



Lexington Conservation

Caring for our public land

**September
2021**



Consider alternatives to Feeders and Bird Baths!!!

In July, there was a mysterious avian disease along the east coast being reported that had wildlife managers on high alert. Although the disease has not been documented in

Massachusetts, Mass Wildlife is encouraging the public to consider alternatives which attract birds to yards such as planting native plants, shrubs, or trees, installing water features, and erecting bird houses. More information and guidance can be found [here](#).

A Pollinator Meadow Near Lexington Center

In early June, Lexington Living Landscapes received approval from the Conservation Commission through a Negative Determination of Applicability to eliminate a patch of Japanese knotweed at the frontage of the Brown Homestead Conservation Area and adjacent to the Minuteman Bikeway. The mechanical control of this invasive species is the first step to eventually establishing a native plant pollinator meadow in its place, providing a demonstration site and educational opportunities.



Depending on the success of the invasive removal, Lexington Living Landscapes hopes to begin establishing the native plant meadow in the Fall of 2022. Follow along with the work of many dedicated volunteers and see how you can become involved [here](#)!



Both photos provided by: Charles Wyman, Lexington Living Landscapes

Willards Woods Ecological Land Management Plan

Many comments were received by the public regarding the Willards Woods Ecological Land Management Plan, **THANK YOU!**

In addition to forwarding these comments to the Conservation Commission and hired consultant, staff mounted signs at the various fields and meadows on the property to allow public users to fully understand what is being proposed for management at each area.

Next steps in this process include receiving the final report from our consultant to allow us to then schedule review by the Conservation Commission. For any questions, please reach out to the Conservation Coordinator [here](#).



Lexington Plant Nursery

The Hoop House was erected during our Stewardship Saturday event in July! Seed planting will begin in January for seed that requires overwintering before it will sprout, in a process called cold stratification. Young plants will be protected over winter and grown to resilient sizes for a better chance of survival in the wild, and plant selection will include many varieties that are less likely to be browsed by deer and rabbits.

Anyone interested in volunteering to work in the nursery learning how to sow seed or transplant seedlings into larger pots can contact Holly Samuels at lexplantnursery@gmail.com

Bamboo? or Knotweed?

Chapter 131, A Citizen Article amending the town bylaw by adding Chapter 131 Running Bamboo Control, was passed by the Select Board in 2020 to preserve and protect private and Town-owned property and Town-owned rights of way from the damaging spread of Running Bamboo and to protect indigenous biodiversity threatened by Running Bamboo. Running Bamboo that encroaches beyond the Running Bamboo Owner's property or spreads rhizomes and new shoots pose a risk of substantial damage to the structures and land of abutting parcels. As Running Bamboo threatens to be destructive to the natural

environment and to the enjoyment of public and private property including structures and paved surfaces in the Town of Lexington, the Town declared it necessary to require the control of any existing Running Bamboo, and to prohibit the planting, replanting, transplanting, installation, or reinstallation of Running Bamboo on any property in the Town of Lexington subsequent to June 15th 2021.

[Find out more here!](#)



Let it be an Oak

Doug Tallamy Presentation

In June, the Westford Conservation Trust hosted Doug Tallamy presenting Let it Be an Oak. In the presentation, he explains why oaks are superior trees for suburban restoration projects because of their many ecological and aesthetic attributes.

Tallamy compares oak species to other popular shade trees in terms of their ability to support animal diversity, protect watersheds, sequester carbon dioxide, and restore lost plant communities.

[View the recording here](#)

Early Detection Workshop

CISMA's Early Detection and Control subcommittee hosted a webinar that entailed the identification and ecological characteristics of Level 1 early detection species to watch out for that may either arrive in MA at some point, or are already here and may be increasing. The webinar also detailed identification and ecological characteristics of Level 2 early detection species, which are invasive plants that already have a presence in MA and may be considered invasive, but are not as widespread as some of the more infamous invasive plants, and therefore may not be familiar to some people.



[View the recording here](#)

Calling all Volunteers!



Join us on Stewardship Saturdays for volunteer work and camaraderie

Next Event: Boardwalk Construction at the Blossomcrest Trail

September 18th 9 A.M.-12 P.M.

We are replacing the boardwalk treads along the Blossomcrest Trail.

Bring your own gloves, snack and water all other materials will be provided.

Park in the western parking lot at Bowman School at trail entrance. Looking forward to seeing you there!

To volunteer for the event contact Lead Steward: [Don Grant](#)

[Find out more details and register for upcoming events!](#)

Apple Picking at Cotton Farm

**Sunday, September 19th, 1-4 pm
(Rain Date Sunday September 26th)**

Join the Lexington Conservation Stewards for an afternoon of apple picking and outdoor fun at our Cotton Farm Orchard. Cotton Farm is located on Marrett Rd. across from Bacon St. Park on the shoulder of Marrett Rd.

Free family-friendly event
Apple picking and cider pressing
(Apple supply limited: one small bring-your-own bag per household)
Meet the Cotton Farm Bee Keepers!



For more information contact us: landstewards@lexingtonma.gov or 781-698-4532

To volunteer for the event contact Lead Steward: [Jeff Howry](#).

Idylwilde Community Garden



Coordinator Needed for 2022!

Our current Community Garden Coordinator, who has helped the Community Gardens flourish for the past eight years, will be stepping down at the end of the 2021 season and we are looking for one or two people to fill this role going forward. If you are interested in volunteering for this position, please reach out to Amber Carr, acarr@lexingtonma.gov.

Have Something to Share?

This is the place for all things stewardship in Lexington, including upcoming volunteer work events, newly completed projects, local trainings and educational events, as well as news from the Lexington Conservation Office. Please e-mail landstewards@lexingtonma.gov, with submissions for our next edition.

Did a friend forward you this newsletter? Sign up [here](#) by choosing Conservation News and Events!

Stay up to date on COVID-19

[See the Town's COVID-19 Information webpage](#)

Lexington Conservation | 781-698-4532 | landstewards@lexingtonma.gov | www.lexingtonma.gov/conservation/conservation-stewardship

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