



Spring 2019 Newsletter

Spring Has Sprung

Peepers are peeping, Ospreys have returned, Bluebirds are nesting, Robins are digging for worms, trees are blooming. With all our April showers, May blooms are close behind. And with the warming weather, Land Trust activities are picking up.

Apiary Update – Godena Honeybees are Thriving

Following a very successful 2018 spring and summer (we harvested about 400 pounds of honey) we went into fall with 7 healthy bee colonies. We added the 7th colony with a late season swarm rescue from an East Shore Road property. The swarm was not expected to survive the winter due to low food storage, but we are pleased to report that the colony is thriving. They they are now very healthy and the photo below left shows the bees carrying pollen to the hive.

Unfortunately, 3 of the other colonies did not make it through the winter and we lost Hives 4, 6, and 9 due to the weather and also late fall robbing of their food. We have replaced the lost hives with new bee packages from Georgia and California and should be harvesting honey by early July - if you are interested in buying honey like our FaceBook page at www.fb.com/conanicutlandtrust



Additionally, the sandy soils at Godena farm provide a suitable habitat to native ground nesting bees shown in the upper right photo. These bees are excellent pollinators and typically emerge as the soil temperatures exceed 55F in late March. The most common of the ground nesting bees are cellophane bees (*Colletes inaequalis*). The CILT Facebook page has additional information about these pollinators which are harmless and typically active for about 3 weeks in the spring. To learn more about them visit:

<https://entomology.cals.cornell.edu/extension/wild-pollinators/native-bees-your-backyard>

Boundless Birding

This winter and spring have provided a variety of birding opportunities. A number of owl sightings were reported this winter. During a routine inspection of the Shaw Property, a Barred Owl was spotted. Blue birds have taken advantage of meal worms at Godena Farm, and this week Kestrels were hovering over the farm.



Generous Donation

John Phelan generously donated a 1.2 acre lot along the ridge of wetlands in the Jamestown Shores for protection by the Land Trust. Phelan noted that "Undeveloped, it will contribute to the health of a heavily developed and fragile area." We thank him for this gift.

Upcoming Activities & Events:

April 20th will bring the Easter bunny and the annual Easter egg hunt, sponsored by the Jamestown Women's Club, to Godena Farm. The hunt will begin at 10 a.m.

Earth Day is April 27th. We anticipate involvement by many islanders, and the Land Trust will grill burgers and hotdogs for participants following the cleanup.

May 17th, The Land Trust will host "Island Treasures" for Lawn Avenue Middle School. The students will use this opportunity to learn about pollinators and bees.

May 28th, a group from the Teen Center will explore Godena Farm gardens and aviaries.

June 1st will bring the Boy Scouts to camp out at Godena Farm.

Arthur Milot (1932-2019)

The Conanicut Island Land Trust mourns the passing of our former director And wonderful friend, Arthur Milot.

A quiet, thoughtful man, Art campaigned passionately and tirelessly for the Preservation of open space on our island and throughout the state. Despite Enormous accomplishments, Art remained, predictably, unassuming to the end.

We pay tribute to Art who, to his credit and our benefit, helped preserve what Makes our island a special place.

For more CILT photos & updates:

FaceBook: www.facebook.com/Conanicutlandtrust/

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CILT1984>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/conanicutlandtrust/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuZCVXO7DXFkwC1ndpLWdnA>