

# SOUTHBOROUGH OPEN LAND FOUNDATION SUMMER 2022 NEWSLETTER

## Bigelow Wildlife Refuge



Bigelow Wildlife Refuge Knotweed Control Effort

An ongoing challenge at Bigelow Wildlife Refuge is control of knotweed at the trail to the viewing platform. Trustee Lawrence Spezzano has been instrumental in overseeing an experiment in controlling the knotweed by laying down wire mesh to slow the growth. Over time it is hoped that the wire mesh will choke out the knotweed. In July, a work party made up of Larry & Eileen Samberg, Whit Beals, Kathryn Korostoff and Lawrence Spezzano, weeded the front area and the path, before spreading a thick layer of wood chips along the path.



Work Party at Bigelow

## Beals Preserve

SOLF is in the process of planting a pollination preservation garden at Beals Preserve Main Street Field. SOLF is partnering with the Open Space Preservation Commission (OSPC) as part of its plan to install pollination preservation gardens at various locations throughout Southborough such as the one planted last summer at the library. Some preparation work was done in



Volunteers begin planting at the Pollination Preservation Garden

the Beals Preserve Main Street Field last summer to try to eliminate weeds by putting down cardboard and woodchips. Preparation of the area continued this spring. Some planting finally is taking place in July. This is an ongoing project with more planting to be done. Many volunteers have helped and we will continue to need volunteers. We thank all the volunteers and are grateful for the leadership of OSPC chair Freddie Gillespie.

### Ongoing Stewardship at Beals Preserve

For several months, SOLF Trustee Debbie Costine has been leading volunteers doing trail maintenance along the Old Farm Lane at Beals Preserve. You will find Debbie there most Saturday mornings at 10:00 eager to show volunteers which invasive plants need to be removed.

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## Annual Meeting

SOLF held its Annual Meeting on May 18. One of the highlights of the meeting was the presentation of a check for the Linda Hubley Scholarship Fund. SOLF had issued a challenge that it would match up to \$1000 in donations. Donors contributed \$1600 so SOLF was able to contribute \$2600 to the fund. Skip Hubley and two representatives, Kathleen Kuklewicz and Alexandra Mills, of the town scholarship fund were on hand to receive the check from SOLF VP Debbie Costine.



Presentation of check for Linda Hubley Scholarship Fund



Whit Beals and Jim Gorss

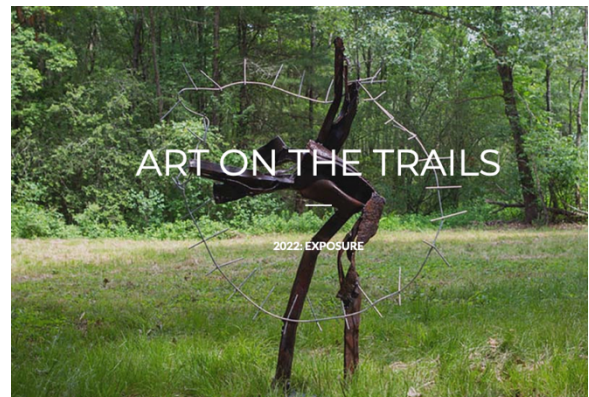
At our annual meeting we present the Elaine Beals Conservation Award to an individual who has contributed to the preservation of

## Annual Meeting (cont.)

the environment. This year's recipient was Jim Gorss who served on the Stewardship Committee for Breakneck Hill for many years, often as chair. SOLF President Whit Beals presented the award to Jim.

Following the award portion of the meeting, our featured speaker, Peter Alden, gave an informative and entertaining presentation on perspectives on changing wildlife populations in New England since the time of Henry David Thoreau.

## Art on the Trails



SOLF is pleased to once again sponsor the highly popular Art on the Trails (AOT) at Beals Preserve. Under the direction of Southborough artist Catherine Weber, and with support from the Southborough Community Fund and the Southborough Cultural Arts Council, fifteen artists were chosen to install art work reflecting this year's theme, Exposure, along the trails at Beals Preserve. Art on the Trails will be in place from June 13<sup>th</sup> until September 11<sup>th</sup>. There is also a poetry component to AOT. You are invited to submit poems that reflect your reaction to any of the installations. Be sure to visit Beals Preserve to see nature through the eyes of these artists.