



FOCUS ON NRLT PROPERTY: GARRISON HOUSE ACRES, SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI

Garrison House Acres is a 25.6-acre property located along the Narrow River just south of Middlebridge Road, with a small parking space right at the west end of the Middle Bridge.

The area is rich in both history and nature. Long part of the lands of the Narragansett Tribe, the area became a flash point during King Philip's War. A garrison had been built nearby and was occupied by fifteen people (some accounts say seventeen). It was the intended rendezvous point for armies led by Plymouth's governor Josiah Winslow, Major Samuel Appleton of Massachusetts,

and Major John Treat from Connecticut. However, when these troops arrived on December 16, 1675, they found that the fort and trading post had been destroyed, and the people sheltering there had been killed by the defending Narragansetts.



Fast forward to 1988: The lands were then owned by Avery Brooke of Norton, Connecticut, who created a small two-home subdivision with preserved open space. In 1990, Ms. Brooke donated the open space property to the Narrow River Land Trust (NRLT), along with a bequest for the maintenance of the property. That maintenance includes caretaking of paths and annual mowing to keep the "River Fields" open.

Now a well-maintained trail takes you from Middlebridge Road through a forested area, out into River Fields, and along the Narrow River. This is an



excellent location for bird watching. One of the features of this area is the osprey nest maintained by the Narrow River Preservation Association (NRPA). The nest has a video camera so you can track the progress of the nesting birds and their chicks. As always, make sure you guard against the mosquitoes and ticks which are ever-present in Rhode Island.

We urge you to explore this wonderful natural area and we hope you will become involved with the volunteer efforts to maintain this property and the other properties owned by the NRLT.

Looking for a good spring environmental project?
Garlic mustard is the perfect invasive species to
attack in the springtime.



KILL THIS PLANT: GARLIC MUSTARD (*Alliaria petiolata*)

Looking for a good spring environmental project? Garlic mustard is the perfect invasive species to attack in the springtime.

Garlic mustard is an herbaceous biennial that was brought to the United States in the 1860s by European settlers for food and medicinal purposes. The life cycle begins with a small rosette of leaves that sprout in the summer, and which remain green all winter. The following spring, a single stalk up to 3 feet tall will grow, bearing white flowers later in the spring. This invasive plant seeds prolifically, and thus can spread fast into forested lands.

Identification: In its first year, the plant will grow a few inches tall and have a basal rosette of kidney-shaped leaves with rounded teeth and varying sizes. The leaves are bright green and are easily spotted amid the fall die-back of other plants and leaves on the ground. Crushed leaves smell like garlic.

In the second year, a stalk grows up to three feet tall. The leaves are heart-shaped with pointed, irregular teeth. White flowers with four petals emerge in the early spring at the uppermost portion of the plant. The seed pods, or siliques, are long and thin. The pods remain on the plant as it dies. The pods become brittle and shatter, scattering the seeds.

Propagation is solely by seed. Each plant will produce hundreds of seeds that are light enough to be carried by the wind. Seed may remain viable for up to five years.

Pulling, mulching, and herbicide treatment are all effective methods to control garlic mustard.

Mechanical Control. The whole plant should be pulled before it flowers and sets seed if possible. Garlic mustard blooms and sets seeds over an extended period, thus increasing the probability that some seeds will be present on the plants even if they are still flowering. Unless the plants are pulled before flowers form, the plants should be bagged and disposed of. Mulching a heavily invaded site may prevent regrowth. Given the likelihood of a seed bank, it may take years of repeated attention to eliminate the plants from a site.

Chemical Control. Pre-emergent herbicides are not recommended. Spot treatment (dabbing with Weed Wand, e.g.) of rosettes on growing plants in the fall or early winter with glyphosate or other mixtures is effective and minimizes the amount of chemical needed. Label instructions must be followed, and care must be paid to prevent inadvertent treatment of non-target species.

Some notes on invasive species. Unfortunately, a wide variety of invasive species grow aggressively in Rhode Island and on Narrow River Land Trust properties. We are committed to controlling these plants to reduce propagation and to restore the environment as much as possible. The task is virtually insurmountable, but also very important. Please learn more about invasive species growing in our neighborhoods and help eliminate them from our landscape!

SOURCES AND FURTHER READING

Garlic Mustard, Penn State Extension, <https://extension.psu.edu/garlic-mustard>

Garlic Mustard Management Options, Michigan State University, https://www.canr.msu.edu/ipm/Invasive_species/garlic_mustard/management_options

https://rinhs.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Invasive-and-Weedy-Plants-in-RI-2020_FINAL.pdf

VOLUNTEER WORKDAY

WHERE: Lower Pond Overlook; Meet across from 394 Walmsley Lane, South Kingstown, RI, 02879

WHEN: April 20, 2024, 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M., rain or shine

It's here! Our first volunteer workday of the spring will focus on this 12-acre property which spans both Walmsley Lane in South Kingstown and River Road in North Kingstown. The property runs from the road down to the Narrow River. There are some pull-off spots for parking; otherwise, parking is allowed along the road.

We will be removing invasive species such as garlic mustard, Japanese knotweed, barberry, multiflora rose, and Oriental bittersweet as well as general clean-up and wall repair. Bring gloves and hand tools such as clippers, loppers, and rakes. We will have some hand saws, shovels, weed wrenches, and brush hooks. Please dress appropriately to avoid exposure to sun, ticks, and poison ivy. Snacks and water will be available.

Please RSVP to office@narrowriverlandtrust.org, if you get a chance but it is not required. Thank you for your interest in protecting the Narrow River Watershed!



NARROW RIVER LAND TRUST WELCOMES THREE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

David White is the newest member of the Narrow River Land Trust Board (NRLT). He has many years of experience with land trusts, having founded the Westwood Land Trust in Westwood, Massachusetts in 1999. David has a degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Vermont and a JD from Northeastern University School of Law. He practices law in Boston. He recently became a Rhode Island Certified Invasive Species Manager, and now hunts invasives on NRLT properties assiduously. He serves on the Fundraising, Acquisition, and Stewardship Committees of NRLT. David lives on the Narrow River in Saunterstown with his wife, Denise Murphy.



Michael Woods joined the NRLT Board in 2023, after moving to Saunterstown in 2020 to be closer to the numerous outdoor recreation opportunities that the Narrow River watershed offers. Depending on the season, you can probably find Michael outdoors fishing, hunting, or hiking, and these activities form the foundation for his interest in the conservation of lands, waters, and wildlife. Since joining the Board, Michael's focus has been on contributing to NRLT's Stewardship Committee, which handles the on-the-ground management of NRLT's land holdings & easements. An engineer by profession, Michael also holds a leadership role with the New England Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, and volunteers with the RI Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM), Division of Fish & Wildlife.

Brian Tefft of North Kingstown was born and raised in Rhode Island. Brian grew up in Coventry and attended the University of RI where he received a BS in Natural Resources Management. He received an MS focused in Wildlife Biology and Management from Frostburg State University. He worked for the RI Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) in wetlands management and as a wildlife biologist at Great Swamp Field Station in Kingston, RI, working on wildlife biology and restoration projects throughout the state and region until 2017. After RIDEM, he went on to become the Executive Director of the Rose Island Lighthouse and Fort Hamilton Trust a nonprofit in Newport until 2021. In his spare time, Brian enjoys hunting, guitar, gardening, and mountain bike riding. Brian joined the NRLT Board in 2023.



THANK YOU!

Thank you to our longstanding contributors and new donors who made Narrow River Land Trust's (NRLT) Annual Appeal a great success. We welcomed many new members to the NRLT family and raised a significant amount of money that will help fund our operating budget in 2024.

We welcome new members all year long, so if you have not yet renewed or wish to join, please do so today! In addition, all members will be invited to our annual meeting in May.

Please spread the word about our vital work, and invite your family and friends to join us as well. Visit the NRLT website to join (www.narrowriverlandtrust.org) or use the QR code here



FULFILLING OUR MISSION

There is one organization that stands out when it comes to protecting the Narrow River Watershed (NRW). The Narrow River Land Trust (NRLT) owns and preserves more property in the NRW than any other group or government entity. The total land area protected in the Narrow River Watershed is over 660 acres.

NRLT is committed to its mission of preserving the natural resources in the NRW by monitoring, maintaining, and improving its properties for future generations.

Address Correction Requested

PO Box 65, Saundertown, RI 02874

Narrow River Land Trust



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Wakefield, RI
Permit No. 104