find in the grocery store and you can only get it from the farmers market for a very short window each spring. So many people have never even heard of garlic scapes before. Sharing my scapes with someone who is experiencing it for the first time fills my heart with delight!"



Karen St. Amand

Female Ruby Throated Hummingbird in the Butterfly Garden at the Community Garden

So far this garden season, over 200+ bulbs of garlic have been harvested to date. We look forward to hearing from our other gardeners who have planted garlic in all its varieties this season!



Scapes

Bon Appetit

What's Happening at the Barrows' Farm in 1720

We have discovered the same problem the colonists sometimes underwent. WATER! On the Barrows' farm they depended on rain to irrigate the crops except for perhaps the "Kitchen Garden" by the house. They had the dam but they had to retain as much water there as possible to run the sawmill and for the livestock even during the dry periods. A cow needs 9 to 18 gallons a day on average, sheep 4 to 10 liters, and a hog 3-5 gallons. This doesn't include the fowl.

We have put in an irrigation system at Deborah's Garden that now pumps water from Chartley Brook, but right now the brook is only a trickle and can't keep up with the pump for more than a minute. Then it needs to be primed all over again. This year, like last year we have put in a colonial garden with "Three Sisters" planting. However, this year we have split it into two sections, one which is the Wampanoag mound system and the other the plowed furrow method the colonists adapted from that system. Until the brook comes up from rain, we will need to hand water the garden to keep it going. There will also be a herb garden and in the future a native plants nursery.

The colonists couldn't hand water all their crops so during a drought, so they could lose their crops which could mean starvation during the winter unless they ate more of their livestock, depleting them, and any game they could hunt or trap. The sawmill did provide them with some bartering but when there was a drought, others in the area didn't have crops to spare. Weather was a major factor in the lives of the colonists and without any weather prediction or communications services like we have today, they could just pray for what they needed.



Answers for Colonial Occupations

Alnager: inspector of woolen goods who stamped them with town seal

Amanuenis: took dictation or copied manuscripts, what no copiers back then?

Ankle Beater: young person who drove cattle to market

Antigropelos Maker: maker of waterproof leggings

Archiator: physician

Arpenteur: land surveyor

Aurifaber: goldsmith, I guess after the symbol for gold (Au)

Back'us Boy: kitchen servant

Banqueter: banker or broker

Battledore Maker: maker of beater for getting dust out of clothes and carpets but also used for badminton

Beaver: felt maker from beaver fur for "beaver" hats, almost made beaver extinct

Belly Builder: built and fitted the interior of pianos

Black Borderer: made black edged stationery for funerals, still no copier!

Bodger: made wooden chair legs and the back spars. Edmund Peck had a chair company

Some unusual occupations. Hope you guessed right on some.

Updates, Comments, and Interesting Reading

Russian river turns orange after acid leak from abandoned Ural copper mine polluting the rivers and streams in the Sverdlovsk region, killing everything it touches. Russia is known for considerable industrial pollution with little oversight and regulation. This is what will happen here as the administration keeps cutting our environmental regulations and refuses to enforce any. The Administration has also announced they will scale back environmental reviews for infrastructure projects.

Brazil's beef and soy exports to the EU and China have been linked to illegal deforestation.

Seawater Greenhouse Ltd is growing plants with seawater in the desert. Saltwater is evaporated, cooling the structure and producing fresh water for irrigation. The resultant concentrated brine is evaporated off to produce sea salt. The entire operation is solar powered and is in operation in Tenerife, Oman, Abu Dhabi, Somaliland and Australia where it produces 12% of the tomatoes for the country.

The World Meteorological Organization has found that Siberia is experiencing temperatures 9 degrees hotter than usual for the last six months causing a lengthy heatwave and forest fires. This is impossible without climate change.

Soaring methane emissions threaten to put climate change goals out of reach as the EPA stops enforcing the control of methane leakage from fossil fuel production. Methane produces 30 to 40 times more global warming per unit volume than CO₂.

A study by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shows Boston already has some of the nation's worst tidal flooding — and it will get much worse.

In 1975 there were 45 million cows in the US and by 2014 it was down to 29 million.

Satellite images show Ethiopia's Grand Renaissance dam reservoir swelling from the rainy season and Egypt and Sudan are threatening military action after the US failed to put through a deal heavily weighted toward Egypt. The fact that Egypt is a military dictatorship doesn't help.

Burger King is addressing climate change by adding lemon grass to their cows' diets to reduce methane emissions by 33%. As mentioned previously, other farmers are reducing methane by adding a special seaweed to cattle feed.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the current administration is taking the rare Montana Arctic grayling off the Endangered Species Act in spite of a federal appeals court ruling two years ago and the fact they are reduced to less than 4% of their previous historic range.

The Vatican has denounced the U.S. administration's environmental exploitation to promote the greed of big business and calls on all faithful to do concrete work locally to care for the earth. They hope things will change and the U.S. will come back and rejoin the over 200 other countries supporting the health of the earth.

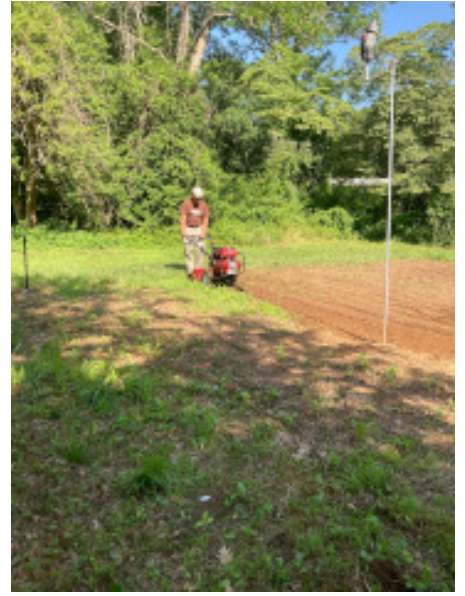


The Making Of Deborah's Garden



Garden after being weed whacked and mowed this year.

Last year, working with some Attleboro High School "School to Career" students, Amanda Louro, Gregg Finale, Dick Cheyne, Bruce Ingram, and Phil Boucher, we cleared most of Deborah's Garden. We then set about repairing the garden shed and installing an irrigation system thanks to a grant from the Attleboro Foundation. There is a spigot on the shed and another at the far end of the garden. There are also seven sprinkler heads spaced through the garden working off a pump and distribution system in the shed.



Phil doing the first rototilling



After the first run in one direction, Phil did a cross run for the whole garden.

It was then raked out smooth. There were lots of rocks and debris to remove.

You can see the nine foot tall sprinkler heads for the Colonial Garden section.

A Colonial "Three Sisters" Wampanoag mound planting garden was planted along with some other crops that the colonists might have had. It resulted in some five to nine foot corn stalks with one or two ears on each. Some went to AHS and some to the deer.

This year we didn't have the assistance of the students and teachers so Phil, Dick, and I had to do the work.



This year we planted the left side in the furrow method the colonists modified from the mound system of the Native Americans. The right side is the mound system. Beyond those two areas will be the herb garden and past the flowers and path will be a native plant nursery.

Meet the culprit! This guy or gal, I didn't check as I value my fingers, last year ate all the beans and pumpkins we planted leaving only the maize corn, some beets, carrots, and tomatoes. We had caught its partner but this one eluded us. We moved it to another part of the property across the brook. Since the brook is low it might be back. We are still trying to relocate a couple of rabbits.

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