



Nate Whipple Highway Conservation Lands Site of 17-acre Woodland Fire Wednesday November 24

“Suspicious” Fire begins at James J. Bland Preserve

The Cumberland Land Trust would like to thank the Cumberland Hill Fire Department for their work in stopping what could have been a very dangerous situation states Karen Saucier of the Cumberland Land Trust. Fortunately, the damage to the forest was minimal and there is little sign of it this Spring.

Cumberland Hill Fire Chief Kenneth Finlay, Lieutenant Nicholas Anderson, Deputy Chief Ronald Dubois and Fire Marshal Claude Laflamme discussed their fire fighting effort with CLT President Karen Saucier and Director Dave Gumbley at the site and at the fire station shortly after the incident occurred.

According to Chief Finlay the day before Thanksgiving about 11:30am, a Massachusetts State Police helicopter spotted smoke coming from a forested area off Nate Whipple Highway in Cumberland. Police alerted Cumberland Hill Fire Department. Forty mile an hour winds that day had the firefighters calling in eight fire departments which included Manville, North Smithfield, Woonsocket and North Attleboro Fire Departments. A total of 42 firefighters were engaged on foot trying to get a hold on the briskly moving fire.

CH Fire Chief Ken Finlay used a newly purchased piece of equipment he said the department has had for only two months. The all terrain Polaris Ranger 6x6 Fire and Rescue Vehicle entered the Preserve. through the Goldstar Drive subdivision off Windsong Road. Lt. Anderson had located the possible entrance from the MA State Police helicopter. The Polaris contains a 300 gallon tank that can disburse three times the amount of water it holds. The 165 acre Nate Whipple Highway Conservation Land with only a trailhead on Nate Whipple, has no road access that would allow a large vehicle.

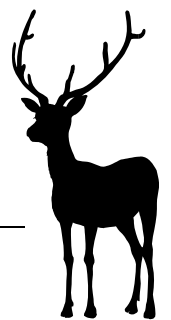


The low brush fire spread easterly from the Bland Preserve to the Burlingame Preserve and within 500 feet of the homes on Pound Road before it was put under control. Firefighters on foot carrying backpacks entered by way of Pound Road to get ahead of the fire. A relay of fighters with forestry hose that can form a continuous connection of hose up to 1500 feet was used. The specialty hose quickly connects to another and ‘weeps’ so not as to burn itself.

The CHFD fire report has listed the fire as ‘suspicious’. The person or persons who set the fire, either carelessly or intentionally, put firefighters from many communities and several residences and outbuildings at risk states Director Dave Gumbley. If anyone has any knowledge of how the fire started, please contact the Cumberland Land Trust at 401-935-1343. Any information will remain confidential.

No Hunting Policy

The CLT Board of Directors has recently written a policy against hunting on its lands. The policy reads:
“Hunting or trapping along with the removal/destruction of trees and plants, camping, fires, bicycles, motorized vehicles, snow-mobiles and any other uses that are harmful to the natural resources of the CLT properties, is not allowed.”



Regarding the policy, CLT member Keith Chilicutt submits the following:



“For me one of the great pleasures in life is enjoying a quiet walk in the woods. Soft brown leaves underfoot, swaying branches overhead; the absolute stillness the forest can seem to have. It’s an oasis from the busy world around us; walk just a few hundred yards in and it’s as if you’re miles away. Standing quietly, all that can be heard are birds and squirrels, or a woodpecker tapping; the wind above causing the tree branches to creak and moan. I have a favorite spot I like to visit in the forest; it’s surrounded by ancient stone walls and a dry creek-bed. A dead cedar tree hangs suspended under the canopy of oak trees like an imposing monument in a cemetery. The air around is still as if frozen in time. The tree is knotted and withered, the bark dry and wrinkled. Its old branches cascade downward as if they no longer have the strength to hold themselves out. In my imagination the tree is possessed by an ancient spirit, or possibly haunted. I don’t dare disturb it. I feel this tree occupies a hallowed and sacred place, to be admired with reverence and respect.

As a member of the Cumberland Land trust, I take pride in knowing the forest will remain this way, undisturbed and



undeveloped. Because of the preservation efforts of the land trust, I am very fortunate to be able to enjoy safe and peaceful walks in the woods to discover places like this. The land trust has adopted a no hunting policy, which I support. I believe a no hunting policy is consistent with environmental preservation and stewardship; protecting the land from development is as important as protecting the animals that call it home. A hunting ban will help to protect the Cumberland Land Trust from liability by creating a safe environment for everyone to enjoy and explore. A hunting ban also respects the wishes of those who have donated property, who expect it to be kept as a preserve, free from hunting. The land trust has my full support and sincere appreciation in its efforts to create a safe and peaceful land preserve right here in Cumberland for everyone to enjoy. "

Rhode Island Natural Heritage Forest Health Works Project *Forest Invasive Species Management*



High Rock Farm is one of five (5) RI sites selected to receive free invasive control assistance from federal Forest Health Works Project (FHWP) funding. Rhode Island Natural History Survey (RINHS) Project Manager James Barnes has coordinated the Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 Clean Up. The contract to complete the work was awarded to Brandon Phaneuf of Eco Solutions and Richard St. Aubin of Milestone Land Planning.

High Rock Farm is known to contain over twenty (20) state listed rare and endangered plant species and is a unique botanical treasure for the state. Several invasive plants are present at the site and are making inroads into the forest and threaten the future of these rare plants. This invasive treatment project is part of a larger restoration effort that includes restoration of field habitat, plantings, and deer management.

Alien exotic invasive plant species present include: Multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*), Asian bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), Autumn Olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*), common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), and burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*).

The Cumberland Land Trust is grateful for the opportunity to be part of this project. The Stewardship team has "been at war" for over ten years battling invasive plants at the 73 acre High Rock Farm Preserve on Scott Road that was part of an old dairy farm states Karen Saucier President. "Land management never ends. Our team remains diligent in its efforts to control invasives and protect the sensitive rare plant habitat we have been entrusted to provide care."

Under the supervision of RINHS, CLT will plant a native shrub border that will serve as a model for other RI organizations encountering exotic plant removal and restoration.



Blue herbicide carefully applied



Hand pulling invasives



Compacting soil

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mike Boday	333-5733	333 Nate Whipple Hwy.
Alice Clemente	723-8828	PO Box 7771
Kelley Stone Gardner	334-0034	139 North Attleboro Rd.
Dave Gumbley	658-5093	17 Stillwater Drive
Michael Joyal	333-3553	184 Scott Rd.
Frank Matta	334-5003	230 Little Pond County Rd.
Ann McCaffrey	334-4643	27 Will Croft St.
Joe Pailthorpe	658-1766	56 Old West Wrentham Rd.
Karen Saucier	333-3858	23 Thompson Hill Rd.
Randy Tuomisto	334-8322	411 Reservoir Rd.

Legal Advisor: John P. McCoy Esq., Bengston & Jestings, LLP
 Financial Advisor: Debra Mitchell



Conopholis americana 'Squawroot' or 'Bear Corn' RI state listed rare plant.



4th Annual Wine Tasting Fundraiser Raises Over \$4000 Largest Net Profit to Date

The Blackstone River Theatre was the scene of the Land Trust's Wine Tasting fundraiser held on Friday November 5. A record profit of \$4115 was made from ticket sales and donations by CLT members and friends. Many thanks again to our business sponsor [Mendon Wines & More](#) of 2170 Mendon Road in Cumberland. Store manager TJ Seaton and his staff provided and served the array of fine wines for the fundraiser. Land Trust coordinators Kelley Stone Gardner, Deborah Rodin and ticket taker Ann McCaffrey helped to make the evening a great success. Kelley and Deb raffled off more than twenty donated gift baskets. A special thanks to the Board and spouses for additional help. Profits were applied to the Land Acquisition and Stewardship funds.

New Members 2010-11

Business

Crown Trophy-

John & Marlene Kubuska

Peter Lockey, CPA

Modern Yankee Builders-

Joseph & Amy Craco

BodyDynamics RI-

Peggy Normandin

Friend

Leslie & Elaine Emery Jr.

Edward Mockler III

Associate

John & Sheila Figliolini, DMD

Kelley Nickerson Morris

Dave Serpa, Coldwell Banker

Emanuel & Anneken Terezakis

Family

Dominick & Kimberly Passanante

New Members by Endowment

Bill's Autoparts-

Paul & Lynn Dadamo

Chemart-

Richard and Anastasia Beaupre

DiningQuest.com-

Kevin McDonough

Edward & Kathleen Malin

2010 Appeal for Land Acquisition

& Stewardship Fund (or Endowment)

Total \$1505

(\$1395 Land Acquisition & Stewardship)

(\$110 Endowment)

\$200

Irene Tuchapsky

\$100

Sharon & Richard Jenkins

Alan & Jacklyn Hecht

Edward Mockler III

Karen Saucier

Marion & Alan Silverman

William LaCivita

Frank Wojciehowski

\$50

Bill & Leslie Benson

Susan Bundy

Gail & Wendell Harris

Elaine Hill (25/25E)

Sheila Koback

Briscoe Lang

Ann & Sean McCaffrey

Jason Mundy (25/25E)

Neil & Deb Rodin

\$25

Dale & Phyllis Dobbins (25E.)

Edwin Hayslip (25E)

David J. Newton

Richard & Margaret Ratcliffe

Scott Welton

Selden Whitcomb

\$20

Theona S. Beauchemin (10/10E)

\$15

Patricia Treanor

\$10

Robert Jones

Joan Macaulay

In Memoriam

\$25

George Scothorn

from James and Sally Terry

If you have not renewed your membership for 2011, please do so today. CLT relies on your donations for all expenses. The organization does not receive compensation from any other source for its operations. We appreciate your continued support! Thank you.

BIG EVENT!



President Karen Saucier gives a warm welcome to all the donors and guest.



Jim Sanzi from the Rhode Island Foundation gives his Cumberland Land Trust Greenways Endowment Speech at the May 5, 2011 Donor Appreciation Event at the Blackstone River Theatre. Seated left to right be guest speakers: Janet Coit, Director of the R I Department of Environmental Management, Dan McKee the Honorable Mayor of Cumberland and Kevin McDonough former Board Member of the Cumberland Land Trust and currently on several other boards including the South Kingstown Land Trust and the RI Land Trust Council.

Donors and guest numbered 75 attending the event. Greenways Endowment Founders' Circle Certificates and other forms of appreciation were provided to those who attended. Those who could not attend received an appreciation letter and Certificates by mail. Special thanks to our twenty Sponsors business leaders throughout the community for funding of the event.

GREENWAYS ENDOWMENT FUND PERFORMANCE REPORT

<u>Year</u>	<u>Fund Balance</u>	<u>Earnings</u>	<u>Percent</u>
2008	\$10,050		
2009	\$24,318	\$2,476	20.6%
2010	\$49,732	\$5,109	14.9%
2011*	\$54,586		

*April 30, 2011

Open Pledges = \$19,094

Total Fund plus open Pledges = \$73,680

Number of Donors = 66

Fund purpose: To provide the Land Trust with a protected growth fund that will provide annual income for the use of land acquisitions and stewardship of all our properties in perpetuity.



Frank Matta and Suzanne Matta receive a plaque and appreciation from Joe Pailthorpe, Chairperson of the Endowment Fund. Frank was the first committee person to kick off the Greenways Endowment Fund in April of 2007. Frank and Suzanne are our top Fund donor at \$7,500. Frank and Suzanne would welcome a challenge from someone to top them.

Volunteers on coffee break! Scott Brook Restoration Project



Volunteer cleanup crew taking a break after a morning's work. Pictured from left to right are: George Gettinger, Mike Scalzi, Joe Dias, barely visible is Jim Conway, Chief Brian Jackvony, Dave Gumbley, Frank Matta, Neil Rodin, Randy Tuomisto, Dave Follett and Dave Butler. Not pictured are 14 other volunteers that worked throughout the afternoon. The volunteers, equipment and supplies for the day amounted to a value of \$9,920. Two 40 yard dumpsters of trash were filled on April 16, 2011 Earth Day.

The three acre focus of the cleanup is the ruins of an old abandoned pig farm. Heading up the project are Frank Matta and Joe Pailthorpe. The project is a collaboration of the Land Trust, the Blackstone River Watershed Council/Friends of the Blackstone, Cumberland Conservation Commission and the Town of Cumberland. The site of the cleanup is the Scott Brook Conservation Area owned by the Town of Cumberland and includes 81 acres. The cleanup site abuts the Land Trusts 72 acres High Rock Farm on Scott Road.

Volunteers are not working for nothing; they are working for the betterment of the Land Trust and the community of the northeastern Rhode Island watershed area. In 2010 the Land Trust revenues were \$26,295 (excluding Endowments) and the total value of volunteer time amounted to \$89,920. Therefore the **leverage for every dollar donated** through membership, annual appeal and other sources of revenue the **volunteers contributed \$3.42**. Volunteers are also part of the membership donations as well.