

Why Join The Hingham Land Conservation Trust?

Since the HLCT is tax-exempt, gifts of land, conservation easements and restrictions, as well as gifts of money, are now tax-deductible. Your gifts contribute to the quality of life in Hingham now and will be enjoyed for generations to come.

The HLCT acts as a conservator for land to protect our water supply, wildlife habitats and freshwater ponds and streams, while at the same time preserving passive recreational uses. The HLCT uses its funds for mowings to keep the open space open, for surveys to define boundaries of the properties and for legal and other expenses involved in gifts of land. Presently we oversee 65 acres within the town of Hingham.

Please join us in preserving and conserving Hingham. Fill in the enclosed envelope, or drop us a note: Hingham Land Conservation Trust, PO Box 10, Hingham, MA 02043. For information, call (781) 749-0162 or go to www.hinghamlandtrust.org.

The Trustees of the Hingham Land Conservation Trust welcome your comments and suggestions:

Katharine W. Reardon, *President*
Carolyn Nielsen, *Treasurer*
Caroline Chapin, *Secretary*

Thomas J. Carey, Jr.
Jon S. Davis
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Maintenance of HLCT Properties

Trail maintenance of our properties is a wonderful way to get to know each property, meet other members, and feel good about contributing to our community. We meet from time to time to remove brush from trails, collect trash, and enjoy the fresh air in the Land Trust's tranquil settings. This photo shows Kathy and Bill Reardon clearing some fallen branches at our Whortleberry Hollow site (#69 on our "Parklands for the Public" map), this past summer.



Board members make monthly site visits to inspect the properties and make plans for future clean ups. We usually meet on a Saturday at noon to make progress on continued trail maintenance. If you would like to join us on future work days, please email us at www.hinghamlandtrust.org or call (781) 749-0162. We would love to have you join us! 🍄

Walk Our Properties continued from front page

Whortleberry Hollow (#69 on our "Parklands for the Public" Map) – 13 acres

Location: Cushing St., between #424 and #444

Parking: Limited street parking across from the granite steps

History: Gift of Suvia P. Whitmore

Highlights: Enjoy easy loop trail through mixed terrain of pine forest, beech hillside and wetlands. Benches are scattered throughout for resting and bird watching.

Don't miss: Look for a variety of mushrooms in the pine duff in spring and fall.

Challenge: Find three different varieties of mushrooms. 🍄



The Hingham Land Conservation Trust

2007

WWW.HINGHAMLANDTRUST.ORG

ANNUAL REPORT AND NEWSLETTER

Walk Our Properties and Find the Challenge

When was the last time you walked our properties? Take a few minutes and rediscover what makes protecting our landscapes so worthwhile. Just a few steps off busy Main or Cushing Streets takes you to peaceful woodlands and tranquil vistas. See if you can locate the "challenge" at each of the properties!

Eel River Woods (#54 on our "Parklands for the Public" Map) – 12 acres

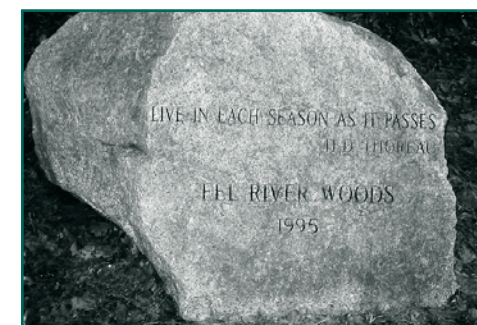
Location: Cushing St., directly across from Pioneer Rd.

Parking: on Pioneer Rd. Do not park on Cushing St.

History: Gift of Mary Niles

Before you go: Wear shoes for wet and slippery terrain

Highlights: From entrance sign, travel right along a small loop trail or left along network of trails through pine and oak trees, through wetland areas on banks of the Eel River. Many opportunities for bird watching and



observing numerous species of plants await.

Challenge: Find rock with the Thoreau quote.

Jacobs Meadow (#58 on our "Parklands for the Public" Map) – 30 acres

Location: Main Street, behind Wilder Memorial Hall

Parking: During non-school hours, park at Wilder.

History: Gift of Helen Burns

Highlights: Walk through gate at far end of Wilder Playground, and proceed up hill toward HLCT post for beginning of cart path. Wind through woodland area with mixed upland forest to vista of the open meadow below.

Challenge: Find the vernal pool (pool of water, devoid of fish, allowing safe development of amphibian and insect species).

continued on back page



Website News

The HLCT website (www.hinghamlandtrust.org) is moving a little farther into the digital age. In 2008 we will send out email notification of upcoming events and allow you to sign up for email reminders on the website. You may also contact us through our website with recommendations about activities you would like HLCT to consider, as well as feedback about our website. We will also be posting scanned maps of

HLCT properties and more frequent polls. Our current poll asked members to choose between events they would like HLCT to sponsor. The overwhelming favorite is a Guided Boston Harbor Islands Tour. Plans are in the works for this upcoming event. Help us "Be Green" by reducing our paper usage and sign up for HLCT email.

News from the President

This year we continued many of our traditional activities with an occasional new twist. Because the natural beauties of the South Shore do not end at Hingham's borders, our spring walk was at the Black Pond Nature Preserve in Norwell. Next year we hope to bring our members to see one of Cohasset's treasures. Annual meeting was a very informative and even somewhat hopeful presentation on global warming and efforts to counteract it on the state and local level. We hope our members came away inspired to take an even larger part in this fight to keep our planet habitable.

We also entered the political fray again to support the proposed purchase of scenic and environmentally sensitive land on the Crooked Meadow River. The outcome of the vote was discouraging, but highlighted the challenge of preserving land in the face of high property values. We believe that our role in the larger land conservation movement is to continue to advocate and collaborate to protect Hingham's special places and critical natural resources. We need your support to continue and enhance this effort.

In recent years, conservation restrictions have become an increasingly important tool in the preservation of special landscapes. As local conservation commissions are overloaded with regulatory work, small local land trusts such as ours have an important role in accepting the responsibility for assuring that these restrictions continue to be honored. In the past four years, HLCT has accepted restrictions for 5 properties totaling over 17 acres.

The Hingham Land Conservation Trust is part of a vibrant national movement of almost 2,000 organizations conserving millions of acres. At HLCT we work to conserve small tracts of land, often in otherwise highly developed neighborhoods, which are resources and respite for all.

We need your help, both in money and time. In the coming year, we will attempt to bring more of our members into active roles at HLCT. Right now, we ask that you consider making a donation to help us protect and maintain lands that make Hingham such a special place to live. - Katharine Reardon

"Be Green" and sign up for email alerts of member events. Go to www.hinghamlandtrust.org. We will never sell your name to another organization.

2007 Annual Meeting



Sarah Woodhouse Murdock and Clayton Handleman

The Annual Meeting was held at Wilder Memorial Hall on March 21, 2007, featuring two guest speakers. Sarah Woodhouse Murdock, Senior Policy Advisor on the Climate Change Initiative Team at the Nature Conservancy, spoke to Trust members about climate change and how evidence of change is informing the Conservancy's policy work in addition to their long-range plans. Clayton Handleman, a Hingham resident who has been working in the renewable energy field for many years, presented an illustrated talk focused on "green energy" initiatives currently being explored here in Hingham.

The audience learned about local and regional land conservation issues during a lively Q & A session with the guest speakers before enjoying refreshments in the historic Wilder Memorial Hall on Main St. ☘

2008 Plans

Check our website for upcoming events:

- ☐ Late Winter Walk, March 1, 2008, Wompatuck State Park, Hingham
- ☐ Spring Walk, Cohasset Conservation Trust's three properties: Wheelwright Park, the Barnes Property, Holly Hill Farm (once known as White Farm Conservation Area)
- ☐ Boston Harbor Islands Guided Tour
- ☐ Eagle Scout Project in Jacobs Meadow
- ☐ HLCT Property Clean-Ups

Spring Walk, April 2007: Black Pond Nature Preserve

Steve Ivas, an extremely knowledgeable scientist from Norwell, treated 50 people to an informative walk through the Black Pond Nature Preserve this past April. The Preserve, located on Mt. Blue Street in Norwell, was purchased in 1962 as the Nature Conservancy's first property in Massachusetts.

A fascinating tour guide, Steve pointed out many interesting facts about the local plants, habitats and changes in our environment during recent years. The short walk took us through three environments: a mature upland forest, a swamp forest and a rare sphagnum bog with one-acre Black Pond. Steve led us along the boardwalk that leads to the rare quaking cedar bog, pointing out the native shrubs and the carnivorous pitcher plant and bog orchids. He had us all jump up at the same time to illustrate the "quaking" feature of the unusual bog!

Parking for the Black Pond Nature Preserve is along Mt. Blue St. in Norwell. It is a short 40-minute walk that is well worth the trip. Try to visit at different times of the year to experience the seasonal changes. You will be glad you did. ☘

