

Annual New Year’s Day Walk

With snow on the ground and sun overhead, forty people stretched along the trail putting their best feet forward into 2010. Friends and neighbors from Harvard and Bolton enjoyed information from local guide, tree care, and fine gardening expert, Denis Wagner, as he led the group through the woods on the Harris Land in Harvard and the lower section of the Vaughn Hill conservation area in Bolton.



Erhart Muller’s 100th Birthday Celebration

Audrey Ball, honorary trustee, offered a toast of gratitude to Erhart Muller, a trust founder, as members of the Trust toasted his many accomplishments and generosity in the name of land protection. The event helped to raise money toward the establishment of the Ruth & Erhart Muller Stewardship Fund.



Harvard Conservation Trust Upcoming Events			
Activity	Day & Date	Time	Place
Life in Vernal Pools: Plants & animals of the seasonal wetlands <i>Speaker: Rick Roth of the Cape Ann Vernal Pond Team</i> <i>Co-sponsored with the Warner Free Lecture Society</i>	Thursday, April 1st	8:00pm	Volunteers Hall, Harvard Public Library
Annual Tree-for-All This year’s selection: sweetbay magnolia (<i>magnolia virginiana</i>)	Saturday, April 10th	9:00am–1:00pm	Transfer Station
	Sunday, April 11th	11:00am–1:00pm	Mass. Ave by Harvard Realty
Trails Clean Up Day	Sunday, May 2nd	2 hours (you choose the time!)	Spruce up a “trail of your choice” (a neighboring one or one you frequent)
And look for us at the: Earth Day Fair	Thursday, May 6th	6:00pm–8:00pm	Harvard Elementary School
<i>We hope to see you around town...</i>			
Our Land. Our Legacy.			Page 3

Member Registration

Membership will now include the HCT Legacy Review newsletter. Please join to receive future editions.

Yes, I want to preserve the unique character of the town of Harvard by joining the Harvard Conservation Trust. Membership is on a calendar year basis and is tax-deductible. Make check payable to Harvard Conservation Trust and send to PO Box 31, Harvard, MA 01451.

☐ \$10 student

☐ \$25 Individual

☐ \$50 Family

☐ \$100 Friend

☐ Other \$ _____

Name _____

Telephone _____

Address _____

Email _____

If your employer will match your contribution, please enclose the application form.

The following committees of the Trust invite your participation. Please check any that interest you.

Conservation

☐ lands

Administration

☐ finance

☐ fundraising

☐ archives

Stewardship

☐ trail maintenance

☐ land monitoring

Discovery

☐ walks & talks

☐ tree-for-all

☐ newsletter & writing

☐ education

☐ event planning

☐ membership

☐ publicity

☐ website

☐ photography

☐ graphic design / posters

☐ printing / mailing



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Spring 2010

Harvard Conservation Trust
Legacy Review

Trustees of the Harvard Conservation Trust,
March 2010
Dennis Delaney, President
Jim Croyle | Molly Cutler | Becca Day-Newsham
James Elkind | Priscilla Endicott
Stephen Finnegan | Ted MacMahon
Margaret Nestler | Jim Saalfeld
Russell Shappy | Will Stevenson
Erin Ash Sullivan | Susan Tarrant

Trustees Emeriti: Frank Coolidge | Larry Finnegan
Erhart Muller | Edward Squibb

This is a publication of the Harvard Conservation Trust. Contributors to this issue are:
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Design: Holly Peterson

Membership is open to all. To join the Trust, send your tax-deductible check for dues (\$10 student, \$25 individual, \$50 family). Make checks payable to Harvard Conservation Trust, and send to the address below.

Harvard Conservation Trust
PO Box 31
Harvard, MA 01451
Tel: 978.456.9292
www.harvardconservationtrust.org



Note from the Executive Director

Greetings!

As I write this, I notice it is “School Breakfast Week” which promotes healthy breakfasts for all school children. What does this have to do with land conservation? I see a connection between healthy eating and the cultivation of healthy foods. In Harvard, agriculture is still an important part of the town’s fabric. *According to Harvard’s draft Open Space plan, agriculture and horticultural activities account for nearly 1500 acres in town!* With such an abundance of orchards and farmland in Harvard, it would be a shame to lose these precious components of the town’s landscape, not only visually, but functionally as well.

Here at the Trust, our mission is to protect open spaces in Harvard, including those that are actively farmed. To this end, we are very pleased to announce our most

recent conservation restriction through the generous gift of Alice Thayer. This 5.05 acre field on South Shaker Road is currently cultivated for hay, and in the fall the neighbor’s sheep can be seen grazing this historic parcel of land. Alice’s mother, Connie Thayer, had a dream to preserve this open space for everyone to enjoy. What a wonderful thing for Harvard to have her dream come true! The Trust gives a heartfelt “thank you” to Alice Thayer for her gift of treasured open space to Harvard’s “permanently protected” land roster.

If you value Harvard’s open spaces and agricultural activities, invest in our preservation efforts by becoming a member of the Harvard Conservation Trust. We are able to commit to worthwhile land protection work with your support!

-Marylynn Gentry

Annual Meeting:
"Conserving New
England's Apple
Heritage & Culture"

With Ben Watson, author of Cider Hard & Sweet, sharing best kept secrets of regional heirloom apples and their heritage, friends of the Trust delighted in descriptions and tastes of some area gems: Roxbury Russets, Black Oxfords, Gold Rush and Spitzenburgs (Thomas Jefferson's favorite). Thank you to the Harvard Historical Society for sharing their Meeting House with Trust members.



From left to right: Ben Watson (event speaker), Larry Finnegan (trustee emeritus), Victor Normand and Dennis Delaney enjoy a moment at the end of the evening, after the President's gavel was officially passed from Victor to Dennis.



By the Nashua River in Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge

"Hats off" to Citizens to Protect Residential
Harvard (CPRH)

HCT is grateful to Citizens to Protect Residential Harvard (CPRH), a non-profit organization formed in 1990 with a long list of accomplishments in town matters, for its gift of \$21,508.20 and for the countless hours of its members' work to protect the character of Harvard. CPRH recently dissolved, having concluded that its mission had been accomplished. Under Massachusetts law, a non-profit may transfer any remaining assets to a like-minded nonprofit organization, and CPRH chose HCT as that organization. The many accomplishments of CPRH include:

- helping to prevent Cisco from converting one of Harvard's scenic roads into a boulevard entrance to its new plant in Boxborough;
- informing citizens of environmental risks of the state plan to develop former Fort Devens into a second major airport;
- attending and protesting efforts by state low-level nuclear waste siting board to name Devens;
- gathering evidence and testifying against the construction of a failing sludge plant company in Canada from being built on Devens;

Harvard Hikes:

Each trail is described in the Harvard Trail Guide

Pin Hill – enjoy one of Harvard's most important geological & historical landmarks.

Sprague Land – encounter views of Mt. Wachusett & the Pond, while amidst field & forest.

Hermann Orchard – explore this older hill-top orchard with a northerly, scenic vista.

Holy Hill – discover Shaker history combined with a variety of landscapes & unique environments.

"On the trail I become different from the way I am at home. I am in touch with the seasons, the weather, and the varied hours of each day." – Marlyn Doan, Hiking Light

- attending Remediation Advisory Board Meetings to urge continued and advanced clean-up of contaminated Devens land;
- forcing MA Highway Department to close a Harvard highway rest stop that threatened the safety of adjacent residences;
- promoting education and adoption of "Dark Skies" recommendations by the Planning Board, residences and nearby state correctional institution; and
- helping promote a town-wide interest in Devens re-development and in Harvard's scenic roads.

During a time of great changes and threats to the character of Harvard, CPRH members worked tirelessly and effectively. We owe them a large debt of gratitude. The list of CPRH members who made significant contributions is too long for this newsletter, but their board of directors included Milly Chandler, David (Doc) Westerling, Peter Keegan, Ken Miller, Carol Lodi, Annette Dior, Doug Campbell and Ruth Miller. Our hats go off to all CPRH members for a job extremely well done!

- Dennis Delaney



A harbinger of spring; the familiar Robin.

Spring is here. Explore the trails!
Stop by our office for:
Trail Guides \$10
(also at the General Store & Town Hall)
HCT baseball caps \$10
We're at:
The Blanchard House
249 Ayer Road, suite 202
978.456.9292
info@harvardconservationtrust.org

The Bromfield Science Fair... the tradition continues

Inspiration, diligence and creativity were not in short supply at Bromfield's annual Science Fair on February 5th. In a talented field of participants, the Trust honored three students who demonstrated excellence in their projects, reflecting the field of conservation in a variety of ways.



And the Awards went to: (from right to left)

- Middle School
Nikki Margaretos – "Building a Savonious Wind Turbine Generator"
- High School
Nikki Snyder – "Beneath the Bark: Exploring White Pine"
Andrew Hong – "Soil Remediation of Arsenic Contaminated Fields in Juanjiang, China"

Hiking the Appalachian Trail

During a snowy January evening, friends of the Trust watched and listened intently to the stories and experiences of Roger Tetreault and his 2008 Appalachian Trail hike – a trek which began in Georgia and finished up in Maine 5 months later – making for an inspiring evening.



Above: Roger Tetreault, of Boxborough, looking out over Grayson Highland State Park in Virginia during his 2,176 mile journey on the Appalachian Trail.

Conservation:
"We can never have enough of nature."
-Henry David Thoreau
Stewardship:
"There are no passengers on Spaceship Earth... We are all crew."
- Marshall McLuhan (Canadian educator, philosopher, critic & scholar)
Discovery:
"Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you."
- Frank Lloyd Wright

The Harvard Conservation Trust welcomes . . .
our newest members:
David Alexander
Toby & Diane Bishop
Malcolm Carley & Hellie Swartwood
Doug Coots & Amy Bernhardt
Jeffrey Curran
Dylan Gatto & Bill Herbert
Ron & Deb Ricci
Jay Ryan & Randi Dorn
Brian & Jen Sundeen
Carol Lee & Tom Tonge
our most recent trustees:
Jim Croyle
Ted MacMahon
Jim Saalfeld
and associate trustees:
Phil Knoettner
Susie Macrae
Victor Normand
Sue Toll
And thanks to the ongoing work of our associate trustees:
Laura Andrews, Ann Butterfield, Steve Colwell, Tom Cotton, Pam Durrant, Glen Frederick & Bart Hanlon.
We appreciate the community's dedication to conservation.
Won't you join us?

Tree-for-All Sweetbay Magnolia - Magnolia virginiana
We are fortunate in Massachusetts that the northern limit of the sweetbay magnolia's growing range is within our state boundaries because this lovely, graceful plant is a joy to grow. Considered the most fragrant of the magnolias, it typically flowers for about four weeks, perfuming the air around it with a delightful, lemony scent. When breezes catch the leaves exposing their silvery undersides, sweetbay magnolias add a delicate beauty to any garden.
Growing about 10'-20' tall in Zone 5, sweetbay magnolias are suited to our climate but might not thrive in exposed, harsh, windy locations. They prefer a sunny, warm growing space. They grow well in average acidic soil, tolerate flooding and are usually long lived. They tolerate some shade and always appreciate a drink during times of drought. The 2"-3" flowers are not as showy as other magnolias, and usually only a few flowers are open at any one time, but the wonderful fragrance makes them very special.
The sweetbay magnolia is considered semi-evergreen in our climate and this helps protect the plant from harsh winters. Usually it is grown as a multi-stemmed plant, although in the South it is most often grown as a single stemmed tree. It has an open habit that makes it a good choice for planting near buildings, including walkways, by entrances, next to porches or windows where the fragrance can be fully appreciated.
The 12" seedlings will be distributed at the Transfer Station on Saturday, April 10th from 9am to 1pm, and in front of Harvard Realty at Mass. Ave. on Sunday, April 11th from 11am to 1pm. In case of especially bad weather, rain dates will be the following weekend. The seedlings are a membership benefit of the Harvard Conservation Trust and are available to non-members for \$5.00.
-Margaret Nestler

Your local land trust, committed to conservation . . .
As a non-profit, charitable organization, our aim is to look after the protection of land in our backyard. We actively seek to preserve:
• Harvard's rural & agricultural character;
• Open lands for outdoor education, recreation, & enjoyment;
• Areas of historical significance or natural beauty;
• The Town's water resources, marshland, swamps, wetlands, and wildlife; &
• Buildings (including affordable housing), monuments & sites of historical, educational, & environmental significance.
. . . it's our mission
By the Nashua River in Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge