



Spring 2018 Newsletter

Spring has sprung!

Peepers are peeping, birds are nesting, bees are humming, the daffodils at Godena Farm's entrance are up and blooming, maples are flowering. Yes, despite a long winter, the plant and animal world is waking up and on the go.



The winter was particularly hard on the Godena Farm bee hives.

While Four hives were lost, the remaining hives have been uncovered and are active. Two new packages of bees arrived from Almond Farms in California, have been installed and, thanks to the work of Dennis Breneiser and Jim Turenne, the queen is laying eggs and all appear to be thriving



March is always a guessing game for birders awaiting the return of Ospreys to the island. Happily, they're back, and apparently in increasing numbers. In addition to the pairs most frequently observed at Great Creek and on the Dutch Harbor shoreline, an actively nesting pair can be seen at the newly erected platform at Fox Hill Farm.

Bluebirds and Tree swallows are nesting at both Godena Farm and the Parker Property, both locations accessible to walkers and for birdwatching. Recently American Kestrels were spotted at the Parker Property, and perhaps they'll use the nest box erected there.



Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Spring is being celebrated, not just by the birds and bees, but by islanders tired of being cooped up indoors. March 31st brought Jamestowners, adults and children, to Godena Farm for the annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Jamestown Women's Club. The sun was out, and the kids had a great time filling their baskets.



Earth Day in Jamestown

And Saturday, April 21st was Earth Day. Following the clean-up across the island, volunteers gathered at the Recreation Center where Land Trust members cooked a well-earned lunch of hamburgers and hot dogs.





Water at Godena Farm

After many seasons of hauling water from the Crusher Pond across the road for the pollinator gardens, USDA funding has allowed the Land Trust to successfully drill a well. The drillers noted a high yield of 50-100 gallons per minute which will more than provide the needed supply of water for the farm's gardens. Once a small shed to provide cover for a compressor and requisite water lines are situated, the well will be able to support the gardens and the pollinators that depend on them.

Save the Date for our Annual Meeting & Speaker

This year's annual **Conanicut Island Land Trust meeting is scheduled for May 18th**. The meeting will be for members only at 6:45, but we are very pleased to be opening the doors to the public at 7:00 to hear our guest speaker, Scott Ruhren, Ph.D., Senior Director of Conservation for the Audubon Society of Rhode Island. For more information, go to the Land Trust web site (<http://www.conanicutlandtrust.org/>).

Dr. Ruhren earned his Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Rutgers University. He is responsible for management of Audubon's 9000+ acres of protected land, as well as land acquisition, protection of native plants and animals, and control of invasive species and, in addition to his Audubon responsibilities, lectures at the University of Rhode Island. In 2014, he was honored by the Southern RI Conservation District as Professional Conservationist of the Year.



Dr. Ruhren's extensive experience provides the basis for his presentation: "***From Rarity to Overabundance: Rise and Fall of Species in New England.***"

For more CILT photos & updates:

Recently featured in the RI Conservation video: <https://vimeo.com/251417531>.

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