



The Hingham Land Conservation Trust 2010 Annual Report and Newsletter

www.HinghamLandTrust.org



Fifth Edition of "Parklands for the Public"

Published to Celebrate Hingham's 375th Anniversary

This fifth edition builds on the work of others over the past forty years. In 1970, the Hingham Conservation Commission published a charming freehand map of Open Areas in the Town of Hingham including 21 open space areas. In 1982, Phil Swanson, Francis Wylie and John Richardson produced the first HLCT "Parklands for the Public" map, including descriptions of 65 open space parcels. The map was revised and reissued in 1985 for Hingham's 350th anniversary, and again in 1995 and 2003. Now, the land trust is pleased to recognize Hingham's 375th Anniversary and to honor Hingham's long-time friend of conservation, Mary Niles, in the new 2010 edition..

Hingham has changed in many ways since our first map in 1982. Much open land has been lost to development, but much has been preserved: notably, Turkey Hill; Weir River Farm; Triphammer Woods bordering Triphammer Pond; a 100 acre addition to Wompatuck Park; and the South Shore Country Club. Thus we have preserved some of the great examples of Hingham's landscape heritage: expansive coastal views, ponds set in idyllic woods, and rolling pastoral fields and meadows.

Hingham today also has many more miles of roads; however for visual simplicity the base map for "Parklands for the Public" continues to be the 1974 highway map. Do not try to use this as a modern roadmap to navigate Hingham streets!



Ms. Roberts, Hingham elementary school Field Science teacher, uses the new HLCT map to point out green spaces in Hingham to students Elli Ruggiero, Sydney Boer, Charlie James, and Jake Gillooly.

Since 2003, Hingham has conserved an additional 65 acres (25 with Community Preservation Act funds). Most new acquisitions are adjacent to conserved properties, adding to existing greenways and resource protection. Noteworthy new additions include the Mobil station site on Hingham Harbor (14); historic Cushing Meadow on East Street (30); Amonte Meadow (20) & Porter's Cove Point (16) in the Weir River ACEC; a 3 acre addition to the Town Hall Recreation Area donated by the Reed family (39);

a 5 acre addition to More Brewer Park donated by the estate of Gertrude Higgins; 14 acres adjoining Brewer Reservation donated in conjunction with the development of Ridgewood Crossing (36); and 14 acres along the Old Swamp River in south Hingham (77). All numbered properties are described on the map's reverse side.

We hope the map encourages the citizens of Hingham to get out and enjoy the open areas of Town and to appreciate the foresight of Hingham landowners who made this possible by their contributions. 🌿

The 2010 edition of "Parklands for the Public" is available at the Library, the Conservation Commission, and Town Clerk's Offices, and by mail to members who request it on their HLCT donation envelope. Copies will be on display in the Hingham Public Schools libraries and classrooms.



President's Letterby Katharine Reardon

Our major achievement for this year is the publication of an updated edition of our *Parklands for the Public Map*, dedicated to the memory of Mary Niles. The maps were distributed as part of the 375th Anniversary closing event in September and a copy was included in the time capsule buried on October 29. Available in schools and town offices, copies will also be provided to Hingham committees and clubs upon request.

We are very pleased to welcome our newest HLCT board member, **Anthony Kiernan**, who brings his financial expertise along with years of service to Hingham. We also send

our thanks and good wishes to two board members who have left us to undertake new demanding obligations. **Judy Cole**, who served as our secretary for the past year, has taken on chairmanship of the new Hingham Government Study Committee. She will continue to help HLCT in monitoring Eel River Woods. Since 2003, **Cindy Prentice** coordinated our newsletter, oversaw land maintenance and organized educational events bringing children onto our properties. She has recently become the director of Holly Hill Farm in Cohasset.

The HLCT board welcomes the help of members who are interested in becoming more involved. If you would like to take responsibility for a special task, such as organizing our walks program, or if you would like to join us in a leadership position, now is definitely the time to let us know.

HLCT depends on annual membership contributions to fund our activities and meet our obligations. As we thank those who have been our steadfast supporters, we invite new members to join us as we continue to play our role in preserving Hingham's natural beauty for years to come. 🌿



Teaching Digital Children in the Natural World



Greg Watchelhausen with Ginger Winslow, former HLCT board member who teaches natural science at Derby Academy

pattern of free outdoor roaming which once provided spontaneous interactions with nature, thereby replacing the learning associated with natural exploration with mere virtual experience of nature.

Mr. Watchelhausen's goal is to get young people back outside and reestablish a real connection to the natural world. He leads the Hingham Middle School Adventure Club which organizes outdoor trips for students, teachers and volunteers.

At the High School, students work in the Green House and participate in a program to increase the population of Plymouth red-bellied turtles.

Greg Watchelhausen's passion for outdoor education is an invigorating reminder of the importance of the Hingham Land Conservation Trust's mission to preserve open land and encourage its use by all ages as a means of learning and refreshment for the soul. 🌿

The featured speaker at the HLCT Annual Meeting was **Mr. Greg Watchelhausen**, a science teacher at the Hingham Middle School. His message to all of us, regardless of age, is simple: unplug electronic devices and spend time in nature.

As an educator, Mr Watchelhausen is particularly concerned about the "American screenager" who prefers to "play indoors because that's where the outlets are." Security fears have restricted children's historical



*HLCT property:
Jacob's Meadow*



On May 1st, professional photographer and digital media professor Mark Roberts led the Hingham Land Conservation Trust on a nature photography walk in Whitney Thayer Woods. Fifteen walkers, cameras in hand, got some great shots and several photography pointers. As photography is about capturing light, Mark's comments focused on obtaining the best light for the subject. Early morning and evening are generally the best times to shoot, but a forest canopy provides enough filtration that with a little know-how you can get good photos throughout the day. Mark shared that a \$15 reflector can add more to



Bigelow Boulder, Whitney and Thayer Woods

your shot than a \$600 lens. Mark's reflector collapses into a carrying case and has different qualities on each side, but a piece of white poster board, or just about anything that can cast a soft glow, can give similar results. Another tip is patience; a single shot can take quite a while to set up. You may need to prop up a flower, take a few shots, try some reflection and start all over again.



Trout Lily (photo by Mark Roberts)

Cindy Prentice was also on hand to show just how interesting Whitney Thayer can be. On our short walk we saw glacial boulders, frogs, and of course some wonderful plants to photograph. If you have photos of Whitney Thayer Woods, or any other nature shot in or around Hingham, please share them on the HLCT photo project. See our website for details. 🌱



HLCT Property Notes..... Katharine Reardon

On a beautiful day in May HCLT board members joined 5 members of the Old Ship Church Green Committee coordinated by Carol Valentine to clean up and clip trails in **Eel River Woods**. As we worked in the trails designed by property donor Mary Niles we were reminded of her love of its natural beauty and her graciousness in sharing it with the public. In a few hours, litter was taken away, the trails were clear and a sky view was created from the bench up on the rock.

In **Whortleberry Hollow**, a visit to a geo-cache, monitored by Carolyn Nielsen, will lead visitors through a hidden gem on Cushing Street.

The new Willse Trail and clean-up efforts by board member, Corky Willse have enhanced **Jacobs Meadow's** walking trails and vistas. The entrance behind Wilder School, closed this summer for construction, is now open after school hours and on weekends. 🌱



Bequest Extends Annual Support for HLCTJoe Bierwirth

Earlier this year, HLCT received a much-appreciated bequest from the estate of **Mary Niles**. Mary was a long-time benefactor of the Land Trust and advocate for open space and land preservation. We are told that the rationale behind Mary's gift was a desire to continue her historic annual support for HLCT out into the future.

We invite you, as a supporter of the HLCT and its mission, to consider remembering the Land Trust in your estate plan. There are a number of tax-efficient ways to benefit charitable organizations such as HLCT. If you are interested in receiving more information, you may contact Kathy Reardon or Joe Bierwirth in confidence. 🌱



Why Join the Hingham Land Conservation Trust?

All contributions to HLCT are tax deductible, including land and conservation easements. Your gifts contribute to the quality of life in Hingham now and for generations to come.

The HLCT conserves land to protect our water supply, wildlife habitats and freshwater ponds and streams, while preserving passive recreational uses. Your gifts fund mowing to preserve open meadows, surveys to define property boundaries and other essential organizational needs. Presently we own 65 acres and hold conservation restrictions on 40 acres in the town of Hingham.

The Trustees of the Hingham Land Conservation Trust invite your membership, participation and comments.

Mail in the enclosed envelope or write to: Hingham Land Conservation Trust, PO Box 10, Hingham, MA 02043. For information, call (781) 749-0162 or go to www.hinghamlandtrust.org.

Board of Trustees

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Brief Financial Summary: 2009

Revenue\$10,875

Expenses \$13,895

Net Revenue (\$3,020)

Total Cash Assets \$126,117

- Joe Bierwirth, Treasurer



Scholarship Recipient: Sarah Whitman..... by Corky Willse

This year our Philip O. Swanson Scholarship was awarded to Hingham High School graduate Sarah Whitman. Her early outdoor adventures started at Bare Cove Park as she explored the tidal areas, wet meadows, and wooded paths. Her father showed her how to skip flat rocks across the shallow water in the coves of the Back River.



Sarah at Sea World in Florida

This experience nurtured a fascination with marine life that continues today as she plans her career and works toward a Masters Degree in Marine Biology at UMASS Dartmouth.

As an avid science student, her studies in the Oceanography course confirmed her environmental calling. Active in the Plymouth Red Bellied Cooter Turtle program, she measured shell lengths and cared for young turtles which were later released to restock the local wild population. After her junior year, she went to Career Camp at Sea World in Florida to learn about sea mammal care where she was introduced to training beluga whales and dolphins. The young beluga whales have unique personalities. She learned that sometimes whales behave just like teenagers, preferring to play with their whale friends instead of paying attention to their teachers. Last summer her internship at New England Aquarium included cleaning tanks, feeding the creatures, collecting water quality samples and live specimens for the touch tank and the wet lab outreach program.

Sarah feels her generation is very motivated to improve environmental stewardship. Organizing a student cleanup of Hull's Nantasket Beach made her aware of the excessive trash which ends up on the beach and in the ocean. Her concerns extend to the global damage caused by the Great Pacific Garbage Patch produced by ocean currents collecting and concentrating plastic trash, covering the ocean surface for hundreds of miles with no good plan to deal with it.

After meeting Sarah I am very optimistic that help is on the way for our environment. We congratulate her on her accomplishments and for earning this scholarship, and hope she continues to skip rocks on backwater coves. 🐬