



## Vibrant Volunteers

Spring 2024 Edition

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Stevens-Coolidge House and Gardens - Photo Credit: Diana Nicolo

Spring has finally sprung and as the vibrant colors of the flowers begin to bloom, there is an irresistible urge to get outdoors after this long and gray winter. Being outdoors is essential to our mental and physical well-being and springtime is an ideal opportunity for us to indulge in outdoor activities and enjoy the warmer temperatures.

Here at the Trustees, there's certainly no shortage of ways to embrace the great outdoors and immerse ourselves in the beauty that comes with spring's new beginnings. Let's take some time to get out and make the most of this beautiful season.

- Celebrate spring at Stevens-Coolidge House & Gardens (North Andover) or Naumkeag (Stockbridge) with a stroll through beautiful gardens filled with budding tulips and daffodils.
- Tour the deCordova Sculpture Park where you'll see modern and contemporary outdoor sculptures intertwined with beautifully landscaped grounds along the shore of Flint's Pond (Lincoln).
- Walk the trails of World's End (Hingham), along "Bird Alley" and "The Valley," searching for the sounds of spring songbirds.
- Take a sunset hike at Crane Estate to Cedar Point (Ipswich) along the beach and you may get to see a 100 year old shipwreck along the way.
- Learn about the Bay Circuit Trail (BCT) on a guided walk in the Ward Reservation (Andover).
- Join a Trustees Ranger on a guided hike through the fields of Powisset Farm (Dover) to look for spring wildflowers.

As we transition into spring, it's important to make time to get outside and do things that make us happy. Whether it's exploring a scenic trail, picnicking on the grass, or simply basking in the sunshine - your body, mind, and spirit will thank you for it.

*By Diana Nicolo, Volunteer Services Associate & Editor*

# Volunteer Services News

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## Volunteer Satisfaction Survey

Twice a year, Volunteer Services reaches out to the entire volunteer workforce engaged at The Trustees through an online survey to check in and solicit feedback, suggestions and an overall rating on your volunteer experience.

The survey is important because it is your opportunity to help set direction and improve and enhance your work as a volunteer. The results are shared with supervisors and with senior management and they help Volunteer Services to provide excellence in support for you and for all you do.

***You should have received an email recently asking for your feedback. Please take a moment to open and complete the survey - it only takes a few minutes, but the results go a very long way. Thank you!***



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## Volunteer Training Available

On Thursday, April 25th, Mark Lindsay, the Trustees' Director of Visitor Experience, conducted a training session focused on Interacting with Visitors and Trustees Service Standards. The goal was to provide the volunteer team with tools in their important work of supporting our visitors.

During this training session, we discussed the Trustees Service Standards – how we can make visitors feel welcome and appreciated - and examined tips on how to de-escalate tense situations with visitors.

Even if your volunteer role is not focused on working with the public, when you are volunteering at a Trustees property and representing The Trustees, you may have to interact with visitors and this training provides important and helpful tools to do so.

You can view the training at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XBKH6fB0U4>

The following reference information is available on the [Volunteer Resources](#) page:

- [Trustees Service Standards](#)
- [Trustees De-escalation Guide](#)

## Property Spotlight: The Old Manse

*By Diana Nicolo, Volunteer Services Associate & Editor*

If you have ever been to Concord, Massachusetts, you know that the town is steeped in history and played a pivotal role in the Revolutionary War. This charming town, located about 20 miles northwest of Boston, is where the "shot heard 'round the world" was fired, sparking the American Revolution.

Concord is also home to "The Old Manse", a beautiful 18th century house which has earned its own historical significance.



The two story Georgian style structure was built in 1769 by William Emerson, a prominent minister and Patriot. The house is actually named after the term "manse" which refers to a house that is provided for a Christian minister and their family to live in.

The Old Manse is situated at 269 Monument Street which is adjacent to the famous Old North Bridge. Emerson lived there with his family and frequently gave fiery speeches about freedom and independence leading up to the American Revolution.

On April 19, 1775, he and his family witnessed the battle at Concord's North Bridge unfold before their eyes from the second floor windows.

Throughout its history, the Old Manse has been home to several notable literary figures, including Emerson's grandson Ralph Waldo Emerson. This famous American philosopher and essayist lived in the Old Manse from 1834 to 1835 and wrote some of his most influential works there, including his groundbreaking essay "Nature". This essay laid the foundation for the literary revolution of the mid-19th century which emphasized individualism, nature, spirituality and self-reliance. This new transcendentalist movement attracted fellow literaries such as Henry David Thoreau, Margaret Fuller, and Amos Bronson Alcott and had a significant influence on American literature.

Nathaniel Hawthorne, the famous American novelist, and his wife Sophia Peabody Hawthorne also lived in the Old Manse from 1842 to 1845. During their stay, Hawthorne worked on his collection of stories titled "Mosses from an Old Manse," which contributed to the house's literary legacy. Later, the Alcott Family, including Louisa May Alcott, the famed "Little Women" author, lived in the Old Manse for a brief period.



## Property Spotlight: The Old Manse

As the years went by, the historic house fell into disrepair. In 1939, The Trustees of Reservations purchased The Old Manse, along with most of its original furnishings, recognizing its cultural and historical importance.



The Trustees have since meticulously preserved the property and its interior so it can be enjoyed by generations to come. The staff even wind the beautiful Grandfather Clock every 8 days to keep it ticking!

Today, the Old Manse remains relatively unchanged and visitors are able to step back in time to get a glimpse of what life may have been like during this time. There are several tours available where you can learn about the historical significance of the house from both its revolutionary and literary perspectives. You will also get a chance to stroll through the rooms to get an up-close view of all the original heirlooms and artifacts left by the family, including the beautiful 160 year old piano.

Other tours will take you up in the attic or tell the story of the Old Manse from the perspectives of the women who lived and worked there.

- Attic Tours of the Old Manse
- Flipping the Script ~ The Women of the Old Manse
- Home to Two Revolutions
- Family Friendly Tours of the Old Manse
- American Contradictions ~ Slavery and the American Revolution at the Old Manse

The grounds of The Old Manse are open to the public year-round from sunrise to sunset and visitors can easily walk over to the North Bridge to explore the statues and get a view of the Concord River.



For more information, visit The Trustees of Reservations [The Old Manse](#) website

The Old Manse was designated a National Historic Landmark in the 1960s.

## New Exhibit - Jean Shin: Perch

*By Diana Nicolo, Volunteer Services Associate & Editor*

### Have you heard about Perch yet?

Perch is the new exhibit at Appleton Farms where art, nature and community converge as a way to support and raise awareness of the bobolink songbird and its habitat. Bobolinks depend on grasslands to survive by feeding on insects and seeds and nesting on the ground in the cover of grasses. Each spring, these songbirds travel almost 12,500 miles from southern South America to the US and southern Canada to nest. Appleton Farms happens to be one of their summer destinations!



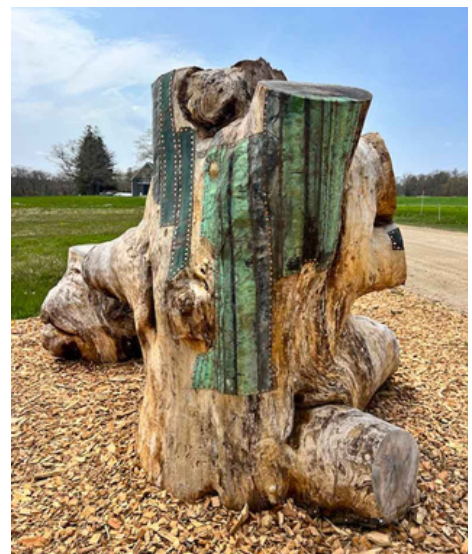
With the decline in grasslands across the nation, it's important that we focus on conserving the remaining grassland habitat here in New England. At Appleton Farms, steps are being made to balance grassland habitat management to support both the grassland birds and local agriculture. This includes delaying grazing, mowing or haying in fields that support the bobolinks and conducting careful bobolink nest monitoring.

Jean Shin, an artist known to create large scale installation and art projects, was commissioned to create an exhibit which highlighted the issue of the bobolink and its threatened habitat. Over the course of three years, Shin collaborated with the Trustees' staff to develop three unique tree sculptures marking bobolink nesting areas. The sculptures are made from fallen and dead trees found throughout Appleton Farms and feature pieces of salvaged copper riveted into the wood. The hope is that male bobolinks will perch on these structures to search for mates and mark their territory.

Visitors are encouraged to interact with the structures by sitting and enjoying the views. Binoculars are even provided so you can search for bobolinks and other birds.

Visiting the Perch was definitely educational and I found it so peaceful listening to the songbirds and watching them in their habitat. Take some time to explore this wonderful expression of art dedicated to bringing awareness around the bobolink and its habitat.

For more information on Perch visit:  
<https://thetrustees.org/exhibit/jean-shin-perch/>



Perch will be on exhibit at Appleton Farms until November 1, 2024.

Photo Credit: Diana Nicolo

# Volunteer Opportunities

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### Do you have a love for gardening and the outdoors?

Several of our properties are looking for enthusiastic gardeners to assist in maintaining our gardens and landscape. We've got the tools and plants, what we need is more hands-on-help.

#### Armstrong-Kelley Park (Osterville)

Gardeners will meet on Thursdays 10:00am-12:00pm during the growing season (April-November).

Gardeners of all levels of experience are welcome.

#### Garden Workday - Stevens-Coolidge House & Gardens (North Andover)

Come help with seasonal gardening tasks and maintenance every Wednesday from 9:00 am-12:00 pm (April-October).

Join one shift or as many as fit your schedule!



#### Annual South End Garden Tour 2024

Volunteers are invited to support this year's annual South End Garden Tour in Boston on **June 15th, 2024**.

This is a popular neighborhood event that provides an opportunity to explore some of the South End's most spectacular private outdoor spaces.

Time Commitment: 2.5 hour shift.

#### Garlic Mustard Pulls at World's End

This volunteer position requires removing invasive species, bagging them up, and placing them at the property entrance for pickup.

- Work is mostly independent with occasional opportunities to work with staff and other volunteers.
- This position is vital to helping The Trustees' achieve their ecological stewardship goals.

Time Commitment: Wednesdays and Saturdays 9am-12pm from April 20th - May 29th

Age minimum: This role is open to ages 8+ but requires 1:1 supervision for children interested in participating.

### Volunteer Connect

Search for [Volunteer Opportunities](#)  
Check out [Resources](#)  
Learn About [Community Volunteering](#)  
[Corporate Volunteering](#)  
[Frequently Asked Questions](#)