



The SOLF Newsletter

News and thoughts from the Southborough Open Land Foundation - Fall 2014

The 2014 Species Project - A Salute to Volunteers

We believe that wildlife conservation is a critical component of open space preservation and management. That is why, this year, we undertook the Species Project. We started with a small pond and the corner of a field at the Beals Preserve and watched and measured. Our benchmark results will soon be published. The project is ongoing and will be expanded so that in the following years we can spot changes and accurately judge our conservation efforts. This project has been hard work. It would have been impossible without the selfless effort of a cadre of volunteers who collectively have put in hundreds of hours. This team, concerned about open space and the well being of our community, deserves the thanks of every citizen of Southborough. SOLF also wishes to express our profound appreciation to each and every volunteer both young or old who lead, organized or directly participated in the field work. We hope you have found the effort rewarding and educational. We also hope that you and others will join us next year as we continue our open space efforts. There is much more to do! Again, thank you volunteers.

Emerald Ash Borers
Found In Methuen
Near State Line

In July the Massachusetts Land Trust reported the following ...

"Foresters all over Southern New Hampshire are on the lookout for a miniscule menace infesting and killing ash trees. An infestation of emerald ash borers was found two weeks ago by New Hampshire foresters when they accidentally crossed the state line from Salem into Methuen and found an infested tree. The tree was near Pond Street in Methuen, according to Massachusetts forest health program director Ken Gooch. The insect is in New Hampshire already, first detected in Concord in March 2013. The pest originated in China and was first discovered in this country in 2002. One of the primary ways it spreads is through the transportation of firewood."

Saving Our Birds

Naturalized open spaces help bird species survive. The Massachusetts Land Trust points out that 100 years ago we lost the last one of North America's most abundant bird species ...

"The passenger pigeon is among the most famous of American birds, but not because of its beauty, or its 60-mile-an-hour flight speed. Nor is it a cherished symbol of our great country. No, we remember the passenger pigeon because of the largest-scale human-caused extinction in history. Possibly the most abundant bird ever to have existed, this gregarious pigeon once migrated in giant flocks that sometimes exceeded three billion, darkening the skies over eastern North America for days at a time. No wild bird in the world comes close to those numbers today. Yet 100 years ago this week, the very last pigeon of her kind died in her cage at the Cincinnati Zoo. Her name was Martha, and her passing merits our close attention today. "

Open Board Position

A position has opened on SOLF's Board of Trustees. This is not a ceremonial position. Board members are expected to contribute to strategic and tactical discussions at monthly meetings. Board members are also expected to serve on one or more committees ranging from Education and Outreach, Property Management, Finance and Fundraising, Volunteer Engagement, or one of several ad hoc committees. Potential candidates may express interest and contact information via email at info@solf.org. We will arrange a personal discussion.