



SOUTHBOROUGH OPEN LAND FOUNDATION

*Preserving and protecting open land and
rural character in the Town of Southborough*

Catching Up On SOLF News

October 2024

Beals Preserve

A section of the Old Farm Lane (the main walking path) at Beals Preserve has been loamed and seeded. Please do not walk on it and please keep your pets off it. There is now a hard gravel path alongside it for you to walk on. You may also walk on the grassy area at the edge of the loamed area. This work is part of the maintenance project to try to deal with the wet conditions often found at that part of the trail. Thank you for your cooperation.



Volunteer Program

We are continuing to try to build our pool of volunteers for outdoor stewardship work. People who have already signed up should now be receiving regular notifications of where we plan to be working most Saturday mornings. That information should also be available at our website [solf.org](https://solf.org/upcoming-events/) under events: <https://solf.org/upcoming-events/>. Ongoing projects include work at Templeman Woods, Bigelow Wildlife Reserve, Lynbrook Hollow, Lambert Corner, and Kallander Woods as well as Beals Preserve.

Children Donate to SOLF

Last year the Bancroft family of Southborough showed their support for local causes! During the fall of 2023, the children: Paxton, Asher and sister Flora held a sale of gourds, donuts and cider and decided to give half their profits to SOLF! In the top photo, SOLF treasurer, Larry Samberg and SOLF president Destin Heilman accepted the donation from the children. In the bottom photo SOLF trustees Debbie Costine and Sally Watters join Destin Heilman at the picnic table they just constructed at the Main Street Field at Beals Preserve. Thanks to these thoughtful young people for helping helping make the purchase of the picnic table possible.



Art on the Trails

The popular Art on the Trails program was at Beals Preserve from June 15, when people had the opportunity to see the artists installing their work, until September 15, when a closing event took place. The theme this year was *Legacy* in honor of the former SOLF president Whit Beals who was so instrumental in protecting Beals Preserve as open space. At the closing event poems inspired by the art installations were read by the poets who had written them. A chapbook of the poems and the installations was available to purchase. This year there were 13 juried installations, including the owl pictured below. Special thanks to Catherine Weber who directs the program, and to the sponsors, the Southborough Community Fund, Middlesex Savings Bank, Southborough Cultural Arts Council, Mass Cultural Council, and Ginny Martins & Associates.



Replacing Bridges in Wet Areas

One of the projects undertaken by volunteers is the replacement of bridges over wet areas. Pictured above, volunteers Vincent Valvo, Larry Samberg and Colby are seen replacing the bridge on a section of the Hickory Trail at Beals Preserve. Eileen Samberg also worked on that bridge replacement. Several other bridges in wet areas are scheduled to be replaced.



Attacking Invasives

Pictured below are SOLF president Destin Heilman (in background) and SOLF vice president Lawrence Spezzano as they tackled the invasive plants and other obstacles that made access to SOLF's property at Lambert Corner, located at the intersection of Route 85 and Richards Road, difficult.



**Be sure to visit the
SOLF booth at
Heritage Day
on October 14**