**Annual Meeting**
(RSVP helpful – 374-7857)
Saturday, October 27, 2018
(members and non-members are invited)
10 a.m. to 12 noon
at the historic Arnolds Mills Community House
75 Hillside Road, Cumberland

**Guest Speaker: Charles Clarkson, PhD.**
Professor at the University of Rhode Island

Charles is a custodian of building the RI Bird Atlas. He is happy to come speak at our annual meeting and provide some details of birds in the Blackstone Valley, migratory birds, etc.

**AGENDA**
Election of board members
Annual Volunteer Service Awards
Community Service Award:
Arnolds Mills Community House
President’s Annual Report
Refreshments

*Wine Tasting event tickets will be available*

**LAND ACQUISITIONS/STEWARDSHIP**

In the last two years we have acquired seven properties totaling 99 acres plus a 212-acre conservation easement on Mercy Woods Preserve. All the properties are attached to existing conservation areas. Including town hiking preserves, we now own or manage 879 acres. *See next page.*

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**12th Annual Wine Tasting Fundraiser**
Friday evening, November 16, 2018
Blackstone River Theatre
549 Broad Street
Cumberland, RI

This is our only fundraiser event of the year. Members and non-members are welcome to join in support of the Land Trust. The ticket price is $25. For this event to be a success we rely on pre-event sales to plan, especially for the amount of wine and food platters.

Tickets are available from all board members. Or from Joe Pailthorpe at 374-7857, *jopail@cox.net* or Deb Mitchell at 743-4192, *DebaMitchell@yahoo.com*

Or send your check to:
Cumberland Land Trust
PO BOX 8011
Cumberland, RI 02864

**Girl Scout Project**

This summer, Lily Neves, a Girl Scout in Troop 415 of Cumberland progressed toward her Silver Award project in collaboration with the Cumberland Land Trust. Lily created and installed five letter-boxes on the CLT public preserves that offer hiking trails. Letter-boxing is a fun outdoor activity in which participants follow clues to locate boxes that are hidden - in this case in the woods.
Mercy Woods Preserve

One of the CLT’s largest, newest, and most premier properties with 229 acres, Mercy Woods Preserve offers an incredible multiple-season landscape to explore. Moreover, the Town of Cumberland will maintain 17 acres for future active recreational uses.

Currently, CLT is working swiftly with our partners to establish well maintained and clearly marked trails that will feature dense mixed hardwood and white pine forest, meadows, craggy, naturally-stepped, elevated rock terraces, vernal pools and creeks that feed the abutting reservoir, and a healthy, bio-diverse habitat. Moreover, the property provides visions of Cumberland’s early heritage land uses such as small plot farming, stone walls and piles defining livestock pasture management and historic cart paths as well as early transportation routes such as access to the historic Warner Trail. The property features trails and walking paths that were as of late established and maintained by the Sisters of Mercy as a place of prayer, reflection, and an expression of their commitment to the care of the earth through conservation.

NEW - Lippitt Estates Preserve

Last month the Land Trust received a 25 acres donated by the Lippitt Estates Association. This adds to 6 acres they donated in 2016. CLT will continue preserving the properties as the Association has done for many years. Many of the properties are in the areas of Lippitt Avenue, Leigh Road and both sides of Scott Road and including the 12-acre Little Pond. Most of the properties are adjacent to existing CLT preserves, especially Otis Smith Farm and Rowbottom Preserves on both Lippitt Avenue and Scott Road. We are very grateful for this beneficial historic property transfer for the good of Cumberland.

White Cedar Swamp/Burlingame Preserves

We have been reporting beaver activity at the White Cedar Swamp for the last three years. In August of 2017 we completed a 224-foot-long bog bridge system. In the next several weeks we will be installing a 72-foot bridge in the middle of the White trail.

On the 84-acre Burlingame Preserve we are adding 2.3 miles of new trails. This new trail network has many historically interesting features. The hiking is a bit more challenging than the White trail that travels from Nate Whipple Highway to Pound Road. We are in the process of updating our management plan to add these two new key items and getting approval from the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, the agency that holds the conservation easement.

The new Ballou Farm Preserve

This 52-acre preserve acquired this past March will soon have new trails that will connect to the Blackall Preserve that has two trailheads on Old West Wrentham Road. Two Eagle Scouts from Troop 1 Cumberland Hill will be completing the new Ballou trails in late October.

Blackall Preserve update

A new trail has been added (yellow) at #8 Old West Wrentham Road trailhead. This new trail is an alternate to hiking the (red) trail along the power grid. This new feature provides a more scenic and historic hike through a bog area. A new (green) trail is being added on the north side of this 132-acre preserve which is more a hilly and challenging hike. Maps coming soon.

GO TAKE A HIKE! The choices are numerous. Enjoy. It’s great for your health.

Guided hikes available on request by calling Deb at 743-4192 or email DebaMitchell@yahoo.com