



Vibrant Volunteers

Summer 2023 Edition



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Embrace the Beauty of Summer

Summer is a season of warmth and renewed energy and the Trustees properties provide the perfect setting to embrace its wonders. From enchanting gardens to scenic hikes, rich history to engaging outdoor activities, our properties offer a variety of opportunities where you can connect with nature, rejuvenate your spirit, and create fond memories.

We invite you to celebrate the season by visiting some of our favorite Trustees properties.

- Discover and explore the unique history of Mytoi Garden on a mindful walk led by Lindsay Allison, volunteer of the garden for over 40 years.
- Join our horticulturist at Naumkeag for an exclusive sunset tour of the gardens while sipping on a glass of wine.
- Stroll along the winding paths through the enchanting gardens of Long Hill or have Afternoon Tea on the terrace.
- Lace up your hiking boots and embark on an adventure through picturesque woodlands or visit the hidden waterfalls in north-central and western Massachusetts.
- Pack a picnic and enjoy a leisurely lunch overlooking the ocean at Coolidge Reservation in Manchester-by-the-Sea.

There are so many opportunities to get outside and explore the Trustees properties. Don't forget to bring your camera to capture all the beauty that you are bound to see!

By Diana Nicolo, Volunteer Services Associate & Editor

A Message From the Director

By Bob Bowers, Director of Volunteer Services

Greetings Trustees Volunteers! Happy summer - it is so nice to see our properties blossom with life and activity at this time of year. YOU make that possible. On behalf of The Trustees, thank you so much for all you do.

And we begin this summer season with exciting news! A new President and CEO for The Trustees has been announced: Katie Theoharides. Katie spoke with the employees briefly at a recent Town Hall meeting, and she conveyed confidence and professionalism and a huge interest in getting to know all of our special places ... and our special people. I am certain you will have opportunities to meet Katie and welcome her to this wonderful work.

Here is a little more information, shared with the staff by Peter Coffin, the Chair of the Trustees Board of Directors:



The Board of Directors and Executive Team are thrilled to announce that Katie Theoharides is joining us as President and CEO. She will begin on July 10. Katie joins us after having served as Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the Baker-Polito Administration from 2019-2022. Most recently, she headed up offshore wind operations in the Eastern U.S. for the German energy company RWE.

Katie was a unanimous choice of the Board for many reasons, including her significant management experience, and her deep understanding of and passion for the core mission of The Trustees. She's also not completely new to this organization! Katie's first job in Massachusetts was as Executive Director of the Hilltown Land Trust, an affiliate of The Trustees. She brings a background in ecology and climate science to her impressive career in environmental leadership and land conservation.

I want to thank the members of the Search Committee for the thoughtful process that led to Katie's selection, and to all of you who participated in that process. The committee conducted an extensive listening tour—which included the entire Board and about 40 staff—to understand our opportunities and challenges, and to identify key attributes needed in our next CEO.

In Katie, we have found a proven leader with deep experience in climate, conservation, community engagement, and policy. She is someone who appreciates and embraces the full scope of our mission and the broad range of strategies and tactics we employ to connect people with nature and advance the cause of conservation. Katie will collaborate enthusiastically with all of you to chart a clear and focused strategic path forward, to advance programmatic goals, to support a culture of diversity, belonging, inclusion, and equity, and to promote stability and balance after this sometimes difficult period of transition and change.

Thank you for your patience, focus, and hard work as we completed the search process. You will all get the opportunity to welcome Katie to The Trustees in the weeks and months ahead. We are excited to have her bringing her collaborative, service-oriented leadership style to the organization, and we are confident that she, in partnership with all of you, will add an exciting chapter to The Trustees' enduring legacy.

Here is the [Boston Globe coverage](#) of the announcement.

Property Spotlight - Stevens-Coolidge House and Gardens

By Diana Nicolo, Volunteer Services Associate & Editor

Spring has finally sprung in New England and blooms are popping up all around us. It is so refreshing to see the array of color after enduring the gray skies of winter. One of the best places to celebrate the spring season is at the Stevens-Coolidge House & Gardens (SCHG) in North Andover. The Spring Blooms Fest is their signature spring event where you can wander among more than 165,000 tulips bursting with vibrant colors!



The SCHG is a beautiful early 20th-century historic estate which was the summer home of Helen Stevens-Coolidge and her husband John Gardner Coolidge, a descendant of Thomas Jefferson and a nephew to Isabella Stewart Gardner. Helen inherited the property in 1914 and the Coolidge's hired architect Joseph Everett Chandler to remodel the house and transform the grounds into a Colonial Revival style garden. Today, you can enjoy this peaceful outdoor "hidden gem" year-round.

Recently, I visited the property and met with Kaela Robinson, the resident horticulturist at SCHG. Kaela came to The Trustees at the end of last year's Spring Blooms Fest and has hit the ground running getting acquainted with the landscape and planning for this year's growing season. Kaela took me around the property and gave me the rundown on what it takes to prepare for Spring Blooms and maintain the grounds of this incredible property.

With more than 50 planting beds, lots of planning goes into making the new growing season a success. Kaela uses her gardening expertise to design the annual beds, select seedlings for planting and decide what flowers to include in the cutting gardens. She even had to strategize on how to keep the rabbits and deer away from all the flowers and plants. Thankfully, she has some help maintaining this 91-acre property from the Master Gardener Volunteer group which meets regularly during the growing season.



While spring may be the pinnacle time to visit SCHG with its rainbow of tulips, there is always something in bloom throughout the growing season, making it a perfect place for a stroll or picnic. From the moment you arrive, you'll be greeted with a mix of plants and flowers along the walkway. As you make your way around the property, you'll find beautiful perennial gardens, two pick-your-own cutting gardens and a stunning Italian-style Rose Garden filled with lush fragrant roses. A favorite for many is the Potager Garden with its brick serpentine wall. This French Kitchen Garden is made up of a collection of dazzling flowers, fresh herbs, vegetables and fruit trees and is a delight to walk through.

Continued on next page

Property Spotlight - Stevens-Coolidge House and Gardens (Continued)

On my visit, I also had the pleasure to meet Julie Olivero who oversees all enterprise operations at SCHG. In addition to running the retail shop, Julie manages all visitor services and is continually looking for new ways to promote a welcoming environment and enhance the visitor's experience. You'll get a glimpse of her touches during Spring Blooms when you see the gigantic paper flowers she created to greet visitors or with the beautiful flower bouquets available for sale in the shop.

In talking with Julie, I learned that Helen left her country estate, including all its contents to The Trustees of Reservations when she died in 1962. Today, when you step inside, it's like walking into a time capsule with all the original furnishings and china. If you have a chance, definitely take a house tour to see this preserved piece of history and learn about its restoration efforts. It is truly magnificent, especially the newly restored mural wall coverings.



SCHG is always looking for volunteers to help with maintaining the grounds, harvesting flowers or assisting with the events and workshops. Whether you're a seasoned gardener, interested in learning about gardening or just love to be around beautiful flowers, there is definitely something you can do to help out.

What's New in Volunteer Services . . .

Over the last few months, there has been lots of changes happening in Volunteer Services. You may have noticed that our Vibrant Volunteer Newsletter has a fresh new look! We hope you like it!



Eliza Forman
Volunteer Services Manager

Eliza has recently taken over as the Manager of Volunteer Services. In her new role, Eliza will be working to promote a volunteer program that cultivates communities of diverse volunteers to support The Trustees' mission and vision.

To learn more about Eliza visit:

<https://thetrustees.org/inclusive-spaces/meet-our-staff-eliza-forman/>



Diana Nicolo
Volunteer Services Associate

Diana has been a Trustees volunteer since 2022 and recently joined the Volunteer Services team as the new Editor of the Volunteer Newsletter. This is right up her alley as she has a passion for writing and loves visiting the Trustees properties. To learn more about Diana and her travel adventures, visit her blog at:

<https://newenglandandbeyond.com>

Employee Spotlight

Robert Barossi



**Engagement Manager
Powisset Farm and
Chestnut Hill Farm**

Describe your work and responsibilities with The Trustees, especially how that involves volunteers.

My work as an Engagement Manager gives me the opportunity to connect with and work with the public and our community in many ways. I am part of the team that plans all of our public programming at Powisset Farm and Chestnut Hill Farm. I personally plan, organize and execute some of those programs, and am involved with them in a number of ways, managing some of them and helping to run or manage others.

I also manage the local, property-level marketing and communications efforts, such as our social media channels and promotional signage around the property. All of the above can and does involve volunteers, including volunteers who support our events and programs, helping to run them, or volunteers who help out with marketing efforts, such as taking photos for social media or putting up flyers.

What advice would you offer someone who is thinking about volunteering with The Trustees?

Whatever you are interested in doing, you can do it with The Trustees. With so many different types of properties, so many different programs and events, and so many things always happening, there are countless volunteer opportunities and they run the gamut. You can volunteer doing office work, if you are looking for that, or being out in nature maintaining trails, or helping run a major property-wide event. There's a place for you with The Trustees, no matter what your interest or passion is.

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

I wrote and self-published a book about volunteers, titled "Being Where You Are: How Environmental Volunteers Impact Their Community and the Planet Every Day". It started out as a graduate school thesis project and was eventually published as an e-book, and it includes Trustees volunteers among the many who are interviewed.

What is a fun fact about you?

I have lived in nine different states, Oklahoma, Missouri, Nevada, Virginia, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, (ten if you include one I only lived in for six weeks for a short-term job, and you can add Minnesota).

If you had one superpower what would it be?

Either flight or teleportation. I've got many friends who are scattered all over the country (that whole "lived in nine states" thing) and I don't get to see them very often. I would like to have a superpower that allows me to travel very quickly or just teleport myself to a far-away place, so that I could easily visit my friends whenever I want.

Happenings Across the Commonwealth

June is Pride Month

Happy Pride! This Pride month, The Trustees has been celebrating the LGBTQ+ community with events, hikes, programs, and parties across Massachusetts. Eliza, Volunteer Services Manager, got the chance to visit Naumkeag in the Berkshires for their annual Berkshire Pride Tea Dance which was held on Sunday June 5th.

Did you Know? Gay Tea Dances were organized on Sunday afternoons in the gay community, originating in New York in the 1950s and 1960s. It was illegal through the mid-1960s for bars in New York to sell alcohol to gay people, and New York City police would conduct raids on establishments serving gay folks. So gay people in the area began to hold tea dances outside the city as an alternative and serving tea rather than alcohol, making them safer and less law-defying.

Tea dances spread beyond New York to places like Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Provincetown, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and now are a way to remember LGBTQ+ history and have fun!



What is Juneteenth, and why is The Trustees Celebrating it?



Juneteenth celebrates the emancipation of all enslaved people in the United States, and specifically celebrates when a group of enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas first learned of their freedom from Slavery in 1865.

Juneteenth

As part of our mission to create inclusive spaces of belonging where everyone can feel welcome, The Trustees is celebrating Juneteenth with a variety of events, both to commemorate the ending of slavery in the United States as well as to welcome and invite everyone from the Black, African American, and American Descendants of Slavery (ADOS) communities onto our properties. We encourage you to attend any of our Juneteenth events and celebrate, learn, reflect, and understand what you can do to be an ally and partner to the Black, African American, and American Descendants of Slavery (ADOS) communities.

Happenings Across the Commonwealth



Earth Day Volunteer Day

On April 22nd, Appleton Farm hosted another successful Volunteer Day on Earth Day with 75 community volunteers coming out to lend a hand. Volunteers of all ages spread out across the farm to plant flowers, clean up winter debris, rake leaves, trim bushes and plant new trees. The Education Garden was even transformed with new woodchip walkways and plantings in the raised beds. There were also over 50 volunteers who came out to Crane Beach to help clean up the beach.

What a great way to celebrate Mother Nature and show our appreciation for the environment.

Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate Earth Day and help us get ready for the season!!



Volunteer News and Opportunities

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

deCordova Summer Concert Series

The deCordova is looking for volunteers to assist with the Summer Concert Series. Volunteers will work with staff to greet guests, help provide directions, run activities, and assist in set up and break down. Come join our team . . . sign up for one event or as many as you like!

Sunset Picnics at Weir River Farm

Weir River Farm is looking for volunteers to help with their Thursday evening Sunset Picnics which start in June and run through September. With live music, food and beer vendors, and the best sunsets on the South Shore, we are looking forward to a fun and family-friendly summer!

Translators for Boston Events and Programs

The Trustees is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to join us for Boston Community Garden events as volunteer translators! Volunteers who are fluent in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, Cape Verdean Creole, Vietnamese, Chinese (simplified), Arabic and Russian are needed.

Love Animals?

Currently our livestock team at Powisset Farm is recruiting volunteers to assist in the care of our livestock with a concentration on the daily chores surrounding chickens and pigs. Tasks may include moving temporary fencing, moving and filling water troughs, tracking forage availability and general barnyard maintenance. The ideal candidate will have experience with livestock and can commit to a weekly schedule for a minimum of 3-6 months.



Are you a
tradesman
interested in
sharing your skills?

These properties need your help!

Plumbing Volunteers needed at:

- Boston Community Gardens, Boston
- Charles River Valley, Dover

Carpenter for Halloween Event

- Long Hill, Beverly

Electrician Volunteers needed at:

- Charles River Valley, Dover
- Weir River Farm, Hingham

Masonry Volunteers needed at:

- Charles River Valley, Dover

Volunteer Connect

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