A Message from Lou Andrews

Thank you to the committee chairs, board of directors, and members, for a great year! As you can see in this newsletter, we accomplished a lot.

With the acquisition of the properties along the WWII Veterans’ Memorial Trail we will be able to expand our trail system from Branch Street to Fruit Street.

We have started the effort to protect the Allen Willis parcel by the Taylor’s Hill area. The town will vote to accept the land at this year’s town meeting. Please attend.

I am happy that we were able to publish Harry Chase’s stories before he died. He was delighted with the book.

We awarded our first scholarship in memory of Lenny Flynn, started funding nature programs at the library, and had our first fall photo contest.

In the coming year we plan to acquire additional properties, expand our trails, and continue maintenance of our existing trails.

We are fortunate we live in Massachusetts where protecting our environment is a high priority.

Don’t forget to attend our annual meeting on April 27th.

Membership

The NRT welcomes new members!

Your membership is important to help us maintain our quest to protect Mansfield’s natural resources.

Individual or Family Membership is only $25.00 per year.

Lifetime membership is $500.00.

Mail your dues to:
NRT of Mansfield
255 Fruit Street
Mansfield, MA 02048

or pay online with PayPal from our web site: www.nrtma.org

The NRT is a 501(C)(3) Corporation.

Your dues and donations are tax-deductible.

Thank you for your support.

NRT Founder Dies

No traces of rubbing, dandelions and moonlit nights, and of mischievous boys at play,” said NRT director Jane Sheehan.

“Harry was one of a kind,” NRT president Lou Andrews said. “His talent for storytelling was unsurpassed. Mansfield has lost its greatest historian. We will miss you, Harry Chase.”

The NRT welcomes new members!

Your membership is important to us. It allows us to continue our mission to increase Mansfield’s open space and maintain the many miles of trails on our conservation land. Please renew.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Details are on page 8.

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During the past year the following stewardship projects were undertaken on NRT and town conservation properties.

**Strese Property**
Trees were removed from the trails by town forces, and the NRT club removed trash from the red trail. (see photo on page 3)

**Taylor's Hill**
A stone and plaque were installed near the bridge over the Rumford River, recognizing John Southard’s contribution towards the construction of the bridge. (photo below)

**Sweet & Kalnins Conservation Area**
A new sign was placed at the rear of the Little League parking lot, indicating conservation area beyond. Also, a new conservation sign was installed at the Otis Street entrance. An Eagle Scout candidate has expressed interest in developing a trail system in the area. Attempts were made to involve the town in removing significant amounts of trash on the site. We are still working on this.

**Great Woods**
The Chase trail was marked with white triangles. Chase trail signs are in the process of being repaired and reinstalled.

**WWII Nature Trail**
Signs were purchased, and their locations were staked along the rails to trails path, to indicate our new property.

**York Property**
A new sign was installed at the Branch Street entrance to increase visibility. Brush was cleared to improve sight lines. Trash was removed from the entrance. A bollard was installed to better show the beginning of the red trail. A new trail is being developed by Gus Huiskamp and the NRT Youth Club to connect the York property to the rear of the Jordan Jackson School. The trail will be completed this spring.

**Corporal Hardy**
The annual spring cleanup was done by Michele White and her group. (see photo on page 4)

Many opportunities for stewardship projects remain. Special thanks to all those who helped with last year’s projects.

The NRT held its 45th annual meeting on April 27th. An award was given to Gus Huiskamp (r) and the NRT Youth Club for all their work maintaining trails and conservation land cleanup this year. (photo below)
NRT Donates to Library Nature Programs—Sharon Freidman, Director

What do the Natural Resources Trust of Mansfield and the Mansfield Library have in common? Nature, Conservation, and Exploration! To support those common interests, the Natural Resources Trust of Mansfield gave a $500 donation to the library to support programs for preschoolers, teens, and adults. As a result, the library will be able to expand their summer programs for preschoolers, will enhance the spring Books in Bloom programs, and enrich other programs throughout the year. Lou Andrews, president of the Natural Resources Trust, said, “The NRT was looking to give support to the town and a natural fit was the Library.” Catherine Coyne, the Mansfield Library Director, was both surprised and pleased to learn of the gift.

This past year’s highlights were our Fall Photo Walk and Hat do the Natural Resources Trust of Mansfield and the Mansfield Library have in common? Nature, Conservation, and Exploration! To support those common interests, the Natural Resources Trust of Mansfield gave a $500 donation to the library to support programs for preschoolers, teens, and adults. As a result, the library will be able to expand their summer programs for preschoolers, will enhance the spring Books in Bloom programs, and enrich other programs throughout the year. Lou Andrews, president of the Natural Resources Trust, said, “The NRT was looking to give support to the town and a natural fit was the Library.” Catherine Coyne, the Mansfield Library Director, was both surprised and pleased to learn of the gift.

The photo walk was lead by Naturalist Colin Cauldwell and Photographer Charlene McNeil. This was a lovely fall morning walk at Great Woods, and included sighting of a Great Horned Owl. It was so interesting to see the woods through Charlene’s eyes, as she caught so much detail; a spider’s web, a beautiful flower, etc. We hope to have another photography walk next year.

As we look forward to the coming year, I’d love to know your programming ideas. At this year’s annual meeting, I’ll be seeking your input. Please feel free to call me at 508-339-3145 or email me at sfehervari@gmail.com to discuss.

Mystery solved? Perhaps. For years, how Devil’s Rock got its name was a mystery. It was said that somewhere on the rock are the hoof prints of Satan.

The Natural Resources Trust of Mansfield offered a reward of a year’s membership to anyone who found the devil’s hoof prints.

Just last week, Rich Price of Mansfield took up the quest and discovered what may be the hoof prints. He took a picture of what could be proof. You be the judge. Did he find the actual hoof prints, or are they somewhere else on Devil’s Rock?

The reward still stands, though we gave Rich the benefit of the doubt and rewarded him with a membership.

This spring, take a walk in our Great Woods Conservation Area and see for yourself.

From the Judy’s Lane entrance, the “Cobbler’s Trail” (yellow) runs past “Cobbler’s Corner” and on to Taylor’s Hill. It ends at the Fisher Trail. Devil’s Rock is located on the western side of the Great Woods “Cobbler’s Trail” just past Taylor Hill. Other trails include “Taylor Trail” (gray), which starts just past Cobbler’s Corner, runs parallel to the Rumford River, and rejoins the yellow trail at Taylor’s Hill. The “Fisher Trail” (purple) starts just before Taylor’s Hill and rejoins the yellow trail near its end. Maps are available from the NRT web site: www.nrtma.org. Great trails for a short walk!

Outcome Committee Report - by Sally Fehervari, Outreach Chairperson

This past year’s highlights were our Fall Photo Walk and contest, the info tables at events like the Keep Mansfield Beautiful picnic, and Family Fun Night.

The photo walk was lead by Naturalist Colin Gauldwell and Photographer Charlene McNeil. This was a lovely fall morning walk at Great Woods, and included sighting of a Great Horned Owl. It was so interesting to see the woods through Charlene’s eyes, as she caught so much detail; a spider’s web, a beautiful flower, etc. We hope to have another photography walk next year.

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Sally Fehervari, Outreach Chair of the NRT, awarded Ashley Lehane 1st Prize in the NRT’s Fall Photo Contest. Ashley, 19 years old, started photography a year ago, and has loved it. The picture was taken using a Canon SX710, around noon at the Fulton Pond bridge.

NRT to release “This Old Town—Revisited”

By popular demand! Harry Chasse’s “This Old Town” was so popular that the NRT will be releasing more of Harry’s stories in book form.

“This Old Town—Revisited” will contain more than 100 stories first published in the Mansfield News. Harry’s unique wit and humor enliven stories of Mansfield’s past, Harry’s boyhood memories, and his love of railroads. There are chapters on nature, sports, Mansfield people, railroads, and of course, “This Old Town.”

Copies may be obtained from the NRT web site www.nrtma.org starting in May.

We are printing a limited quantity of 250 copies, priced at $15.00 per copy. $10.00 for members (limit 2).

Copies of “This Old Town” are still available from our web site: www.nrtma.org for purchase options.

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Great American Cleanup
April 29th
Once again Michele White will organize the NRT clean-up of the Corporal Hardy Conservation Area. Volunteers are needed. For more information, e-mail info@nrtma.org or just meet at the Maple Street entrance at 9:00 AM on April 29th.

Director Emeritus Awards
The Board of Directors of the Natural Resources Trust of Mansfield (NRT) voted to honor Jane Sheehan (left) and Janice Meszoeby by making them Director Emeriti. Jane and Janice are founding members of the Natural Resources Trust, and have worked for the past 46 years to protect Mansfield’s open space.

NRT President Lou Andrews stated, “It’s important that we recognize individuals whose efforts live up to our charter to acquire and preserve Mansfield’s natural resources. Jane and Janice have worked continuously over the years to achieve these goals.”

Land Donation
The NRT donated land (shown in red) to our sister organization, the Land Preservation Society of Norton (LPSN). The property was acquired by the NRT in 1974.

Mansfield Conservation History
1975—Town Acquires Land

1972—NRT Receives Copies of the First Great Woods Booklet

Conservation Commission Honors the Pynes
Conservation Commission Chairman Mike Healy (right), at the March 30th commission meeting, presented a certificate of appreciation to Steve and Fran Pyne for their work at the Mansfield Great Woods conservation area.

NRT Director Steve has helped with the field maintenance and haying of the Scott/Goyea farm for over 40 years. Fran, as a member of the Mansfield Garden Club, and with the help of Steve, maintains the garden in front of the Oak Street entrance sign.

The Pynes have kept the Oak Street area clear of trash and worked to clear the wall of poison ivy and brush.

Did you know?
We use over 300 million tons of new plastic every year. Half of this we use just once, and usually for less than 12 minutes. 8 million tons of plastic waste ends up in the ocean every year.

Over many years, as this plastic waste is carried along by ocean currents, it breaks up into tiny pieces. So much is getting into our ocean that in some places these plastic particles outnumber plankton by a ratio of 26:1.

A large amount of this “thrown away” plastic carries toxic chemicals such as BPA, phthalates, pesticides and PCBs.

Over 600 species of marine life are known to suffer directly from plastic pollution, including some on the IUCN red list such as the Hawaiian monk seal, loggerhead turtle, and sooty shearwater. Birds consume plastic, and an increasing number starve when their stomachs are full of plastic waste. Over 90% of seabirds worldwide have plastic pieces in their stomachs.

Once in the ocean, plastic litter affects the safety of sea transport, fisheries, tourism and recreation. When broken down into tiny pieces, plastic attracts toxic chemicals released over decades from industry and agriculture, the concentration of which increases as they move up the food chain.

Exposures to these chemicals has been suggested to contribute to some cancers, and infertility, as well as immune, metabolic, cognitive and behavioral disorders. The entry of plastic pieces into our food chain is of concern to human health.

For more information and what you can do go to www.plasticoceans.org.