

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*

Jon S. Davis
Sarah Goodrich, *Ex Officio*
Monique Lehner
Anton Nielsen
Cynthia A. Prentice
Lori V. Shoyer

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Welcome to Our New Trustees

New trustee **Carolyn Nielsen** took her first camping trip before she was a year old and has been actively involved with outdoor adventures ever since. She is passionate about rowing, hiking, biking, skiing, and snowshoeing. As Carolyn herself says, "If I were any more down to earth I would have roots and leaves."



The Seattle native has lived in Hingham with her family for 30 years. When her son Seth was a teenager, he cleared trails and built bridges and benches in Whortleberry Hollow for his Eagle Scout project. Carolyn's lifelong interest in the life sciences and outdoor recreation has made her a valuable member of the community. She is a former member of the Hingham Advisory Committee and is currently on the Water Supply Committee. For someone who needs no excuse to get outside, working with the Trust is a natural for Carolyn.



Lori Shoyer and her family moved to Hingham from New Jersey in 2003. When first visiting the area she was impressed to see the amount of green space on the map of Hingham. That, along with the attractive notion of commuting by boat, was a major draw for her family, and they chose Hingham as their new home.

Lori has a M.A. in Architecture with a LEED (Leaders in Energy and Environmental Design) accreditation. She is particularly interested in "green building" and hopes to pursue a career in this field.

Along with her family, Lori enjoys many outdoor activities, and they continue to explore the opportunities that the South Shore has to offer. A concern for the environment, both on a global scale and a more local scale, sparked her interest in the HLCT.

Welcome, Carolyn and Lori. 🌱

Preservation of Historic Landscape continued from page 1

We are extremely grateful to **George and Helen Bennett, Lee and Judith Forker, Bruno and Carol Blanchet and Erin Russell** for their willingness to limit future use of their land in order to preserve the pastoral character of a landscape that is so symbolic of Hingham's past. We hope that this will be an inspiration to other holders of scenic properties who wish to retain private ownership but would like to see their land remain in its natural state. Conservation restrictions can be tailored to the needs of individual landowners while protecting wildlife, water resources, and scenic views. Please contact HLCT if you would like to discuss preserving your land. 🌱



The Hingham Land Conservation Trust

2006

WWW.HINGHAMLANDTRUST.ORG

ANNUAL REPORT AND NEWSLETTER

Preservation of Historic Landscape on Glad Tidings Plain

As a result of our first collaboration with Hingham's Community Preservation Committee, the Hingham Land Conservation Trust (HLCT) now holds permanent conservation restrictions on four adjoining properties on Glad Tidings Plain. These lands will remain in private hands without public access, but they will be protected from development that could change the essential character of this historic area. Just a short distance south of HLCT's Jacobs Meadow, these nine acres of rolling fields and woods will remind passersby of when Glad Tidings Plain was "worked by substantial farmers who have shorn the undulating hills and covered them with waving grainfields and flocks of quiet sheep." (Mason Foley, *Hingham Old and New*).



As is typical of current land preservation projects, the effort was complicated and required extensive discussions between the Town, HLCT, and the several landowners. Finally, an arrangement was reached and approved by Town Meeting whereby the Town purchased about two acres of land and a one acre conservation restriction, and HLCT received donations of four conservation restrictions from generous abutters, to create a total of 11 protected acres. All costs associated with these several transactions, including appraisals, surveys, and the two acre land purchase, were funded by the Community Preservation Act revenues.

continued on page 4

Website Development

Like most web sites, the Hingham Land Conservation Trust, www.hinghamlandtrust.org, continues to evolve. New features include an events calendar and a section on links to other organizations. Throughout the summer we also collected email addresses of individuals interested in three categories: Newsletter, Activities, and Conservation Info. After a couple of nights of typing in addresses (and checking to make sure we got all of the @'s and .s in the right places), we finally have about 75 email addresses ready to go. Nobody likes "spam," so the

next order of business is to allow users to add and remove their own addresses from our email lists. This feature should be available soon. Please take a moment to visit the site and check out the Mailing Lists section to sign up for any lists of interest. Finally, we encourage you to use the contact form to give us your ideas or share them with our membership. We will also have a poll available in which you can vote for activities or events of interest. We look forward to your feedback.

News from the President

This year we have done many of our usual things – a wonderful walk at Triphammer Pond, a well-attended annual meeting focused on the Boston Harbor Islands, a clean-up day at Eel River Woods, and an expansion of our effort to provide the public with information about our activities and land conservation in Hingham through mailings and our website. My thanks go to our multi-talented board members who contributed to all these projects and events.

We also, however, ventured into new territory in our collaboration with the Town to preserve a total of 11 acres in Glad Tidings Plain. I particularly want to thank **Jon Davis** for the hours that he spent both with town committees and the private landowners involved in this project. His knowledge, persuasiveness, and reputation for fairness were invaluable in putting together a plan that is good for everyone.

This whole process was also very educational for the board of HLCT. With land as valuable as it is today in Hingham, collaborative efforts and dedicated funding are critical to the success of land preservation. With this in mind, the board decided to publicly support the effort to keep Hingham's participation in the Community Preservation Act and to oppose the November 7 ballot question that seeks to repeal CPA in Hingham. I hope that many of you saw the material on our website and our letter to the Hingham Journal.

As we continue into new endeavors, I would also like to welcome two new members of the Hingham Land Conservation Trust board, **Lori Shoyer** and **Carolyn Nielsen**. Both bring talents and enthusiasm that will enhance the land trust for years to come.

Finally, as always, thanks to our loyal supporters and also to the newer members who have recently joined us. I hope you will check our website (hinghamlandtrust.org) for information and events, and join us in our activities in the coming year.

Katharine Reardon

2006 Annual Meeting



Sherman Morss, Jr. and board member Lori Shoyer.

At the 2006 annual meeting held at Wilder Hall last March, Sherman Morss, Jr. presented an illustrated talk based on his book, *Boston Harbor Islands*. Mr. Morss, a preservation architect and Chair of the Advisory Council of the Harbor Island Recreation Area, shared with the audience his intimate experiences with these islands that are rich in history and geologically different from each other.

Mr. Morss shed light on some of the lesser-known historical aspects of the islands. Rainsford Island, for example, had at one time a variety of almshouses and hospitals, while others were used for generations as summer vacation spots. Boston's waste has been disposed on some islands for years and some have been rehabilitated after such use. Spectacle Island was a dumpsite that received fill from the Big Dig and has been rebuilt into a park.

Exploring the islands makes for a fun day trip. For information about visiting the Boston Harbor Islands, go to www.Bostonislands.org. 🌿

Sharing our HLCT Maps

Since March 2005, all new Hingham homeowners have received in the mail the HLCT map, "Parklands for the Public Conservation and Outdoor Recreation in the Town of Hingham 2003," to introduce them to the Hingham Land Conservation Trust and to Hingham's beautiful walks and natural treasures. A trustee writes a personal letter to the new resident, and also includes a short history of HLCT and a description of the map. As of late September 2006, 447 maps have been sent. 🌿

A Kid's Eye View: Jacob's Meadow - One of Hingham's Hidden Jewels

Located directly behind Wilder Memorial Nursery School on Main St. in Hingham, Jacobs Meadow (Reference #58 on Parklands for the Public Map) is a lovely 50 acre destination that is best accessed after nursery school hours or on weekends. One day this fall, several children and their parents explored Jacobs Meadow for the first time. They went through the back gate of Wilder Memorial's playground and followed the trail marked by a wooden post. The trail takes you through a woodland path to the open meadow, marked by a boulder in honor of Helen Burns.

Our property has many interesting highlights, some of them noted by the children:

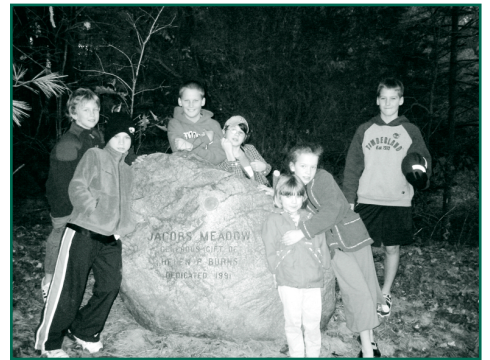
"This is a neat place because it's so hidden. Nobody even knows it's here," exclaimed a 12-year-old. Upon discovering small holes in the ground at the far end of the meadow, "I wonder what animal lives in these holes!" Another chimed in, "Maybe a frog lives down there." They made an attempt to find out who lives there, but no one was home.

There is what could be a vernal pool along the northern side of the property. Maggie, the retriever who accompanied us, enjoyed a swim in the murky water. When asked if the children wanted to return in the Spring to hear the deafening chorus of spring peepers,

one four-year-old replied, "I would like to come back in the Spring when the frogs are peeping."

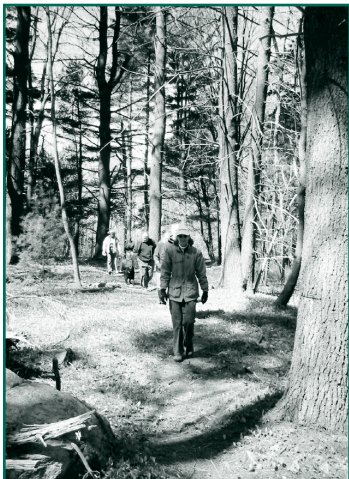
Toward the back end of the property, there is moss so thick it's like stepping on a springy cushion. "The pillowy moss is so soft you could make a bed here! What a great place for a picnic."

There are woods that frame the meadow along the south side. "I like walking around in the woods," offered one of the children. Be sure to look at the site map displayed at the entrance so you will get your bearings. We think you will agree that Jacobs Meadow is one of Hingham's hidden jewels! 🌱



Spring Walk, April, 2006 - Triphammer Pond, Hingham, MA

A beautiful day greeted us as we walked the trail that surrounds Triphammer Pond in Hingham (Reference #45-47 on our Parklands for the Public Map). The biggest challenge was to find the road that takes you from Pope's Lane to the parking lot at the pond. Once there, the trail is well used and fairly easy to follow as long as you wear waterproof shoes.



Lori Shoyer and Cindy Prentice guided us along the trail, pointing out various points of interest such as the old mill

foundation, the newly constructed fish ladder and dam, and the new trail to the former Thompson property. There were beautiful spring ephemerals blooming along the trail, and delicate shadbushes (*Amelanchier arboria*) blooming at the water's edge.

Check our web site <http://hinghamlandtrust.org> to find out about our next walk. Come and explore our local properties and green spaces. We'd love to have you join us next spring! 🌱

