



Vibrant Volunteers

Summer 2026 Edition

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page 1

America MA250 Initiative

Page 2

Property Spotlight:
Millborn Farm

Page 3

Millborn Farm (Con't);
Reciprocity Program

Page 4

Volunteer Appreciation;
Beaver Brook Update

Page 5

Coastal Volunteering

Page 6

Volunteer Opportunities



Photo Credit: The Trustees

MA250 at The Trustees: Exploring Massachusetts' Revolutionary Roots

As Massachusetts and the nation commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, The Trustees of Reservations is inviting visitors and volunteers to experience history where it actually happened.

Through our new America 250 initiative, we are highlighting ten special places across the Commonwealth that bring Revolutionary-era stories to life. These landscapes reflect not only major historic events, but also the everyday people, choices, and tensions that defined the birth of the United States.

From the first shots of the Revolution near The Old Manse to the drafting of the Sheffield Resolves at The Colonel John Ashley House, these sites tell stories that are both inspiring and deeply human. Visitors can explore battle-era landscapes, historic homes, Shaker history, Indigenous history, and the complex contradictions woven into America's founding.

The initiative also encourages exploration through the new "250th Passport Challenge," inviting participants to visit all ten featured Trustees properties and submit their completed passport for a chance to win a Trustees Family Membership.

[Learn More and Download Your Passport](#)

For volunteers, MA250 is more than a history program - it's an opportunity to help connect communities with the stories preserved within these remarkable places. Whether you're greeting guests, assisting at events, supporting interpretation, or simply sharing enthusiasm for local history, volunteers play an essential role in bringing these stories to life for a new generation.



Property Spotlight: Millborn Farm

By: Tracy Graham - TerraCorps Member

On June 20, 2026, The Trustees celebrated the public opening of Millborn Farm, a 195-acre property on the border of Sherborn and Millis. Volunteers, donors, staff, and community members gathered to explore the landscape and learn about the property's history, stewardship, and future.



The day began with donor programming in the morning, followed by the official public opening from 1:00–4:00 p.m. Visitors enjoyed a wide range of nature-based activities, including beginner birding walks, tree tours and climbing demonstrations, a family scavenger hunt, hands-on children's activities, and an iNaturalist bioblitz, alongside opportunities to explore the property and connect with staff and volunteers.

Throughout the afternoon, Land Stewardship Coordinator **Lily Pelton** and Community Engagement Coordinator – Volunteer Services **Tracy Graham** welcomed visitors at the volunteer table, answered questions about stewardship opportunities, and encouraged community involvement. Lily also led a one-hour bioblitz walk highlighting the property's biodiversity. Regional Stewardship Manager **Mike Francis** and Director of Inland Ecology **Julie Richburg** were also on hand to welcome guests and celebrate the opening.



Lily reflected on the collaborative effort behind the opening: "It's been really inspiring to see so many teams at The Trustees come together and pull off this huge opening. Once the snow melted this spring, it was full speed ahead, and it's incredible to see all the work that's been done in just the past three months!"



Millborn Farm has a rich and layered history dating back hundreds of years. Prior to European settlement, the land was stewarded by the Nipmuc Nation. Beginning in the mid-1600s, the property changed hands several times and supported a variety of uses, including farming, livestock, and smelting. The Trustees acquired Millborn Farm in March 2024 and are working in collaboration with representatives from the Nipmuc Nation to ensure the Indigenous history of the land is acknowledged and incorporated into interpretation and stewardship.

Volunteer stewardship is already playing a key role in restoring the landscape. Regular volunteer workdays focus on removing invasive plants, including Asiatic bittersweet and garlic mustard, particularly along the property's historic stone walls. Volunteers also participate in invasive species monitoring to better understand how plant populations respond over time following restoration efforts.



Property Spotlight: Millborn Farm (Continued)



Habitat restoration is another growing focus at Millborn Farm. Volunteers recently built and installed 10 nest boxes throughout the property, with seven additional boxes planned. These nest boxes are monitored by dedicated stewardship volunteers, supporting native bird species and contributing to long-term ecological health.

The opening also highlighted opportunities for community members to become involved through volunteer stewardship. Whether removing invasive species, monitoring nest boxes, or helping care for the property's historic landscape, volunteers play an essential role in restoring and protecting Millborn Farm while helping visitors connect with its natural and cultural history.



Learn more: [The Trustees to Open Millborn Farm to the Public June 20](#)

Interested in volunteering at Millborn Farm or have questions?

Please contact Mike Francis (mfrancis@thetrustees.org) for more information.



Volunteers have access to free and discounted admissions and memberships to some nearby museums and cultural institutions!!

The Reciprocity Program is offered through a group of non-profit, environmental, and cultural institutions in New England, including:

- Museum of Fine Arts - Boston, MA
- Museum of Science - Boston, MA
- Peabody Essex Museum - Salem, MA
- USS Constitution Museum - Charlestown, MA
- MassAudubon (massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/our-wildlife-sanctuaries)

To receive the volunteer benefit, please call the institution in advance to see what form of volunteer ID they require. If you need a badge or a signed letter, please reach out to us at volunteer@thetrustees.org.

For more information, see the attached flyer or contact Eliza at eforman@thetrustees.org.

Volunteer Appreciation Event at Rocky Woods

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us for the Statewide Volunteer Appreciation Event at Rocky Woods. Surrounded by the beautiful trails, ponds, and woodlands that make this special place so memorable, volunteers from across Massachusetts gathered to celebrate another incredible year of service and stewardship.

From welcoming visitors to maintaining trails and protecting natural resources, Trustees volunteers make a meaningful impact across properties statewide. Your commitment helps preserve these special places and ensure they remain vibrant, welcoming, and accessible for millions of visitors each year.

The appreciation event was an opportunity not only to recognize volunteer achievements, but also to connect with fellow volunteers, staff, and friends who share a passion for conservation, community, and the outdoors.



Thank you all for the time, energy, and enthusiasm you bring to The Trustees' mission every day. We are deeply grateful for all that you do.

Update on the Beaver Brook Ecological Restoration at The Trustees

In our [Fall 2025 Volunteer Services Newsletter](#), we highlighted one of the Trustees' newest properties - Beaver Brook.

The ***Beaver Brook: Ecological Restoration at The Trustees*** video below highlights the Trustees' work to restore and improve the Beaver Brook ecosystem through careful ecological management.

The project focuses on restoring natural habitats and ecological processes, improving conditions for native plants and wildlife, and addressing the impacts of past land use and environmental change. It demonstrates how ecological restoration can help strengthen the health and resilience of a landscape while providing opportunities for ongoing learning, stewardship, and community engagement.

[YouTube Video: Beaver Brook: Ecological Restoration at The Trustees](#)

Coastal Volunteering - Ways to Learn, Explore, and Get Involved

Are you interested in learning more about coastal environments, nature, and ecology while connecting with fellow volunteers who share your curiosity? Coastal Volunteering offers a variety of opportunities for volunteers to deepen their knowledge and explore the natural world through its Coastal Education Volunteer (CEV) Training Program and the CEV Book Club.



The CEV Training Program is a multi-session learning experience covering coastal processes, local natural history, ecology, coastal change and resilience, and environmental education. After completing the training, volunteers can support coastal education and recreation programs, assist with school field trips, and participate in community science projects that collect environmental data and help monitor changes in coastal habitats.

The CEV Book Club grew out of the Coastal Education Volunteer training. It began in 2022, inspired by volunteers who wanted to continue learning and exploring coastal topics together after completing their training. Today, approximately 18 members meet every other month from fall through spring to share their insights on their last read.

Over the years, the group has read approximately 25 books on topics related to the coast, nature, ecology, and conservation. Past selections have included:

- The House on Ipswich Marsh (By: Bill Sargent)
- Reading the Forested Landscape (By: Tom Wessels)
- Downriver: A Memoir of Choate Island (By: Mary and Roger Wonson)
- The World Is Blue: How Our Fate and the Ocean's Are One (By: Sylvia Earle)
- Seaweed Chronicles: A World at the Water's Edge (By: Susan Hand Shetterly) Guest speaker: Val Perini



Book Club members enjoy coming together to discuss the books, share ideas, and continue learning from one another. On occasion, authors or other individuals connected to the books have joined the group, adding another dimension to the conversation.

The book club has also sparked some new ideas. Val Perini, Regional Education Manager, mentioned that after reading a book about climate change education, one of the volunteers, Don Lynch, wrote up some interpretive talking points about the Trustees conservation & climate resilience efforts that we now share on programs.

Interested in learning more?

- CEV Book Club Information: Chris Vodicka at cvodicka@thetrustees.org
- CEV Training Information: Val Perini at vperini@thetrustees.org
- Coastal Volunteering opportunities: Eliza Forman at eforman@thetrustees.org

Volunteer Opportunities

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Open Barnyard at Wier River Farm

Weir River Farm in Hingham is currently looking for volunteers to join our Open Barnyard Volunteers.

Volunteers will meet and greet visitors and help them interact with our animals (no prior experience necessary, event staff will provide simple instructions and guidance).

Sunday mornings: 8:15 AM - 12:15 PM

City Natives Summer Volunteers

City Natives, in Mattapan, serves as The Trustees' native plant nursery for the people of Boston and beyond. City Natives is looking for volunteers to help out caring for the plants and supporting events for visitors.

Join the team to help tend the community vegetable plot, maintain perennial plantings and help out at events.

Training will be provided on the tasks of the day each week. Saturdays 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM through the start of October.

Halloween Pumpkin Carvers

It may be summer but we are already looking ahead to Halloween on the Hill at Long Hill this fall! Join a team of creative volunteers carving foam pumpkins this summer to prepare for this popular annual Halloween event!

We will have sessions every Tuesday and Wednesday in July and August from 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM where you can carve on site at Long Hill. We'll provide all tools and stencils, we just need help with the carving.

Craft Festival Volunteer

Fruitlands, Harvard, MA

September 19th and 20th

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

We are looking for volunteers in many roles for the festival. Come be a part of this fun and exciting festival!

The Craft Festival will have 56 juried artisans making handcrafted bespoke crafts in New England. The festival takes place on the weekend of September 19th and 20th 10am - 4pm at Fruitlands Museum and we are expecting 2,000 visitors.

Volunteer shifts are:

- Parking: 8:30am-12:30pm and 12:00 pm-4:00pm
- Main Gate: 9:00am-12:30pm and 12:00-4:00pm

Volunteer Connect

Search for [Volunteer Opportunities](#)

Check out [Resources](#)

Learn About [Community Volunteering](#)

[Corporate Volunteering](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Past Volunteer Newsletters](#)