



December, 2016
www.gtrlc.org

Volunteer Newsletter

Love the land. Pass it on.

While putting together a newsletter this time of year one can't help but be reflective and maybe a little sentimental. Its pretty special what we do. The spring wildflowers dazzled and endeared us once again and we did our best to protect them from invasive species. We built trails, planted trees, made maple syrup, raised organic produce and grass-fed beef, lead hikes and work days- we cared for this land and shared our love for it. Make no mistake this organization does a lot and we could not do it without our volunteers.

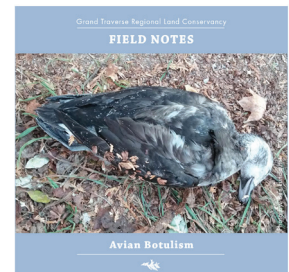
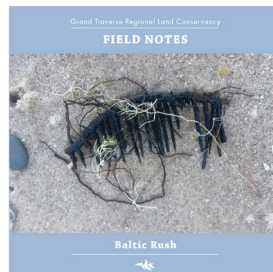
Thanks for all you do and enjoy the newsletter!

Program Notes

A couple of minor injuries this season was a reminder for us to stress safety and encourage folks to only take on volunteer activities you are comfortable doing. Please be aware the Conservancy asks our volunteers to assume risk for the activities you choose to do. If you have questions about this or would like a copy of the liability release language please contact Nate (nate@gtrlc.org).

Field Notes

A great way to keep up to date with the Conservancy and learn interesting things about the natural world is to follow us on [Facebook](#). These are a few "Field Notes" from our Facebook feed.



Volunteer Opportunities

We want to make sure you all are aware of activities happening in your neck of the woods and across the region so please check out the ways to get involved below. We are also interested in hearing what you would like to learn about so please pass along your ideas for trainings and events to Nate (nate@gtrlc.org).

PUBLIC EVENTS AND VOLUNTEER WORK DAYS

There is a great line-up of fun and informative hikes this winter- check them out on the calendar.

Event
Calendar

TRAINING

MIOSHA CHAINSAW TRAINING

To help ensure safety in the field we ask that anybody operating a chainsaw on behalf of GTRLC takes a training course. We will be offering a free course again this April. For details contact Jake Bournay (jbournay@gtrlc.org).

Contact:
Jake

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

MAPLE BAY: VOLUNTEER FARM EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

Maple Bay Farm is in need of an individual that has experience operating farm implements independently and safely. If you are interested and able to help in this capacity please contact Vic Lane (vlane@gtrlc.org).

Contact:
Vic

MISTY ACRES

Misty Acres is in need of several volunteers to do many tasks including native plant landscaping and implementing other special projects. We are also in the midst of developing a public access plan for the farm which, when complete, will likely make docent and other volunteer opportunities available. Please contact Vic Lane (vlane@gtrlc.org) for more information.

Contact:
Vic

OFFICE: PHOTO CATALOGING

A significant part of stewarding the properties we've protected is all the office and paper work! We have a significant amount of digital photos that need to be properly named and filed. Once trained this could be an on-going self-directed project. If interested please contact Angie Lucas (alucas@gtrlc.org).

Contact:
Angie

VOLUNTEER PRESERVE STEWARDS

GTRLC is a regional entity with limited staff capacity, making it impossible for us to be everywhere all the time. For this reason volunteer observations and reporting out on the land is an invaluable way to contribute— these reports literally guide our work and make us more efficient. If you would like to participate in this way please contact Angie Lucas (alucas@gtrlc.org).

Contact:
Angie

More opportunities will be posted in the spring newsletter so make sure to check back and be in touch!

Volunteer Work & Accomplishments

Each year volunteers from across the region accomplish an incredible amount of work for the conservancy but spreading their passion for the land and GTRLC's mission to their communities is perhaps even more impressive and important. The following are some of the things volunteers did this year:

- **Provided over 700 hrs of volunteer service**
- **Attended or lead 37 Hikes or Work Days**
- **Submitted over 120 individual preserve monitor reports**
- **Raised and donated 120 lbs of organic produce to local food pantries**

-
- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Invasive Plant Mgt | • Office Tasks | • Preserve Stewarding/Reporting |
| • Invasive Plant Scouting | • Bat Monitoring | • Botulism Monitoring |
| • Lead Hikes | • Botanical Inventories | • Bird Counts |
| • Trail Building/Maintenance | • Maple Sugaring | • Butterfly Monitoring |
| • Property Landscape Mgt | • Habitat Restoration | • Native Plant Rescue |
| • Infrastructure Installation | • Organic Gardening | |



Misty Acres volunteers helping with botanical plant inventory



Chemical Bank volunteers at Green Point Dunes.



Volunteer lead birding hike at Arcadia Marsh



Saint Clair Lake-Six Mile Lake volunteer work day



Maple Bay invasive species volunteer work day
(thanks AmeriCorps members!)



Arcadia Dunes Grassland volunteer seed collection day

We are continuously working to make the newsletter and the volunteer program better. If you have input and/or ideas in this regard please contact Nate Richardson (nate@gtrlc.org). Thanks again and enjoy the holidays.