



P.O. Box 60566, Florence, MA 01062

*Dedicated to the preservation of open space **and** the promotion of affordable housing*

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From the President's Chair: Unsung Heroes

In the aftermath of recent events, we hope that we can learn at least one important lesson: Destroying our natural resources can be a foolhardy and often catastrophic course of action. Letting nature take its course is almost always the correct response, if only because one cannot argue with millions of years of experience and success. BBC has been trying in at least its small way to keep one small corner of the globe as natural as possible, while still catering to a diverse and growing population that utilizes it. In doing this we find ourselves fighting man's own basic instincts to continually improve, alter, and fix everything. This is something we are very aware of (the critical first step) at BBC and are consciously trying to keep at bay. With the diverse population using the conservation area, we often get suggestions for myriad improvements, but just as often we hear from users who say that they would like to see the conservation area stay the way it is and that they do not want to see it become too civilized, like a city park might be. This is the course of action that we advocate.

Now having said this, it still takes a lot of work to maintain things as they are at the conservation area. Nature is a messy business, and it has little respect for trails, boardwalks, dams, blinds, and other human endeavors. What I have learned as President of BBC is just how much work goes on unnoticed and unheralded at FLCA. So I would just like to remind everyone of all of the work BBC volunteers actually do.

For one thing, I'm sure few notice all the work that is done at the conservation area every year. Did you notice that all of the trails were cleared of trees and brush, or that the boardwalk and boat launch were leveled and treated, or that the kiosk was repaired (on more than one occasion)? Did you see the native plantings in Cooke's Pasture, or notice all of the invasive plants inventoried and removed, or all of the walks and talks scheduled and attended? Did you witness all the Board and Management Committee and Land Preservation/Acquisition Committee meetings held, or all of the seminars, classes, and conferences that were attended? And most importantly, did you see all of the acreage that we added this year to the conservation area?

These activities are all accomplished with volunteer time, energy, and often cold hard cash. People anonymously contribute in so many ways for so many things, large and small, quietly, unobtrusively, and with little notice or fanfare. Our volunteers surreptitiously pay for speaker's fees and building materials, or contribute their expertise and labor. When we offer to compensate them, the bill never seems to arrive. People attend conferences, seminars, meetings, and even though we vote to pay the attendee's fees, all too frequently this offer is ignored. All of this affords us the opportunity to use these funds for more important things, such as land acquisition, one of our most important missions. So as President I see it as my job to try and let everyone know just how much of this work is quietly being done, unheralded, uncompensated, and unrecognized. We would like to thank everyone personally, but it would fill this newsletter, and the people involved are often uncomfortable with even this small acknowledgement, so I will take it as my responsibility and thank you all for all of your contributions, the unsung heroes of BBC.



BBC President Bob Packard (left) got his feet (and more) wet while helping to maintain the Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area. Here he helps to install a beaver screen around the dam outlet (see page 5). Photo by Bob Rundquist.

From the President's Chair (continued)

Lastly, it is with regret that I must inform you that this will be my last report as President of Broad Brook Coalition, for I am stepping down from the Board at the end of this year. It has been a wonderful 3 years, and I have had a lot of fun doing it, but it is a lot of work, and I do need a break to continue my studies. I can only hope that I have done a good job leading the organization, and like most politicians, I guess, I feel the strong desire to stay and complete all the work that still needs to be done. But I also think it is time we had some new leadership and some new energy on the Board. I will continue to be active in BBC, leading walks and talks, participating in various committees, and so forth, and as long as I am in the area I will be involved and pleased to serve the organization, as many others before me continue to do. So thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve, it was a very rewarding experience. I would encourage everyone to get involved with the organization; for in the end it will benefit you as much as or more than it does BBC. I would also like to thank my late and dear friend Bill Schafer for recommending me to the Board. (Please help us fulfill his generous challenge grant, as we are only about two-thirds of the way to our goal; see the article on page 3). I would also like to thank everyone who has patiently helped me perform my duties on and off the BBC Board. They have made it not only a wonderful learning experience, but a lot of fun as well.

Thank you all,

Bob Packard

Is the BBC newsletter important to you? We believe it's important to keep our members, friends, and neighbors in touch with what the BBC Board and volunteers are doing.

Nancy Chamberlin has agreed to be our mailing coordinator, taking charge of all the steps that take the newsletter from the printer to your mailbox. Thank you!

We are still in need of an **apprentice editor** to work with the current newsletter editor and eventually take over as editor. Desktop publishing experience would be very helpful, but is not required.

Writers and reporters are needed too! Send us a report on a BBC or Northampton conservation event you attended, your observations of life in the conservation area, or a poem. Or ask us for an assignment. Give it a try!

If you *don't* want this newsletter, please let us know that, too, and we'll take you off the mailing list.

Norma Roche (nroche@crocker.com)

BBC Endorses Community Preservation Act

The Broad Brook Coalition Board of Directors has voted to endorse the adoption of the Community Preservation Act (CPA) in the City of Northampton.

The CPA would provide funds to acquire and protect open space, to support affordable housing, and to preserve historically important buildings and sites.

Half of the funding will be supplied by the State of Massachusetts. For example, if the City identifies land that merits preservation, the City would pay half of its cost and the State would pay half, thus doubling the money the City is able to invest, through the CPA, for land preservation, affordable housing, and historic preservation.

Some CPA funds could certainly be used to protect additional acreage at the Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area, as well as at the City's other conservation areas.

Robert Bissell

Coyotes: Here to Stay

On May 4, BBC co-sponsored a program titled "Co-Existing With Coyotes," presented by Trina L. Moruzzi, a wildlife biologist with MassWildlife, in the



Little Theater at Northampton High School. Ms. Moruzzi gave a wonderful slide show, while discussing the biology, natural history, and habits of coyotes in Massachusetts. She stressed that coyotes are incredibly adaptable animals, and there is no way that we could get rid of them if we wanted to, so our only choice is to learn to live with them. Her "do's and don'ts" of co-existing with coyotes can be basically summarized as, "Don't give them any opportunities for free and easy meals."

Over 50 people came to the talk, and asked many questions addressing concerns about local coyotes.

Broad Brook Coalition co-sponsored this program, along with a similar program on bears earlier this spring, with the Northampton Wildlife Committee, a subcommittee of the Northampton Conservation Commission; Leeds Civic Association; Friends of Sawmill Hills; and Northampton City Councilors Michael Bardsley and Marianne LaBarge.

Monica Jakuc

Please help us meet Bill Schafer's challenge!

As we announced this spring, former BBC Board member Bill Schafer has left a legacy of \$10,000 to BBC's Land Acquisition Fund—but only on condition that BBC match his bequest by raising another \$10,000.

Since the challenge was announced, BBC members and friends have contributed \$6,575.00—roughly two-thirds of our goal. We officially have until February 16 to reach that goal, but Bill's family has agreed to turn over the funds to us as soon as we meet it.

Please help us raise the remaining \$3,315 we need to match Bill's bequest. You may use the membership form in this newsletter to make your gift; just write on the form that it is to be applied to the Bill Schafer Challenge.

It was important to Bill that we reach out to you, our members, friends, and neighbors, who know and love the conservation area. Everything we've accomplished is because of you. Thank you!



Be Like Bill: Estate Planning Offered

Bill Schafer did many amazing things during his lifetime, including thinking about his death. He prepared for a time when he wouldn't be able to be out there pulling up phragmites with the gang. He left funds to BBC in his will (as a challenge grant), which of course, is great in and of itself!

BBC welcomes willed gifts, but there are sophisticated techniques that can further benefit the giver, reduce taxes, and sometimes meet other needs, such as increasing income on certain assets. Many of us hate to think about estate plans and charitable giving, but it is a wonderful gift that immortalizes our dreams, passions and hopes for a better world. These specialized techniques are worth exploring, now, before we die.

Our Board members would love to hear of your interest. Melody Foti, a Financial Planning Specialist at Smith Barney, has offered to speak with any Broad Brook Coalition members who would like to have their estate plans reviewed with an eye toward helping their community. There would be no fee or obligation. With 17 years of experience in finance and 10 years of socially active parish ministry, Melody brings a distinctive perspective to financial strategies. You can call her at 800-628-9046, or visit her Web site at http://www.fc.smithbarney.com/melody_foti.

Melody Foti

Land Preservation/Acquisition Committee Continues Work

It's been a quiet summer for BBC's Land Preservation/Acquisition Committee as negotiations go on behind the scenes and we wait for the results of the Bill Schafer Challenge.

Most recently, BBC contributed \$15,000 toward the Michalski/Stewart parcels, which added 33.5 acres to the Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area.

The City also took possession of 3.5 acres at 408 Bridge Road, behind the condominiums being developed there by Equity Builders Realty LLC, who donated the parcel as part of its development plan. This parcel is not connected to the main body of the conservation area, but we hope it can be someday.

Over the years, BBC and its Land Acquisition Fund have made a big difference to the Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area. We've contributed \$44,060 toward the purchase of nine parcels of land, totaling 97 acres, in just the past 5 years. The conservation area now stands at almost 600 acres.

But the FLCA is surrounded by forests and wetlands that provide crucial wildlife habitat. Many of the private owners of these parcels love their land and are committed to keeping it the way it is, and they have our heartfelt thanks. But we are staying alert, as always, for opportunities to bring more land under formal protection.

The Land Preservation/Acquisition Committee needs to add two new members, as Rachel Smith has gone back to school full-time and Peter Searl is ending his term on the BBC Board. Would you like to work with us to keep the conservation area growing? Experience in this area is valued, but *not* required! If you're interested, please get in touch with committee chair Norma Roche (586-4364, nroche@crocker.com).

Spring Planting in Cooke's Pasture

On Sunday, May 1, 11 hardy volunteers wielding shovels and picks planted a variety of native shrubs in our first "shrub island" in Cooke's Pasture. The idea behind the planting is to provide small thickets of shrubs and small trees that will provide food, shelter, and nesting areas for native birds, many of which are in decline in Massachusetts owing to the loss of appropriate shrubland habitat. Of particular concern are species such as Eastern Towhees, Field Sparrows, Indigo Buntings, and Chestnut-sided, Blue-winged, and Prairie Warblers, all of which can be observed at the FLCA depending on the season. A secondary benefit of this program is aesthetic, as the plants we are using have attractive flowers as well as fruit.

The 16 new shrubs, loosely grouped in an area of approximately 150 square feet, include Red-Osier Dogwood, Black and Red Chokeberry, Winterberry Holly, Northern Arrowwood, Highbush Blueberry, Spicebush, and Bayberry. These plants are all native to New England and are known to be used as a food source by a variety of birds. They also have attractive flowers and fruit, and grow no higher than 10 feet. All in all, establishment of the shrub island cost just over \$400, with tools, an SUV to carry the shrubs to the dam, and other materials either loaned or donated by the volunteers. Though a bit the worse for wear owing to browsing by deer and the long dry spell late in the summer, most of the new plants seem to be doing well.

Many thanks to all who participated in the planting—and special thanks to those who trekked into Cooke's Pasture each week over the spring and summer to keep the new shrubs watered. We plan to add further such "islands" in the next couple of years and hope you'll join us in the planting effort.



Red-osier dogwood

Bob Zimmermann

Report from the Trails Chair

Autumn is my favorite time in New England. I hope you've taken advantage of the fine September and October days to hike, boat, and fish in the Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area.

Our June work day was well attended despite muggy weather. We concentrated on the trails close to the North Farms Road entrance, with some emphasis on the boat-ramp boardwalk. We pruned, raked, sawed, and picked up trash. Thanks to all who participated.

We've been experimenting with various options to reduce the slipperiness of the boardwalks. Three possible options are currently illustrated on the boat-ramp boardwalk. As you walk down the boat ramp, toward the lake, you'll first encounter wire-mesh Hardware Cloth. Then, you'll see anti-slip strips. Then, there's a patch of boardwalk that has been coated with a finish saturated with "Tread-TEX," a gritty formulation advertised to produce a sandpaper-like surface on which to walk. Check out these three solutions, and let me know what you think

If you notice any trail problems, please let me know at 586-5488, or at RobertBissell@Yahoo.com.

Robert Bissell

Invasive Species Work Day

We know you love the natural scenery at the Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area. We know you love those fall flowers, the color of the trees, and the incredible diversity of plant and animal life. We know you'd hate to see anything interfere with the beauty and biodiversity of this special place. And we know you will do anything in your power to help protect the crown jewel of Northampton's conservation areas.

That's why we know you'll be helping us out on **Saturday, October 15**, from 9:00 AM until noonish, as we continue to work to rid the FLCA of invasive plant species. We'll be meeting at the North Farms Road entrance and heading out to tackle those nasty plant invaders wherever we find them. If you can, bring snacks and water, gloves, a shovel, clippers, and any other tool that might help in digging up those invasives that are working overtime to transform FLCA into a less biologically rich area.

If you don't have tools, we'll provide them. If you don't know what invasive plants are, we'll teach you. And if you don't show up, we'll miss you. Hope to see you there!

Brian Adams

Thanks to Cot Shelter Volunteers

Once a month over the winter, BBC volunteers served dinner at the Interfaith Cot Shelter in Northampton, as a gesture of concern for those without affordable housing. This year's team included Patricia Bonner, Nancy Chamberlin, Keith Davis and family, Helen and Don Dupes, Lauren Forest, Anne Heston, Anne Lombard, Father Liston, Michelle Turner and James Bernhard, and team leader Monica Jakuc. Thank you!

Monica is stepping down as BBC's team leader, so a replacement is needed. If you are interested, please get in touch with her (584-3017, mjakuc@email.smith.edu) or with Yvonne Freccero (YFreccero@aol.com).

Beavers' Work Thwarted: New Screen for Dam Outlet Installed

Dear Beavers of Fitzgerald Lake:

Our apologies for keeping you from your damn building, but we had to stop you from clogging *our* dam. You see, when you blocked up the lake outlet with your cute pointy sticks 5 or 6 times, the lake level would rise as much as 2 feet (think tail lengths), thereby flooding the canoe launch, etc. (Didn't this get your babies in nest chambers wet, too?) (No, we're not gloating. We love you guys.)

So, on August 3 (just before the new moon) (that's no moon), Mike Callahan and Bill Stevens of Beaver Solutions in Southampton erected a screen around the outlet to keep you away. You no doubt recognized Bob Packard (the froggie guy) and Bob Rundquist (the fly fisher guy) helping. Thanks for not whapping the water then. (No, it's not funny.)

Hopefully you won't try to pile sticks again, but if you do, it should be easier for us to clear. It was really a pain for Bruce Hart (the jock guy) and helpers to duck underwater to reach in/under the outlet cylinder (think hole) to untangle your sticks, especially painful in 40-degree water. (How do you stand it?)

By the way, you probably wondered what those bubbling underwater humans were doing May 21. They were Chuck Kenworthy and Bert McCasland of At the Water's Edge dive shop in Westfield, undoing *your* handiwork, thank you. They were super volunteers and had the dam cleared and flowing in 5 minutes (they're more efficient than we are).



Divers from At the Water's Edge begin clearing sticks and mud from the dam outlet (one is barely visible under water at the left). The beavers' work had completely blocked the underwater portion of the outlet, bringing the water all the way up to the grid at the top. Photo by Bob Packard.



Bill Stevens (left) and Mike Callahan (right) of Beaver Solutions, with the help of BBC President Bob Packard, put the beaver screen in place. Here the water is at the level it should be, about 2 feet below the top of the outlet
Photo by Bob Rundquist.

The new screen, should you wish to start your calculations, is 6-by-6-inch heavy-gauge steel mesh, as is used for concrete reinforcing. It surrounds the outlet cylinder, about 2 to 3 feet out. It rises from the lake bottom (about 3 feet under water there) to 2 feet above water. (You can't climb, can you?)

In case you're worried about your tax dollars (ha ha), the City of Northampton is paying the modest \$1,100 cost of the project.

You may remember Beaver Solutions (I hope that name isn't insulting) solving a flooding problem (opportunity?) on Broad Brook up by North Farms Road. There, as volunteers, they added a "Beaver Deceiver," a pipe through your dam with inlets and outlets spread out to quiet the whoosh of water that triggers dam-building behavior. (Please forget I described this.)

Now, before you start planning your next stunt, let me tell you what we made top hats out of about 2,500 moons ago. . . .
Bob Rundquist

Join the BBC List Serv!

BBC members and friends can receive notices about Walks and Talks, work days, special events, and conservation issues via the BBC list serv. This method of communication can vastly improve our ability to communicate and save postage, paper, and volunteer time. If you'd like to subscribe, send an empty e-mail to broad_brook_coalition-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Northampton Candidates Respond to Broad Brook Coalition Questionnaire

In this municipal election year, BBC offered candidates for City-wide office the opportunity to inform its members of their views on issues relevant to BBC's mission. We sent the questions below to all candidates for Mayor and City Council. We are publishing all the responses we received by September 19, exactly as we received them, with no editing. Thanks to Andy Grimaldi for compiling the responses, and to all the candidates who took the time to respond.

1. Do you support passage of the Community Preservation Act in Northampton?

Clare Higgins (Mayor): I am a reluctant supporter of the CPA. My reluctance stems from my concern about the use of the already stressed property tax for funding the very worthy goals of open space acquisition, historic preservation and the creation and support of affordable housing. However, the CPA does have more progressivity than a standard Proposition 2½ override and it does result in matching funds from the state. CPA funds may help finance the ongoing upkeep of a number of historic structures in the City that city government cannot currently afford to fund.

Richard J. Feldman (Mayor): I support it conditionally: (1) my preference is for a smaller tax amount (1½ % rather than 3%); (2) my concern is that the city lacks a good comprehensive plan, and has attended to land-use, recreation, historic preservation and housing issues in a piecemeal fashion that leaves the issues vulnerable; there needs to be a clear statement that tells people where this is going and what the plan is to get there; and (3) the residents I've spoken with have said that they want to know with some greater assurance how the funds would be spent (which I interpret to mean that people are also concerned about accountability, and about what sort of real benefit will come from this).

I'd encourage the entire CPA coalition to take these concerns seriously, and to construct a strategy that responds to both the needs—protect open space, preserve historic sites, ensure well managed and maintained recreation options, ensure affordable housing—and the residents' concerns for costs, plans, and accountability.

James M. Dostal (City Councilor at Large): The CPA is a menu override of Proposition 2 ½ and as such I do not support it. There are many other areas that could use the infusion of money such as Police, Fire and Public Works. We have cut these departments so bad that they are unable to perform the duties we the public expect of them.

Maureen T. Carney (City Council, Ward 1): Yes, I support passage of the CPA in Northampton. As I listen to residents in this ward, and across this city, I hear concerns about sprawl, loss of open space, lack of affordable housing, and desire to maintain historical structures and landscapes. The CPA is an investment in the unique quality of life that makes this city a vibrant and beautiful place to live. It matches dollars raised locally with state funds for projects we might not be able to afford, yet provides exclusions for those that need it most: low income homeowners, low and moderate income seniors. The \$39 raised from taxes on my home would be matched and put to dedicated uses that I support: protecting and preserving natural spaces and wildlife, making Northampton affordable for those who grow up here and work here, and preserving the heritage and historical landscape of our community.

If elected to the City Council, I would take very seriously the role of approving committee members responsible for prioritizing projects and dispersing monies raised through the CPA. I would expect the oversight committee to encourage community collaboration in decisions, and to plan carefully and deliberately.

Daryl G. LaFleur (City Council, Ward 4): Yes, with exemptions for low income people and the first \$100 thousand of residential property values. In this form, the CPA is weighted toward property owners with larger assets.

I also propose the creation of a City maintained Trust Fund that would assist elderly and disabled persons of low income in paying their property taxes, so they can remain in their homes, per MGL, Chapter 60, Section 3D. The city may designate a place on property tax bills, whereby taxpayers can voluntarily check off, donate, and pledge an amount to be deposited into the trust fund.

The CPA exemptions combined with the creation of this trust fund would ensure that only people that can afford the CPA will contribute for it, and the community will receive matching funds as well. I think it's a great investment that's rescindable in five years if the voters think it's not working well.

I was elected by the members of Northampton for the Community Preservation Act organization to sit on the NCPA Steering Committee to bring the Act before the voters. What I find particularly enticing is that matching money available from the state would be under local control, a rarity. If adopted by the voters, I support the formation of the formal City CPA Committee to include a total of nine members with four elected from and by the community.

David J. Narkewicz (City Council, Ward 4): Yes, I support passage of the Community Preservation Act in Northampton.

David A. Murphy (City Council, Ward 5): I do support creation of a Community Preservation Fund to support open space, historic preservation, and affordable housing within the City of Northampton. I have devoted time and resources to support open space, historic preservation, and affordable housing. I serve as president of Childs Park Foundation and manage 36 acres of beautiful open space in the heart of the City. I am a member of the Elm Street Historic District Committee and Chairman of the Central Business Architectural Committee; both groups are involved with historic preservation within the City. I have served on and was vice chairman of the Northampton Housing Partnership.

I have not seen the proposed C.P.A. ballot question. I do not know what percentage will be proposed or what surcharge exemptions will be included in the proposal. I would reserve my complete endorsement until I have reviewed the actual ballot question.

Kathleen E. Silva (City Council, Ward 5): I believe the Massachusetts CPA is a great tool for communities to utilize, who adopt it. My concern, as with any increase of fees or taxes is the impact that it will have upon the affordability for existing residents to remain living within the Northampton area. At a time when day to day living expenses are rising quickly, any extra monies that residents may now have to offset those increases should be at their disposal. What we enact as officials and residents has the ability to impact someone who is on a fixed/low to moderate income beyond ways that we may not know. For me it's not concerning the projects that the monies could accomplish but it's the impact it will place on some individuals if enacted that extremely concerns me. I am fully confident that the residents of the city have the ability to decide what is in their best interest. I am happy that they have the ability to choose this decision come voting day.

Raymond W. LaBarge (City Councilor, Ward 7): The CPA is an override of Proposition 2½. While the goals of the CPA are fine, I think the money for these projects should come from the Commonwealth. The priorities for the CPA are wrong. I'd rather see a percentage of it going to the schools. The city has received many cuts in funding from the state in the past several years. I would rather not have city property taxes used for these projects.

2. As you may know, Broad Brook Coalition (BBC) is responsible for managing the Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area (FLCA) in cooperation with the City of Northampton. Our efforts have led to the acquisition of nearly 600 acres which are now in the FLCA. Do you support the continuing acquisition of additional parcels for this area? If not, what are your reasons or concerns?

Ms. Higgins: Yes, as I have throughout my time in elected office. I have enjoyed the FLCA as a neighbor and want to support it so that it is available to all in the city to do so.

Mr. Feldman: I totally support further acquisition, as long as we have a city-wide plan in place that clearly identifies critical areas needing protection, and areas available for particular kinds of development. The FLCA is one area that should be fully protected.

I'd like to see an endowment trust fund created to purchase and protect land and conservation areas. I sense that it would be at least as successful as the one I helped get going in education; there are people who will contribute well to this effort. And I think the city should do whatever it can to identify additional funding sources, government assistance, and corporate support to further the goal of ensuring protection of land, water and wildlife. To attract industry, for example, we might look at incentives for the company if the company will help add to the common conservation trust.

Mr. Dostal: I have always supported the acquisition of land by the BBC. We must always remember that every time a piece of property is taken off of the tax rolls that tax must be made up somewhere else.

Ms. Carney: Yes, I support continued acquisition of land for this valuable natural resource and public space. I am an avid environmentalist, and have enjoyed the trails around Fitzgerald Lake in all seasons. The FLCA provides refuge not only for hikers, birdwatchers, and nature-lovers, but also for the multitude of wildlife that maintain habitat there. I see the continued acquisition as protecting open space for wildlife habitat that would otherwise become sprawling residential or commercial development. I am interested in the principles of smart-growth that promote development of city centers while protecting open space and farmland.

Mr. LaFleur: Yes, I do support the continuing acquisition of parcels for this area. I also feel encouraged to learn of the Nonotuck Land Fund, established in order to preserve parcels around the city. There are particularly intensive development pressures in the outlying areas of Northampton. If elected Ward 4 City Councilor, I would like to identify, working with the BBC as a partner, additional areas within the city that may be appropriate for land conservation.

Mr. Narkewicz: Yes, I support the continuing acquisition of additional parcels for the Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area.

Mr. Murphy: I would support the continued acquisition of appropriate parcels of land for the Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area.

Ms. Silva: I am not familiar at this point with the (FLCA) organization or its function, but I can tell you that I am seriously concerned with the rate of enormous subdivisions being developed within the city at the present time and the loss of great amounts of wooded area and open space. I will and do support the acquisition of any additional parcels of land for conservation, although not by the taking of eminent domain.

Mr. LaBarge: I support acquisition but want property owners to be able to leave parcels to family for themselves or for some development. I was involved in the FLCA years ago with youth from the court system who did projects as part of court-ordered community service.

3. One of BBC's missions is to promote the development of affordable housing in Northampton. What have you done personally, professionally, or politically, to promote the development of affordable housing in Northampton?

Ms. Higgins: I have been working on issues of affordable housing in the City of Northampton since the late 1980s. My focus has been on both the preservation of existing units and the development of new units. I was a Founding Board member of the Northampton Area Land Trust. I served as a Commissioner of the Northampton Housing Authority. I am a member Northampton State Hospital Citizens Advisory Committee which has set a 50% affordability goal for the housing units to be built on the state hospital site. I have been a strong supporter of Habitat for Humanity; during my time as Mayor, the City has partnered with Habitat to construct a number of units in the City. I have consistently supported zoning changes that encourage developers to include affordable units in projects planned in Northampton. My proudest achievement to date has been the preservation of affordability at the Meadowbrook Apartments through the application of tenant and community pressure coupled with a clear strong message from City government about the importance of this project.

Mr. Feldman: As Chair of the Massachusetts Rural Development Committee in the 1980's (I was the third chairperson in the history of that organization, now known as the Rural Development Council), I helped in the planning, the legislative efforts, and in the public relations efforts, to get state and federal resources focused on the then emerging housing crisis. Northampton, although not a true rural area, was a key component of the strategy, given its role and location in the region. And as a continuing activist in human services and economic development, as a Trustee on the Plan for Progress, and as a civic leader in business and commerce, I've supported, encouraged and assisted fair-housing and affordable housing efforts.

At the same time, I tend to take a comprehensive approach. Any housing has impacts on transportation, open space,

water resources, landfill and waste management, taxes, city services, schools—it's a long list. Rather than take a project-by-project approach, I'd want to have a comprehensive, immediate and long-term plan that spells out types of housing, locations, and impacts, and sets goals for the city. I would want to build in accountability, and I would want a great deal of neighborhood participation.

A vibrant city has a very diverse range of housing to accommodate a diverse range of households. And this will contribute a city having great, vibrant and diverse neighborhoods. The link between housing policies and efforts, healthy neighborhoods, diversity, and vibrant cities is absolute.

My point here is to look at the issue from more inclusive perspectives. It isn't just about a house or a small dense development here and there. It's about neighborhoods, communities, and a healthy city. And affordable housing necessarily requires residents who can afford even those prices: they need jobs with decent pay. So it's also about economic development, business support, and transportation options.

I apologize for the long answer here, but this issue concerns me greatly. I spent my childhood in a disastrous housing project in Philadelphia, a place originally set up as affordable housing but an area that quickly became a violent slum. It was cut off from other neighborhoods, it was not part of a broader community, it had no access to jobs. People suffered greatly there, and few have been able to get out in less than a decade. I don't want to contribute to the problem; I want to solve it.

Mr. Dostal: I have voted for every piece of legislation that has promoted affordable housing. Northampton has always been able to meet the mandate of 10% affordable housing. This override will be the first time that I vote in opposition to something that could partly support affordable housing.

Ms. Carney: I have been engaged in many efforts, personally, professionally, and politically to promote the development of affordable housing in Northampton.

Presently, I serve on the Northampton Housing Authority, which oversees the low-income public housing in Northampton and the Section 8 program for Northampton and surrounding towns. When the owner of Meadowbrook Apartments decided to sell, we were successful in securing a buyer that would guarantee that the affordable units would not be lost. Tonight we passed a resolution giving a four-month preference to qualifying survivors of Hurricane Katrina who may choose to settle in Northampton. I have been a personal contributor to the Valley CDC, which maintains a first-time homebuyer program for low and moderate-income families in the city.

I am an electrician by trade, and have worked on many professional and volunteer projects dedicated to providing

affordable housing to those that need it most. As a teacher at Smith Vocational School, I led students in the wiring of units for the Northampton Housing Authority and the Valley Land Trust. I worked on many volunteer housing projects with the IBEW Local 7 Union of Electricians, and contributed electrical services on Habitat for Humanity projects.

If elected to the city council, I would support well-designed, mixed-use developments, such as those that provide affordable units in the downtown areas on the upper-levels of storefronts. Northampton residents need a range of housing opportunities and choices, and careful planning is imperative to maintain this distinctive and diverse community.

Mr. LaFleur: I have proposed the idea that the City of Northampton should take the empty lot at 15 Arnold Avenue by eminent domain for the public purpose of replacing a multi-unit permanently affordable rental home there. The apartment home previously in this location burned down recently. The home would be within walking distance to downtown, public transit facilities, and the future bicycle trail. This taking would also force Smith College officials to alter their long range plans to demolish over 100 units of affordable housing and businesses in the Green Street-West Street neighborhood, and possibly reconsider expanding at the Village at Hospital Hill.

By participating with the Coalition for Affordable Northampton Neighborhoods in trying to save this neighborhood from demolition, we negotiated with Smith College to, at the very least; create a like number of affordable housing units within walking distance to downtown, should they be allowed to carry out their demolition plans. The newly proposed Development Agreement signed by Smith College officials and Northampton's Mayor, effectively removes this previously agreed upon condition, and will also allow for the removal of other downtown neighborhoods by Smith College, to be replaced by buildings up to 85 feet tall. From the Development Agreement, section 6: "The CITY will adopt an Educational Use (EU) overlay zoning district for the College's campus, bounded by Kensington Avenue, Elm Street, Round Hill Road, State Street, West Street and the property of the former Northampton State Hospital. The overlay district will provide for educational uses as an allowed (A) (and therefore exempt) use." With the Northampton's Zoning Board of Appeals interpreting the Dover Amendment in the most liberal way recently, in my opinion, Smith College will be allowed to demolish all the residences within this area, removing neighborhoods and property tax revenues from our city budget, while the city will be required to continue maintaining city services in and around the Smith College area. In addition, Smith will not be required to replace demolished units downtown, but may look for other areas in the city. From the Develop-

ment Agreement Proposal, Section 1: "Notwithstanding the foregoing, in order to facilitate desirable housing replacement projects, the advisory committee for the Smith Affordable Housing Replacement Fund may recommend exceptions to the norm of deed restrictions, subject to approval of the Mayor and the college. If no acceptable location for replacement housing units is available within one mile of Main Street after diligent search, the parties agree to cooperate to identify other locations."

The "exceptions to the norm of deed restrictions" may apply to the 20 acres Smith officials recently purchased from the former Northampton State Hospital, for about \$13 thousand an acre. If so, Smith College officials may have purchased 20 acres of prime real estate near downtown Northampton, for only about \$13 thousand an acre for exempt purposes. That land could have been used to create an affordable mixed use neighborhood within walking distance to downtown that would have provided some tax revenues. This would have connected the West Street Neighborhood to the Village at Hospital Hill, and eased development pressures in the outlying areas.

Mr. Narkewicz: I worked to support federal funding for housing anti-discrimination programs, veterans' housing, public housing drug elimination grants, self-help housing loans, and other affordable housing initiatives in Hampshire County and across Western Mass. as a district aide for Congressman John Olver. I voted in support of comprehensive permitting approval for the construction of Habitat for Humanity affordable homes in our city while a member of the Northampton Zoning Board of Appeals. I would continue to support Northampton's efforts to promote housing affordability as Ward 4 City Councillor.

Mr. Murphy: As I indicated above, I was a member and served as vice chair of the Northampton Housing Partnership. In my work as a Real Estate Broker, Real Estate Appraiser, and Assessor for the City of Northampton, I am very aware of the cost of housing in Northampton. While I am no longer a member of the Housing Partnership, my appraisal company still provides appraisal services to Habitat for Humanity for a reduced fee.

Ms. Silva: I believe that everyone deserves a home to live in that is affordable to them, and that all children should have a safe place to sleep at night. As my campaign flyer states my political experience is not as good as I would like it to be. I have not had any previous political input on affordable housing issues. I am familiar with housing issues for individuals with in the county due to the fact several of my friends run and manage homeless shelters. In addition to that there are multiple housing issues facing inmates being released from correctional facilities, individuals in substance abuse programs needing support, and assisted living units for our seniors. Housing advocates work an extreme amount of hours to place residents

needing services, or for those that just a home. I know that one of my top priorities is to work toward keeping Northampton an affordable place for anyone to reside in who would like to live here.

Mr. LaBarge: The City of Northampton already has about 12% affordable housing which is above many communities in western Massachusetts. With the addition of affordable units at the former Northampton State Hospital, I think Northampton is doing much for affordable housing.

BBC Calendar/Walks and Talks/Fall 2005

Broad Brook Coalition is eager to involve members and friends in educational, experiential, and fun activities that highlight the resources of the Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area and the surrounding woodlands, pastures, and wetlands. Bring friends and family, dress appropriately for the weather, bring a snack and drink, and enjoy. Suggestions regarding topics, new leaders, and past programs are always welcome. Call Bruce Hart, evenings, at 584-4176 (bhart2000@aol.com).

Wildflower Identification

Bob Packard

Saturday October 8, 1:00 PM

FLCA: Meet at North Farms Road entrance

Along with identification, Bob will be helping us to appreciate the visual clues that make it easier to identify and appreciate fall wildflowers. If you've ever walked with Bob, you'll know he can explore almost any topics connected to nature: trees, shrubs, ferns, birds, insects, odonates. No cell phones please. All ages and skill levels are welcome. Bring field guides and magnifying lenses if you have them.

Invasive Species Work Day

Saturday, October 15, 9:00 AM–noonish

FLCA: Meet at North Farms Road entrance

Accessible Birding

Shirley Hilborn and Anne Lombard

Saturday, October 22, 10:00–11:30 AM

FLCA: Meet at North Farms Road entrance

Join Shirley and Anne as they look and listen for birds along the accessible walkway that leads out to the lake. See what species will turn up in the varied habitat between the parking area, the lake, and around the Fishing Place Trail.

This walk is for people both with and without disabilities. The pace will probably be leisurely, but will depend on the participants. All ages and birding skill levels are welcome.

Advance registration (with All Out Adventures, 413-527-8980), would be helpful, as some optical equipment, birding gear, and wheelchairs are available. Hampshire Bird Club and Project Inspire are co-sponsors.

Learn to Identify Trees by their Bark Characteristics

Do you wish you could identify the tree species that grow on your land, or along your favorite hiking trail? Do you know how to identify trees by their leaves, buds, or twigs but become stumped when these traits aren't visible on tall forest trees? **Michael Wojtech** will be presenting two programs that will help both experienced and inexperienced observers to identify tree species by their visible bark characteristics. He is a student at Antioch New England Graduate School, and is at work on a field guide to bark characteristics of New England trees.

Attend one or both events! Appropriate for adults and children interested in learning more about trees. For more information contact Michael (587-9792 or michael_wojtech@antiochne.edu).

All Bark Is Not Alike

Wednesday, October 12, 7:00–8:30 PM

Forbes Library

At first glance all bark may look the same, but there are variations in the appearance of bark of different tree species that result from differences in the way the bark forms. A slide show will explain the eight types of bark structure, and we'll use these bark types to identify some common tree species.

Tree Identification Walk

Saturday, October 15, 10:00 AM–12:00 Noon

FLCA: Meet at Moose Lodge entrance (top of Cooke Avenue, off Hatfield Street)

Near the height of fall foliage, we'll head out into the field to identify trees. Beyond the colors so readily observable, we'll look closely at bark characteristics, discuss why they vary, and use bark to identify tree species. We'll also build on those characteristics and explore the leaves, twigs, and buds of trees. We'll be walking along Boggy Meadow Road, the second easiest path, relatively speaking, into the conservation area. Heavy rain cancels.

BBC Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 6 (see back of newsletter)

Please Join Us!

If you're not already a member, please complete this form and return it with \$25.00 to
BROAD BROOK COALITION, P.O. Box 60566, Florence, MA 01062
(All contributions to Broad Brook Coalition are **tax deductible**.)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Please send me BBC's occasional e-mail "Alerts" regarding BBC programs and local conservation issues.

Broad Brook Coalition Needs Your Help, Too!

We appreciate your membership dues, but we can also use your volunteer time! Members and friends are needed to help carry out our goals. Please consider one (or more!) of the following volunteer opportunities:

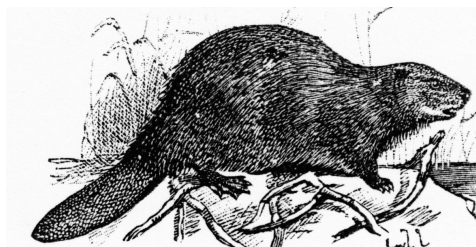
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail maintenance and repair | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising campaigns |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Invasive species removal | <input type="checkbox"/> Management Committee (manages conservation area) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mailings | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Preservation/Acquisition Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer help | <input type="checkbox"/> BBC Board of Directors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer at Interfaith Cot Shelter | <input type="checkbox"/> Educational/recreational program planning or leadership, |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Writer/reporter for newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Walks and Talks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter editor | <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor housing issues in the City |

Financial contribution to the Land Acquisition Fund: \$ _____

We want to hear from you!

The names and contact information for the Board of Directors are provided to encourage members to communicate with the Board. If you have questions or concerns about BBC and its activities, please don't hesitate to get in touch with any of us. If you e-mail us, please put "BBC" in your subject heading and make your subject clear, so that if we don't recognize your name or address, we'll know your message isn't "Spam."

The BBC Board will need two new members for 2005-2006.
If you'd like to run, don't wait for the Nominating Committee to call you; call Bob Packard at the number below.



BROAD BROOK COALITION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2004-2005

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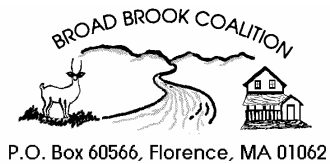
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Identify wildflowers on October 8!
See inside . . .

BROAD BROOK COALITION ANNUAL MEETING

DATE: Sunday, November 6, 2005

**PLACE: Gertrude Hubbard Chapel, Hubbard Hall, Clarke School for the Deaf,
Round Hill Road, Northampton**

From Elm Street, take Round Hill Road to the top of the hill and look for the flagpole at Hubbard Hall on your right. Go in the front entrance and walk to the Chapel at the back of the building.

TIME: 7:00 PM: Conversation and Refreshments

**7:30 PM: Business Meeting, Elections to Board of Directors,
Presentation of Annual Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service**

8:00 PM: Special Presentation:

The Connecticut River: A Journey to Restoration **Kim Lutz**



Kim Lutz is the Director of the Nature Conservancy's Connecticut River Program. In this four-state initiative, launched in 2003, The Nature Conservancy is collaborating with over 40 partner organizations to develop a strategic plan to address threats such as hydrologic alteration, invasive species, and the lack of river system connectivity. The presentation will focus on questions such as how the river contributes to a thriving fish population, the relationship of flooding to healthy floodplain forests, and the way in which we can help the river maintain its flow and find its natural course. Please join us for this stimulating discussion of Connecticut River restoration.

Before her move to Northampton almost 2 years ago, Kim directed the Savannah River Project, a two-state program focused on restoring ecological flows to a large southern river system. A conservation biologist, she completed graduate work in ecology at the University of Cincinnati after receiving an undergraduate degree from Wittenberg University.