



The Hingham Land Conservation Trust 2009 Annual Report and Newsletter

www.HinghamLandTrust.org



Hingham Goes Green..... by Katharine Reardon

Windmills, parklands, rain barrels, sneaker recycling, bat houses!

Land and natural resource preservation, clean energy, waste reduction, water conservation and community agriculture – HLCT applauds the multiple local and regional groups are working to make Hingham a meaningful participant in the effort to control climate change and move toward more sustainable living.

Municipal committees are working on energy efficiency, water conservation and waste reduction. **Private Environmental Organizations** are promoting sustainability, carbon footprint reduction, watershed and coastal wetland protection, and green energy.

The Hingham PTOs report an impressive list of environmental initiatives: paper, plastic, print and cell phones recycling; book swaps and book donations in a “Big-Hearted Book Bin;” a “Pass It On” event to re-use sports and dance equipment; a Nike “Reuse-a-Shoe” drive; recycling bins on sports field; organic gardening and composting projects and nature habitats for bluebirds, bees, and bats. East School, a DEP Green School, is installing Anti-Idle signs in parking lots and is piloting a reusable Classroom Party Kit for snacks and celebrations.

Hingham Environmental Organizations

- **Sustainable South Shore:** cvbostonma@aol.com
- **Weir River Watershed Association and Weir River Estuary Center:** www.weirriver.org
- **Weir River Estuary Park Committee:** fburbank@verizon.net
- **Hingham Wind Committee:** windmillpat@gmail.com
- **Trustees of Reservations:** www.thetrustees.org
- **League of Women Voters of Hingham Green Committee:** www.hingham.ma.lwvnet.org
- **Cushing Pond Preservation Group:** judycole@comcast.net
- **Hingham Energy Committee:** energy@hingham-ma.com
- **Water Supply Committee:** Chair, Roger Sullivan
- **Long-Range Waste Disposal and Recycling Committee:** blackpollara@verizon.net

Please visit our website www.hinghamlandtrust.org for a more detailed report and links to these organizations, and help Hingham grow even greener. 🌱



Join Us in Photo Project for Hingham's 375th Anniversary! by Corky Willse



You are invited to participate in our photo project to celebrate Hingham's 375th Anniversary. Select your best photos of our town's conservation landscapes and upload them onto our site with a caption noting the location. Your photo may be selected to promote the activities of the HLCT! Go to www.flickr.com and select “Groups.” Enter “Hingham Land Trust” in the search field. Upload photos. It's FREE! Any questions, please email willse@comcast.net. 🌱

Discover the woods at Marchesani Farm Trail! - photo by Corky Willse



President's Letterby Katharine Reardon

This year, despite challenging economic times, we have been blessed with support of both past and new HLCT members. It has enabled us to undertake activities beyond our normal maintenance and administrative obligations; including funding a \$500 College Scholarship for a Hingham High School student to pursue environmental studies, a contribution to Hingham's 375th Celebration and engineering costs for an ongoing access easement project. In addition, in 2110 we will fund the 375th Anniversary updating and printing of our map, "Parklands for the Public."

We welcome three new trustees this year, **Charles Willse**, **Judy Cole** and **Joe Bierwirth**. They have served the

town of Hingham on committees relating to historic preservation, finance, and open space acquisition and they bring valuable skills, experience and enthusiasm to our efforts. Sadly, of course, this means we bid farewell to two retiring trustees who have served us well.

Caroline Chapin (Secretary) was responsible for the intellectual and edible content of many of our best annual meetings and, along with her husband, Sam, assisted in trail maintenance and monitoring of our properties. **Carolyn Nielsen** (Treasurer). An outdoor enthusiast, she maintained trails, organized trash pick-ups and set up the Land Trust's first Geo-cache in Whortleberry

Hollow. Increasing responsibility on Hingham's Conservation Commission has taken her from the board, but not from our trails where she continues to hike, clip brush and send in reports.

As you can see from "Hingham Goes Green," we are a part of a network dedicated to preserving the quality of life in Hingham through preservation and environmental action. Our supporting members are a part of that effort. Thank you! 🌱

Brief Financial Summary - 2008

Revenue	\$16,911
Expenses	\$7,642
Net Revenue	\$9,269
Total Cash Assets	\$129,137



2009 Annual Meetingby Sam Chapin

Bernie McHugh, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition, spoke at our Annual Meeting. The Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition is an umbrella group for over 120 land trusts in the Commonwealth, and Bernie gave a lively, entertaining talk, delivering both good news and some sobering news about land conservation in Massachusetts. The good news included that environmental issues are again becoming important for the average citizen in our state, that 20% of the land in Massachusetts (approximately 1 million acres) enjoys some form of protection, and that Massachusetts is the only state where the Attorney General is charged with enforcing conservation restrictions. The sobering news included his observation that the days when Land Trust

founders gave large tracts of family land for preservation are just about over, that the process of saving land is becoming more complex, and that land developers often have better lawyers than conservation groups can afford. Bernie described how human activities have historically had the biggest impact on natural areas through such things as fragmentation of habitat, but that climate change may yet have the greatest impact. He challenged the audience to think in about what plant species might be the most effective to help preserve wildlife in the coming era, and discussed how the infestation of the Asian Long Horned beetle is devastating the Worcester area, and threatens much of New England's hardwood forest if not contained. Bernie presented a summary of the various conservation funding mechanisms available through different agencies of government, and discussed what land trusts can and cannot do in the areas of lobbying and advocacy. He finished up by saying that local land trusts should promote themselves as guardians of nature in their towns, partnering with other civic groups and organizations, and urged that educational efforts should always start at the level of the intended audience. Call up your elected officials and take them for a walk on a conservation area, he said – call it a photo opportunity – and they will come. 🌱



Board member Caroline Chapin with Bernie McHugh and Steve Ivas



April Vacation Walk with Abby Childs..... by Cindy Prentice

Local children and families were treated to an investigation of a possible vernal pool on the HLCT's Jacobs Meadow Property behind Wilder Memorial on Main St. The pool was alive with several species generally found in vernal pools. The children were able to identify many creatures with the help of Abby Childs, Assistant Conservation Officer in Hingham. Also spotted was a huge snapping turtle and a long black snake. 🐸



Above: The Sullivan children investigate with magnifying glasses.

Left: Abby Childs, in waders, explains life in a vernal pool



Hingham Town Forest Walk with Steve Ivas by Cindy Prentice

Local naturalist Steve Ivas led a fascinating walk through the Hingham Town Forest one damp October day. The spirits of the walkers were not dampened, however, by the impending rain. Following trails deep through the forest, Steve pointed out the diverse flora and fauna that reside in the forest. His informative walks are not to be missed! 🐸



Steve Ivas (with walking stick) leads a group through the Hingham Town Forest.



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*
Joseph L. Bierworth, *Treasurer*
Judy Cole, *Secretary*

Thomas J. Carey, Jr.
Monique Lehner
Anton Nielsen
Cynthia A. Prentice
Lori V. Shoyer
Charles E. Willse

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Website Info

We are about to update our website, www.HinghamLandTrust.org. Please send your comments on what you would like to see on our site, and stop by frequently to see what has changed. We would also like your email address so we may alert you to spontaneous events. Would you prefer an emailed copy of our newsletter to "go green?" Let us know!



Scholarship Recipient: Greg Maciverby Judy Cole

The Hingham Land Conservation Trust is pleased to support Hingham High School graduate **Gregory Maciver** with its annual scholarship, awarded to students with an interest in environmental studies.

Greg Maciver has loved being outdoors since he was a very young child. He completed his Eagle Scout project which he selected in part because it enabled him to spend long hours outside.

His project included clearing and redesigning the trails at Moore Brewer Park to



Greg Maciver in India

enhance the pond view enjoyed by walkers. He also built two very sturdy benches at strategic view points along the trails so that people could pause at their leisure to enjoy the landscape.

During the summer between his junior and senior years at Hingham High School Greg joined nine fellow HHS friends on a ten day trek in India. The group was organized by World Challenge and facilitated by Deanne Moore, a teacher at the High School. Greg and his fellow students planned and fund raised for the trip and after trekking in the Himilayas helped build a school in the town of Jaipur, India.

During his senior year at Hingham High School Greg took an environmental science class which gave him an opportunity to learn to identify trees, plants, animals, and insects and to do research. He told me he loved everything about that class, including identifying clouds, identifying snow crystals, and learning about predicting the weather. Greg loves to identify new things in nature and in fact loves to see plants and animals in their natural habitat. His trip to India enabled him to both enjoy hiking and camping and especially to see a variety of plants and animals in their native habitat. Greg is currently attending Roanoke College in Virginia and plans to major in either environmental policy or environmental studies. He told me that after he completes his degree he would happily accept any job that would enable him to spend much of his time outdoors. 🌱