

Vibrant Volunteers

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VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER CELEBRATES ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY!

April kicks off the new fiscal year for The Trustees . . . new programs, new events . . . a fresh start! This year, we celebrate the one-year anniversary of our Volunteer Newsletter. We are grateful to have journeyed over the past 12 months with each of you and are looking forward to discovering what the next year brings!

We are all looking forward to spring! With the birds chirping, the scent of flowers, and the gorgeous show of greenery, it's almost like the season is showing off. This year we are looking forward to tulip festivals, open barnyards, hiking, beach days, to name a few!

As Trustees volunteers, please take a bow for all we accomplished this winter. From Winterlights, to snowy hikes, and maple sugaring, we have celebrated the beauty of the winter. Volunteers have helped to engage visitors, care for farm animals, protect our vulnerable habitats, maintain the safety of the trails, and much more. Your generous support makes such a huge impact for the special places of Massachusetts for all. Thank you for all you do!

“In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt.”

~ Margaret Atwood, Bluebeard's Egg

Thank you, thank you, thank you! Now on we go to spring...

- The Volunteer Services Team

Michelle de Lima, Engagement Manager within the Boston Community Gardens, has been with The Trustees for eight years! Congratulations, Michelle, for sharing your love of all things gardening while continuing to support diversity, belonging, inclusivity and equity in all that you do.



What brought you to The Trustees?

I love growing food and teaching others how to do so. I came to the community gardens after many years of farming, when I was looking to do more education and engagement but still use my growing skills

Tell us about your current role with the Trustees?

I am the Engagement Manager for the Boston Community Gardens. That means I run educational, community-building, and fundraising events in and about our gardens. These include lots of workshops on different aspects of growing, cooking, and preserving food; fun events like concerts and beer gardens; a big annual Gardeners’ Gathering conference; and an intensive training called the Master Urban Gardener class.

What has been your favorite day at The Trustees and why?

It’s very hard to pick one! One great day that comes to mind from this summer was our Juneteenth celebration at Nightingale Community Garden in Dorchester. We celebrated Juneteenth with a wonderful spoken word poet, a band, Nigerian food, and Kim Janey, Boston’s then-interim mayor. It was a joyful, meaningful day.

What advice would you have for someone contemplating volunteering with The Trustees?

They should do it! The Trustees is so varied in the different places and programs we do; there really is something for everyone. Lots of folks start out volunteering for a specific property and then find there’s a whole range of fun, purposeful work to help with.

What is something about you that might surprise your volunteer colleagues?

Even though I have tons of farming and gardening experience, I am terrible at taking care of houseplants.

Two fun facts about you?

I make my own liqueurs from botanical ingredients that I grow and forage.

I’ve lived in Massachusetts my whole life (except college and some extended trips) and I think it is the best state in the union!

Join the Volunteer Recruitment Team!

As The Trustees continues to grow, so does the need for a diverse and dedicated team of volunteers. The Recruitment Team is currently looking for individuals to join us and help with volunteer recruitment statewide!

Know someone who might be interested, or want to learn more about the role for yourself?

Reach out to us at
volunteer@thetrustees.org

When you first visit Powisset Farm in Dover, you may not think about Amelia Peabody, hiking, kitchens or chefs that teach cooking classes. I have come to learn that those are just a few things that signify how special Powisset Farm really is. I have only visited twice, but I am truly in love with this farm. The people, the workshops, the community, the land, the crops, and of course, the animals make this so much more than an ordinary farm.

The first time I visited the farm it was an unseasonably warm Friday afternoon in December. I wanted to be outside and take my dog, Ace, with me. I knew dogs were probably not allowed at a working farm, but I figured I would take a ride anyway.

We arrived at the farm. I pulled into the entrance and noticed the “no dogs allowed” sign. I had a feeling that would be the case. I decided to drive further down the lane. I noticed the barns, pastures (I love a good pasture), and part of a trail. I turned around but knew I would be back soon. Ace and I stopped by Pegan Hill on our way home, another property I love, but I kept thinking about Powisset Farm.



A month later I went to meet Eileen Small, Engagement Specialist within Volunteer Services. I was lucky enough to have Eileen give me a tour. It’s always a pleasure to spend time with Eileen; she is not only knowledgeable and helpful, but also hilarious. I have never met more friendly employees, and I experienced such a calm and laid back, yet fun environment.

I met Eileen up front by the main barn. We walked down the farm lane. I noticed the piggery barn on the left. The piggery was quiet since it was winter, although I did notice two adorable pigs grazing in a fenced in area on the right. Eileen showed me the greenhouses, where we met Jessica; she was very friendly and told us they were changing out the glass for plastic on each greenhouse, to be ready for the pending blizzard.

We continued until we reached butler barn, we then turned around. Eileen filled me in on how active the farm becomes in the warmer weather.

As we approached the main barn again, we met Mike Francis, Stewardship Manager for the Charles River Valley Management Unit, an extremely friendly and knowledgeable guy. He told us about Amelia Peabody, stories of her generosity and her innovative ideas, such as solar panels. He also told us how grateful he is for volunteers that have had an enormous impact on the farm and conservation. Alan Pasnik comes to mind – an incredibly talented carpenter! Mike was beaming with pride when telling us about the hands-on work Alan has given to Powisset, truly incredible. I would love to write about all the history and incredible stories, but there is way too much for one page.

Eileen and I continued our tour. We went in to visit the farm store, the beautiful farm kitchen, and the office. I had no idea they had this wonderful kitchen and that they have so many farm-to-table dinners and cooking workshops. I am signing up for a few. I was told about the outdoor brick oven and a special Big Mac pizza, made by the amazing Chef Thi Bowles. We were lucky enough to have met Michaela Hughes, Engagement Manager and Melissa Gilbert, Dairy and Livestock Technician. As expected, they also were warm and friendly. I can’t wait to get back and experience all this treasure of a farm has to offer.

LAFAYETTE COLLEGE



The Lafayette College VIRTUAL 2022 Explore & Connect Program pairs students with an alumna/us, parent, employer, or other friend of Lafayette to expand the students’ knowledge of a career field, develop their professional insight, and expand their professional network. The Trustees has partnered with Lafayette College for the past several years, offering students both remote and on property opportunities to support the mission of The Trustees. As part of our 5-year strategic plan, Momentum, the ‘Explore & Connect Program’ aligns with The Trustees’ commitment to engaging the next generation in outdoor experiences to cultivate our replacements – the future generation who will carry on our work and care for our places and our mission. We welcomed the following three students to our team this past January 2022.



Lauren Cooney

Bachelor of Arts, English (Writing Concentration)

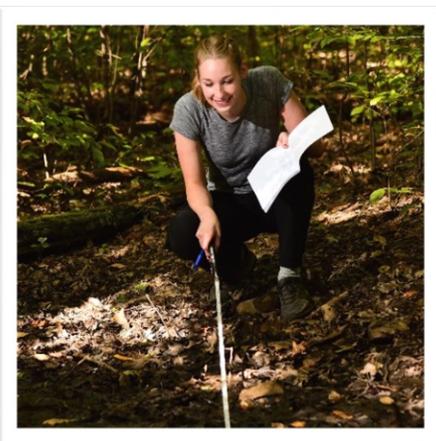
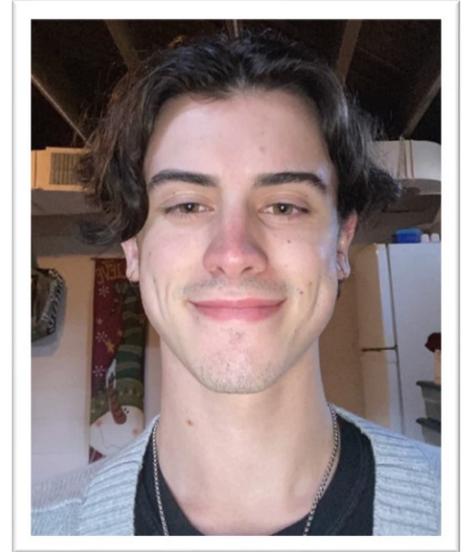
Lauren had this to say about her experience with The Trustees: “Thank you so much for sacrificing your time to provide me with an experience I will truly never forget. I recognize this is an incredibly busy time of year, yet you took time out of your schedule to create a program filled with individuals who imparted so much valuable advice and knowledge. The Trustees is a truly remarkable organization with exceptional people. I am deeply grateful for the positive environment you fostered, encouraging us to be curious and open-minded. Through it all you were nothing but patient and kind; your positivity is truly infectious, and I feel as though you have not only provided me with valuable career advice, but with tidbits of wisdom that will

help guide the way I live my life. I truly appreciate all your efforts to allow me to explore a variety of professions within the Trustees, and for providing fascinating preparation materials as well.”

Liam Thompson

Bachelor of Science, Integrative Engineering: Bioengineering Focus

“Thank you for the wonderful experience you offered me through The Trustees’ Externship. I found it invigorating and gave me new hope for the future. I hope to one day find a career where I believe in the mission as so many employees do with the Trustees of Reservations. I know that my specific major offered some challenges in finding guests that would be informative and helpful for me. With this in mind, I wanted to say that each guest had a captivating story, and the questions we asked led the guest down a well-guided path to allow us to get all the vital information we needed from them! It was reassuring to hear from so many colleagues who came from all walks of life. I’d recommend this externship to anyone who loves and wants to protect the outdoors so that everyone can enjoy it. I wanted to stress how fortunate I felt to have been chosen by The Trustees of Reservations. I hope to stay in touch regarding my future plans. Thank you for the time and connections you offered to me!”



Emily Wilson

Bachelor of Science in Biology

Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies (Double Major)

“Thank you so much for setting up such a wonderful externship experience. Hearing the stories of all the speakers really showed me what makes The Trustees special. I hope to one day be a part of an organization that inspires as much enthusiasm as the Trustees. I will hold onto the advice I received as I begin my career. I am now more confident in my career path even if it turns out to be unconventional. I hope to visit Massachusetts soon to visit some of the properties!”

**Want to know more about
a particular property?**

Our Archives & Research Center located in Sharon has hundreds of pages of information about each of our properties. The materials listed in the link below is what the original property owners or others gave us about the property and their family!

Click [here](#) for more information!

Ever wondered about a plant or animal you came across on a hike or walk? On a guided Trustees hike, you could ask the leader for help to identify a species and learn about the nature you observe. With smartphone apps like eBird and iNaturalist, you can connect with a community of experts from your phone!

In addition, photos and identifications in these apps are used by researchers to monitor the health of habitats! By identifying species through photo observations that are tagged with their location and time of the photo, researchers can study how wildlife use certain habitats, track the presence of rare or declining species, the health of vulnerable ecosystems, and the impacts of climate change.



Recording your observations helps us better understand what species live on our properties and rely on these spaces to survive. For example, by using the eBird app to record bird sightings, you can contribute to what we know about the value of The Trustees' coastal properties to migratory shorebirds, one of the fastest declining populations of birds! Understanding when and how these birds are using Trustees properties can help inform conservation strategies.

To learn how to use these apps during your own walks or hikes, check out the information below:

Observe and Identify Shorebirds

Record your bird sightings on the [eBird App](#).

To use eBird, you will need to create an account on the app and follow the instructions to get started. Under the "submit" button you can easily start a checklist to start inputting bird sightings. When you are done, press "stop" and choose your location before submitting. When you create a checklist, you can also share it with the "The Trustees" account (username: thetrustees).



Observe and Identify Plants and Animals

Document your observations on the [iNaturalist App](#).

Create an account to track your observations. When you submit an observation, you will be asked to identify "What did you see?" If you know the species, you can enter it, but if not, you can just submit as much as you know such as "bird" or "tree". Even these general identifications help because it will get to the right experts in the community to help with more detailed identifications.



Communities of hundreds of thousands of nature-lovers and environmentalists have contributed observations to these apps and strengthened their connections to the natural world and to each other. Join us in using these resources today!

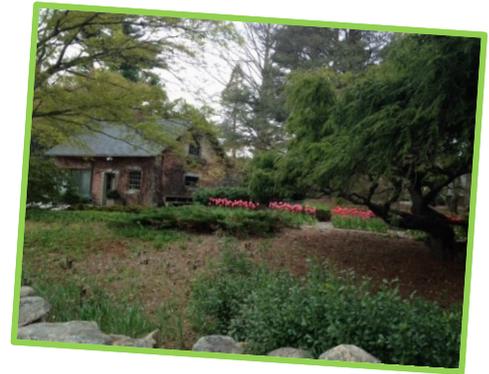
Staff Host Volunteer Appreciation Events

Volunteers contribute their time, talent and support to The Trustees 365 days a year. Master Gardeners, skilled crafts persons such as carpenters and electricians, consultants supporting from behind the scenes, volunteers leading hikes and welcoming our guests during events – the list goes on and on! Our staff show their appreciation by hosting remote and in-person workshops, firepit evenings, ‘meet and greets’ with new staff, luncheons and more. We hope each and every volunteer feels welcome and recognized for everything they do . . . all year long!



Featured Spring Volunteer Roles!

- Remote Volunteer Training Session – coming early May 2022!
- [Event Volunteer](#) at Allen C. Haskell Public Garden in New Bedford
- [Open Barnyard](#) and [Sunset Picnic](#) Volunteers at Weir River Farm in Hingham
- [Mother’s Day Brunch](#) Volunteer at Powisset Farm in Dover
- [Hike Volunteers](#) at Appleton Farms in Ipswich
- [Gardening](#) Volunteer at Naumkeag in Stockbridge
- [Property Steward](#) Volunteers on Martha’s Vineyard
- [AND MORE!](#)



Did you know . . .?

There are plenty of interesting links on VolunteerConnect! Check them out.

- Meet [Josie deMaso](#) our current volunteer spotlight.
- Did you miss anything? Visit our [resources](#) page to view the recordings.
- Having trouble self-reporting your volunteer hours? Watch this [brief tutorial to learn how](#).

