



LAUREL LEAVES

A newsletter of
Laurel Hill Association
PO Box 24, Stockbridge, MA 01262

Summer
2015
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The nation's oldest village improvement association.

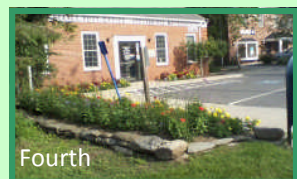
Have you noticed?



In late spring, the LHA Beautification Committee undertook a few changes to various places in the village center. We hope you have noticed. Following is a list. **First**, you can see the Cat & Dog Fountain statue again! The overgrown boxwood hedge obscuring the statue and shading the flowers is gone. **Second**, if you're waiting in your car at the watering trough to pull out onto Main Street, you can now



see the oncoming traffic. The overgrown rose bushes are gone and flagstone will soon appear. **Third**, if you're driving into or out of the Post Office, you don't have to worry about driving over the garden next to the sidewalk. It's gone, and in its place are flagstone and three large pots of flowers. **Fourth** and last, the wall along the side garden at the Post Office has been resurrected. Years of



PO snow plowing shoved soil and stone and completely obliterated the wall. Long-time LHA board member Pat Flinn was the only one who remembered that there WAS a wall under the soil, and she decided to restore it.



(Pat was working one evening by street light, on her hands and knees leveling the soil and picking out the nuisance stones. A young passer-by stopped his car on Elm Street, got out, and approached with a flashlight. "Can I help you find whatever it is you lost?" Ah, chivalry survives!)

Laurel Hill extends thanks to Mark Faber for the landscaping work, and to horticulturist Valerie Locher for making the gardens bloom.

**2015
LAUREL HILL DAY**

**Saturday
August 8
2:00 p.m.**

**At the Rostrum
On Laurel Hill
(Behind Town Offices)**



Will Conklin, Executive Director of Greenagers, a local environmental youth organization, will be the presenter at the Association's **162nd Anniversary Laurel Hill Day** on August 8th. He will give a brief talk about the Greenagers organization and the work they do. (See the article on page 2.) At the end of the program, guests will be invited to join Will on a walk over to the Laura's Tower Trail to see the results of the Greenagers' trail restoration work earlier this summer.

The recipient of the **2015 LHA \$2000 College Scholarship** will be announced. **Music** will be provided by Doug Schmolze, tenor and guitarist, and by Eric Martin, violin.

Refreshments will be served following the program. In case of rain, the program will shift to the Town Offices Senior Center.

Education Efforts

The Laurel Hill Association awards a **\$2000 college scholarship** every year at the Laurel Hill Day celebration. 2015 will be year 39!

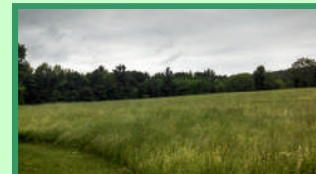
The applicant must have completed one year of college and be a resident of southern Berkshire County. The applicant must also be enrolled in a field of study that promotes the LHA mission of environmental and/or historical preservation, including conservation, environmental studies, architecture, plant sciences, land management, and forestry.

For the last three years, Laurel Hill has also supported "**Nature's Classroom**", a popular program of field education for elementary students.

Property Acquisition

Last summer, 2014, the Laurel Hill Association and the Stockbridge Land Trust joined together in a third project to preserve the approaches to Stockbridge. (The first was in 2001 to acquire what's now the Chestnut Preserve off Route 7 south of Town. The second was in 2011 to acquire the 4 Corners property west of Town at the Routes 102 & 183 intersection.) On August 13, 2014, using funds from a joint solicitation and from both organization's coffers, 35+ acres of meadow and uplands were purchased from the Loveless family. The property is south and west of the house lot at the Route 102 and West Dale Road intersection. It slopes up from West Dale Road west to a ridge abutting Town-owned land, with views east to Prospect Hill and south to Mohawk Lake. There is potential for interesting hiking trails, possibly linking to the Town property.

The Association applauds the Loveless family for wanting to ensure the preservation of this pristine property, which we named "West Dale Preserve", for the enjoyment of current and future generations.





Rene starts his "Reptile Roundup".

Laurel Hill Day 2014



One attendee is brave!



Rene shows off a reptile "friend" (above) and a snake skin (right).



The 161st Anniversary Laurel Hill Day was held on August 17th at the rostrum on Laurel Hill. President Kirsten Fredsall presided.

The day's speaker was Rene Wendell, from the Trustees of Reservations Bartholomew's Cobble. Rene's lively presentation was entitled "Reptile Roundup". He had everyone gather around to see some "friends" he had brought—reptiles native to the Berkshires. He encouraged touching and holding, and he answered many questions.

Education Committee member Cheryl Hutto presented the 2014 Laurel Hill \$2000 College Scholarship to Rachel Moriarity of Great Barrington (pictured left). Rachel had completed her junior year at UMass Stockbridge School of Agriculture, majoring in Sustainable Food and Farming.

Music was provided by Cathy Schane-Lydon (pictured right), Minister of Music at the Congregational Church.

Minister Belle Fox-Martin gave the Invocation and Benediction.



Look for Us...

On Facebook at "Laurel Hill Association of Stockbridge."



And on our new website:
<http://www.laurelhillassociation.org>

Board News

At the January 2015 Annual Meeting, **Shelby Marshall** took over from outgoing President, Kirsten Fredsall.

Five Trustees were elected to serve a three-year term through 2017. Three of the five, **Barbara Allen**, **Marie Raftery** and **Leslie Shatz** will be continuing on for their second three-year term.

The two new Trustees are **Christine Goretti** and **George Manley**.

Welcome aboard!

Greenagers

Each year, Greenagers hires nearly 50 young adults and teens for the Community Work Initiative, which emphasizes environmental stewardship and community service. Through CWI, youth are hired for three programs: Summer Trail Crews, River Walk Stewardship and Farm Apprenticeships—programs in the Berkshires and nearby Columbia County, NY.

Greenagers engages teens and young adults in meaningful work in environmental conservation, sustainable farming and natural resource management. Trail crews maintain existing trails and build new trails for conservation organizations such as the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and the Trustees of Reservations. **(Earlier this summer, LHA hired Greenagers for a week of restoration work on the Laura's Tower Trail.)** Farm Apprentices work with local farmers, learning animal husbandry and organic agriculture. Volunteer teams install front-yard gardens for area families, to encourage home-based food growing.

Greenagers participants learn the value of teamwork, collaboration, initiative and solid work ethics. They learn about community partnerships through collaborations with area nonprofits, businesses and organizations that both hire Greenagers and partner with Greenagers' broader mission of youth and community engagement. Greenagers embraces the values of service and stewardship, and supports social and environmental progress in all of its work.

