



Laurel Leaves

Summer 2019

INVESTING IN STOCKBRIDGE

Laurel Hill Park: New Renovation

Lower Bowker's Woods: New Parking Area

Larrywaug: New Trail

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Friend,

The Laurel Hill Association has played a vital role in Stockbridge since 1853 for one reason: because people like you care about keeping our town a special place for residents and visitors. Thanks to ongoing support, the Laurel Hill Association—the oldest existing village improvement organization in the nation—maintains trails and properties in town and keeps the gardens in front of the Post Office and around town monuments beautiful.

In the past year, friends like you contributed to much-needed improvements to the Mary Flynn trail, the trail to Laura's Tower, and Laurel Hill Park—three of our most iconic and popular properties. If you haven't done so, I encourage you to climb Laura's Tower and enjoy panoramic views.

We are continuing the restoration of Laurel Hill Park, our signature property. We can undertake this important work only because of the support we receive from friends like you, along with generous grants from the Lenox Garden Club and the Stockbridge Community Preservation Committee.

In addition, we continued our ongoing work to remove invasive plants from the Larrywaug Brook wetland and adjacent woodlands—a project that will be completed this year. This Stockbridge gateway is protected through a partnership with Stockbridge Land Trust, Berkshire Botanical Gardens, and the Town of Stockbridge.

And we're making Lower Bowker's Woods more accessible. This year we installed a parking area and improved the trails, and in the coming months we'll install new signage. If you haven't been to Lower Bowker's Woods, I encourage you

to visit. It's a special place with unusual habitats, and it's one of the few secluded areas in town where you can get close to the Housatonic River.

These are a few of Laurel Hill Association's accomplishments in the past year. There's a lot more to do. For example, this year, thanks to a Stockbridge Community Preservation Committee grant, we will plan a new accessible trail system between Rt. 183 and Larrywaug Brook, on property just north of the Norman Rockwell Museum. This is an exciting venture, and you'll hear much more about it as we move ahead.

The Laurel Hill Association is unique. We're not simply a land conservation organization or a civic beautification club. We are cultural, historical, environmental, educational, recreational, and devoted to economic development and beautification. For 166 years, we've been a central part of the culture of Stockbridge, with programs that combine music, history, and the arts. We provide tours of our properties that touch on our history. We use our resources to hire local arborists, landscapers, habitat restoration specialists, and community partners like Greenagers. We protect Stockbridge's special lands, wetlands, and wildlife habitats, and control invasive species. We offer events for all ages, exploring the environment and history of Stockbridge. And we own and maintain some of the most iconic trails in the Berkshires for public benefit.

In sum, we carry out our mission to improve the quality of life and of the environment in Stockbridge by looking at the whole: the range of qualities and characteristics that make the town healthy and vibrant, and that build community.

We could not do this work—or, for that matter, do basic maintenance on our properties—without hard-working volunteers, members and supporters. If you are among them, thank you from the bottom of my heart. Without you, Stockbridge would lose what makes it special. If you aren't yet among them, I hope you'll consider joining your Stockbridge friends and neighbors in supporting the Laurel Hill Association.

Please make a gift today. Your contribution will go directly to maintaining local trails and to keeping town gardens vibrant with color and flowers. Your gift of any size is an investment in our town and is greatly appreciated.

I love seeing you out on the trails and in town. And if I don't see you, I certainly want to hear from you. Send me an email via our website when you see a downed tree limb or any other problem on a trail. We'll take care of it as quickly as we can. Your gift today will make it possible to continue to maintain these wonderful Stockbridge properties and special gardens.

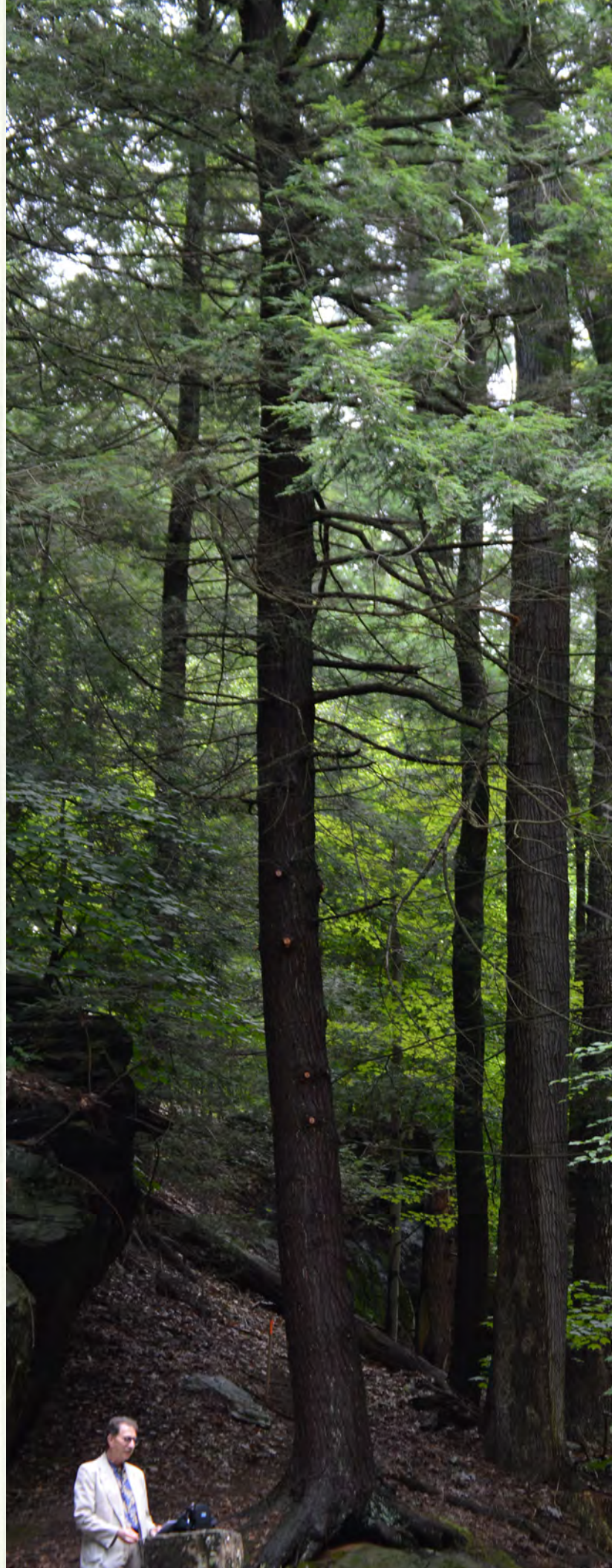
Thank you for all you do to keep Stockbridge the gem that we all love.

Sincerely,

Shelby Marshall

Shelby Marshall
President

P.S.: You can make a donation in honor of a loved one. Use the enclosed envelope or donate on our secure website located at: laurelhillassociation.org/donate.



COMMUNITY EFFORTS

Partners in Grime: LHA manages extensive Earth Day clean-up effort

"Mostly beer cans—most all the same brand too. I find it very sad someone feels the need to throw their cans in our woods. But less than last year!"

"I am impressed that we have such a large and loyal group of helpers taking part in this annual clean up event in Stockbridge! Thanks for leading the charge!"

Those are a few of the comments we received.

What a pleasure to coordinate an event that people call to say "add me to the list of volunteers". The Stockbridge Earth Day roadside clean-up brings together more than 80 individuals and helpers from Riverbrook, the Berkshire Waldorf School and Town employees to carry out spring cleaning! We covered almost every street and collected hundreds of pounds of litter.

Special thanks to Marie Raftery and Laura Dubester for co-coordinating once again.

Below is a partial list of volunteers. Sorry if we missed anyone!

Bob Bartle • Gail Beaudain & Jeff Baumwell

Ann and Dave Bone • Sarah Boyd

Mary Boyce • Rich Bradway

Matthew and Catherine Chester family

Vicky Cooper • Lionel Delevingne

Laura Dubester

Stu and Lynn Edelstein

Julie and Barney Edmonds

Jane Goodrich

Sue and Gary Gulbransson

Pat Flinn

Mary and John Hart

Sarah Horne and Alan Wilkins

Cheryl Hutto • Susie Kaufman



Ed and Barbara Lane • Tom LaBelle

Julie McCarthy

Shelby and Karen Marshall

Nancy and Mark Mills

Hadley Milliken

Taj McElheney

Jim and Liz Murray

Larry and Catherine Newey

Theresa O'Brient and Berkshire Waldorf School

Dean Parise, Tanglewood Staff

Gary Pitney • Marie and Keith Raftery

Christine Rasmussen

Dede and Mark Rathbun

Riverbrook residents • Jim Schantz

Rosie and Don Schneyer

Leslie and Steve Shatz

Anna Smith

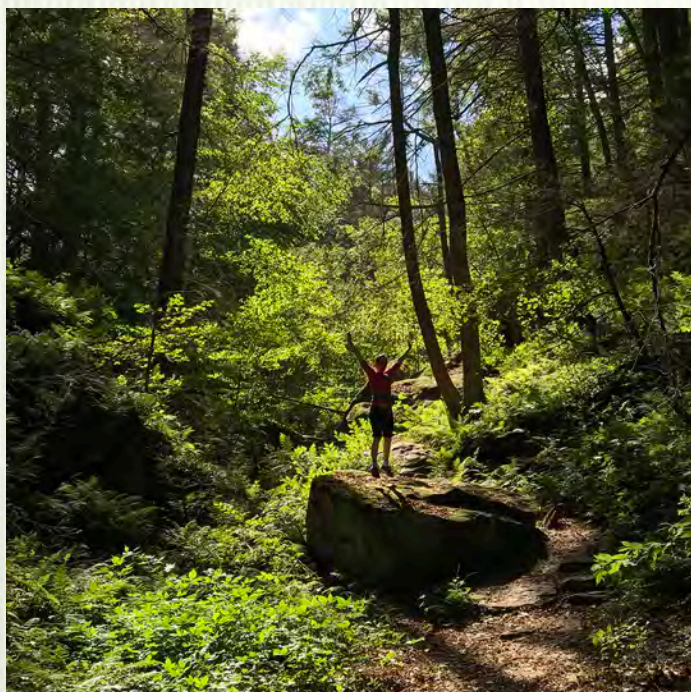
Nancy and Peter Socha

Lenore and Paul Sundberg and BIG TEAM

Amy and Andy Talbot

Patrick White and Sadie

Terry Wise • Deborah Wiswesser



Take a free photo class with photographer Lionel Delevingne

On August 31, 2019 from 9am-12pm, renowned photographer Lionel Delevingne will lead a free photography workshop intended to explore, enjoy and share the beauty and solace of the Laurel Hill Association's trails through the camera/iphone.

Time will be spent both photographing on location and reviewing the results of each participant's work. Our intention will be to shift our perception from the commonplace to your unique experience of the world within.

Note the class is limited to six participants. You must pre-register by sending Lionel an email at lionel@delevingne.com. A confirmation email will be sent a few days prior to the event. You must re-confirm or your place may be given to someone on the waiting list. The class will meet behind Stockbridge Town Hall by the big rocks at the entrance to Laurel Hill Park.



Garden Club of America awards LHA's Pat Flinn with national honor

At the annual meeting of the Lenox Garden Club earlier this summer, Pat Flinn, the Laurel Hill Association Secretary, received the Garden Club of America's Club Civic Improvement Commendation. Club President Hilary Deely presented this honor to Pat for in recognition of her work for Laurel Hill and the Berkshire Community.

Founded in 1913, The Garden Club of America is a volunteer nonprofit organization comprised of 201 member clubs and approximately 18,000 club members throughout the country. GCA members passionately devote their energies and expertise to a wide array of projects in their communities and across the nation.

The Lenox Garden Club was founded in 1911 and joined the GCA in 1913. The Club has been a longtime friend and generous supporter of LHA's preservation efforts.

PROPERTIES AND TRAILS



New parking completed at Lower Bowker's Woods

LHA recently completed a new parking area at Lower Bowker's woods on Glendale Middle Road, between the Golf Club and Route 183.

Between the small gravel lot and the clearing along the road, we've made it easier for four to six cars to park there.

Lower Bowker's Woods contains a set of meandering trails that include an elevated path above the Housatonic River with views to a beautiful wetland and an upland portion that winds around the property.

It's an easy two minute drive from Main St. or the Norman Rockwell Museum to this LHA property. It's typically a quiet oasis in town, with relatively few visitors inside the park at any given time. It's a great place to reflect, to walk your dog, to enjoy great views of the river, to commune with the natural Berkshires at their best.



Envisioning a new Larrywaug trail with viewing platforms

How would you like to walk or ski from Church Street all the way to Route 183? The Laurel Hill Association intends to install wheelchair-accessible trails that create this connection, embarking on an ambitious plan to add a trail and viewing platforms to Byron Preserve and Four Corners.

We envision the The Phase 1 trail will start at Route 183 in the Byron Preserve and will run through the wooded upland that lies west of Larrywaug Brook. It will include branches to two viewing platforms. One will overlook the Larrywaug Brook wetland. The other will be located where Larrywaug Brook meets the Housatonic River, providing a wide view of the river and the Norman Rockwell Museum.

Phase 2 will go from the Larrywaug viewing platform, cross the wetland via a series of suspension bridges, run behind the Transfer Station, and end at Church Street at the Grange. This trail will meet community access needs from Pinewoods to the center of town.

The Stockbridge Community Preservation Committee has funded trail design for Phase 1.



LHA continues its extensive renovation of Laurel Hill Park

It's always been a gorgeous piece of land, but Laurel Hill Park needed a bit of sprucing up as of late. Last year, we began to do just that.

If you came to Laurel Hill Day in 2018, you might have noticed the clearing of overgrowth on the rock face of the Rostrum, an open air meeting place designed by Daniel Chester French. This year, we've continued to judiciously trim and clear new growth to restore the views and maintain the trails.

We are also in the process of renovating the Butler Bench, a love seat atop Laurel Hill. The venerable marble seat is showing its age, with a few chips and cracks. We plan to have this repaired by the end of the year.

One thing we aren't doing right now is altering the ground. The Stockbridge Munsee Indians have asked us to hold off on any disturbance until after they have a chance to perform an archaeological survey. We plan to hold off on this aspect of the renovation until they complete whatever work they deem necessary.



Mary Flynn Trail: bridge, railing and boardwalk repairs complete

For those of us who need gentler exercise, the Mary Flynn Trail's relative flatness is a welcome feature! The trail follows at Housatonic River at the base of Laurel Hill, and is one of four LHA trail systems that can be accessed from the end of Park Street.

And also like many of us, the Mary Flynn Trail was showing its age, with portions of the bridges, boardwalks and rails all in need of repair.

Working with both volunteers and Greenagers summer employees, we recently completed this repairs, restoring the trail to its intended state and ensuring the safety of its users.

OUR DONORS

Marion Adler

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Mickie and Al Ayari

Christine Baldrige

Laura Beasley and Pieter Voorhees

Gail Beaudain and Jed Baumwell

Joanne and Stuart Beck

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Ilene and Lester Bliwise

Robin and Sheldon Birnhak

Mary Boyce

Sarah and Bronly Boyd

Stephanie and Carl Bradford

Tammy and Michael Breitman

Susan and Joseph Bubenias

Deborah Buccino and Eric Plakun

Joyce Butler and Richard Wilcox

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Christine New Castellon

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Terence Cronin

Becky Cushing

Angelina and Matthew DaCruz

Catherine and James Daily

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Laura Dubester

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Julie and Alex Margolies

Karen and Shelby Marshall

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Lynn Villency Cohen
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Kathleen White
Patrick White
Michael Forbes Wilcox
Judith Wilkinson and Lionel Delevingne
Judith and Jonathan Williams
Peter Williams
Claire Williams
Terry and Jay Wise
Deborah Wiswesser
Linda and Howard Zonana

There's still room for a few more!

First of all, thank you to each one of you who appear on our list, which includes all donations we've received in the past 12 months. If we missed you, please accept our sincerest apologies and let us know! We'd be happy to at least add you to the web site thank-you page.

We know there is a lot of worthwhile competition for your generous contributions. Please consider a tax-deductible donation to Laurel Hill Association. You will be supporting an all-volunteer organization that focuses 100% of its efforts in our local community. You will also be in great company, both past and present.

**LAUREL HILL ASSOCIATION AND
STOCKBRIDGE BOWL ASSOCIATION
INVITE YOU TO A**

SUMMER CELEBRATION

FRIDAY, AUG. 9, 2019 5-7:30PM

**WEATHER PERMITTING
STOCKBRIDGE TOWN BEACH**

BRING YOUR OWN BARBECUE!

**You bring it, our Berkshire Waldorf High
School volunteers will grill it for you!**

LIGHT FARE PROVIDED

**We will provide soft drinks, condiments
and a variety of goodies to eat!**

VOLUNTEER BOAT RIDES

**SBA volunteers will be offering pontoon
boat rides. First come, first ride!**

**Visit www.laurelhillassociation.org or
thesba.org for more information**





LAUREL HILL DAY

AUG. 10, 2019 2:00 PM

THE ROSTRUM AT LAUREL HILL PARK

50 MAIN ST STOCKBRIDGE, MA

(BEHIND TOWN OFFICES)

RAIN LOCATION: STOCKBRIDGE LIBRARY

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

WWW.LAURELHILLASSOCIATION.ORG

FEATURED SPEAKER

BECKY CUSHING

DIRECTOR OF MASS AUDUBON'S
BERKSHIRE WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES
WITH MUSINGS ON THE TOPIC OF

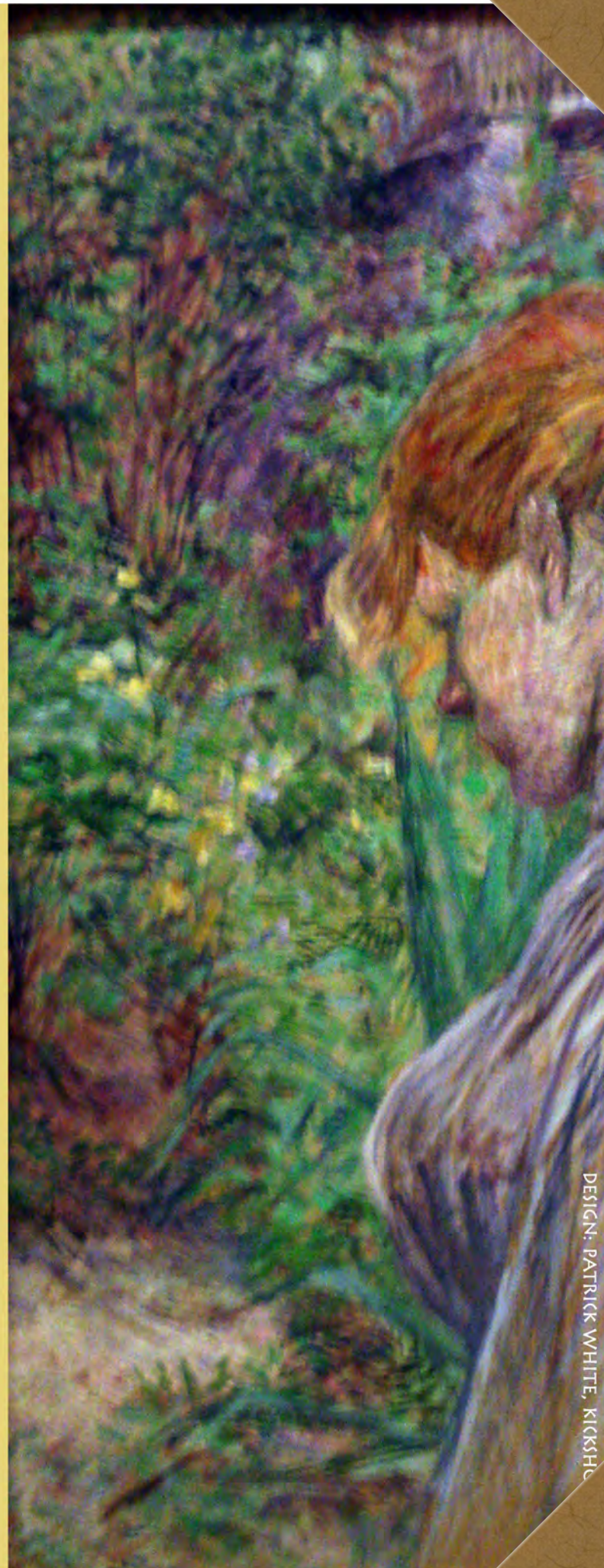
ANIMALS & MADRIGALS

AN EXPLORATION OF THE INTERSECTION
OF NATURE AND CULTURE, AND HOW
THE ENVIRONMENT HAS INSPIRED ARTISTS
AND THINKERS IN THE BERKSHIRES

CANTILENA CHOIR DIRECTOR

ANDREA GOODMAN

AND CHOIR MEMBERS WILL WEAVE
MUSIC INTO THE PRESENTATION



DESIGN: PATRICK WHITE, KICKHORN

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST

9

LHA/SBA Summer Celebration

Join your friends from Laurel Hill Association and Stockbridge Bowl Association for a summer picnic. The event is Friday evening, August 9th from 5–7:30pm. See the inside back cover left page for details.

AUGUST

10

Laurel Hill Day

Join us at 2pm for the 160-somethingth annual Laurel Hill Day at the Rostrum at Laurel Hill Park. Mass Audubon's Becky Cushing and the Cantilena Choir are headlining. See the inside cover for details.

AUGUST

31

Free LHA Photography Class with Lionel Delevingne

Lionel will lead this class from 9am until noon. It's free but limited to six participants. You must pre-register. Please see page five for details and registration instructions.

Laurel Hill Association

PO Box 24

Stockbridge, MA 01262