



# The Hingham Land Conservation Trust

## 2011 Annual Report and Newsletter

[www.HinghamLandTrust.org](http://www.HinghamLandTrust.org)



### Glastonbury Abbey Walk to Foundry Pond

Just a few hours before a premature winter storm blew into Hingham, Father Nicholas Morcone, former Abbot of Glastonbury, gave a warm and humorous welcome to 40 optimistic souls who turned out for a tour of the Abbey grounds and woods.

When the Benedictines acquired the property in 1954, it was a 25-acre summer home built in 1912. Most of the surrounding landscape was clear of trees, and the former owner had constructed a tower that provided the same view of the coast as from nearby Turkey Hill. With its focus on hospitality and community outreach, the Abbey has since built major new facilities to serve the community.

The original acreage is now closer to 60 acres, designed to reflect the Benedictine value placed on land for labor, sustenance and contemplation. Father Nicholas credits their cook's diverse hobbies and the monks' labor for many of the ground's improvements,



*Above: Entering Glastonbury Abbey Grounds – Corky Willse*

*Below: Foundry Pond – Corky Willse*



including the herb garden. We also visited the goat barn, where he noted that currently there is an unfortunate ratio of male to female goats for cheese production purposes.

Walking through the woods, we arrived at Weir Street, walked along the former quarry, and visited Patterson's Pond. Formed by damming a brook leading to the Weir River, this privately-owned pond contains an underwater stone wall that marks the Abbey boundary. The tour ended with a walk down the Conservation Commission trail leading to Foundry Pond, where plenty of water was rushing over the dam and fall colors rimmed the pond and marsh.

We are very grateful to the Abbey and Father Nicholas for the kind welcome and lively

presentation. He noted that the grounds are open to the public except for the occasional retreat, when an obvious sign would be posted. 🍄

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 are on display in the Hingham Public Schools libraries and classrooms.



## Chairman's Letter .....by Katharine Reardon

As we enter our 40th year, the HLCT trustees, while remaining fully committed to the mission of our founders, also continue to evaluate our activities in light of current realities. As one of many civic, cultural and sports opportunities for volunteer

involvement, we must broaden our visibility and support in the community if our mission is to endure.

To that end, this year we have visited the Hingham Garden, Rotary and Linden Ponds Gardeners Clubs with our open space map and a slide show of Hingham's natural treasures. Please let us know if your organization would like a short presentation.



*Annual Meeting picnic overlooking Jacobs Meadow – Corky Willse.*

Our major 40th year goals also focus on visibility and outreach. We are beginning to design and permit signs for our properties that will be visible from the street, and we plan to produce a brochure highlighting our mission and activities. Finally, building upon the work of former board member Anton Nielsen, we are updating and redesigning our website.

This year's Annual Meeting was a family picnic at Jacobs Meadow, featuring

a tour of a relocated loop trail through adjacent Conservation Commission land. We also amended our bylaws to expand the Board of Trustees up to 13 members. There are still spaces available and we welcome your interest, along with our two newest board members, Tony Kiernan and Martha Falvey.

Many hard-working trustees and generous supporters have made these 40 years possible. I hope that if you have not joined us in the past, you will choose our 40th year to begin. If you are one of our loyal supporters, please consider adding something extra this year to help us enter our next decade. We thank you all. 🌱



## HLCT Property Stewardship Notes

**Eel River Woods:** Judy Cole reports a successful June clean-up, including participation from the Old Ship Green Committee. "The trails look great, the bridges are solid and holding, and the weather yesterday included a cooling breeze and lots of sunshine. A lovely day to spend time in the woods."

**Whortleberry Hollow:** A new fence marks the entrance, thanks to the generosity of our new neighbor, Matthew Meyer. From there, the trail has been re-routed to enter the woods away from the property boundary. Bob Courchesne reports that the Whortleberry Hollow trails are now passable. Logs across the trail have been cut and moved and poison ivy on the trails has been sprayed.

**Jacobs Meadow:** Corky Willse has restored a loop trail through neighboring Conservation Commission Land and has been mowing a path through the meadow to allow easier walking. 🌱

- Judy Cole, Bob Courchesne and Corky Willse  
HLCT property stewards



*Top: Annual mowing, coyote foraging in the background – Corky Willse*



*Middle: Coyote at Jacobs Meadow*

*Bottom: New fence at Whortleberry Hollow entry*



## HLCT Celebrates its 40th Year

by Katharine Reardon

In 1972, as the nation was celebrating its third Earth Day, conservation leaders in Hingham founded the Hingham Land Conservation Trust. In doing so, they joined a growing local land conservation movement begun by the Trustees of Reservations in 1891 and followed by Sudbury Valley in 1953 and Concord in 1959. Today there are 143 local lands trusts in Massachusetts. The Hingham effort, led by Sally Goodrich, assembled a dedicated board of experienced and generous trustees. As with many early land trusts, our trustees had little capital but much energy and determination. In 1973 they reported a treasury of about \$1,000.

HLCT early trustees also built on Hingham's growing interest in preserving public land for recreation and beauty. In 1880 the Hingham Tree Club was organized to promote forestry and shade trees on public streets. And in 1910 Horticultural Hall was the site of the formation of the Hingham Village Improvement Society, dedicated to improving the quality of life and environment in Hingham. Focused on creating a more orderly community through public health measures, playgrounds for children, street paving and sidewalks, the H.V.I. was not primarily engaged in land conservation. But in 1914 it raised funds for acquisition of land on Hingham



*Stuart DeBard, Sally Goodrich and Helen Burns at Mary Niles' Japanese Garden, 1993*

Harbor, one of the town's first public open space purchases.

By Hingham's 300th Anniversary in 1935, the town had purchased additional bathing beach land and had been given the Town Forest. Mason Foley, in the Tercentenary Report, "Hingham Old and New," advocated for land preservation for watershed and wildlife protection and for purchase of additional parkland. This eventually led to the 1945 purchase of land around Triphammer Pond specifically for its natural beauty.

With the completion of the Southeast Expressway in 1960, open land in Hingham became increasingly valuable as resource protection and relief from suburban development. By 1965, already recognized as a national leader in conservation issues, Hingham had created a Conservation Commission and the Friends of Conservation were advocating for open space preservation. The pace of public land conservation was picking up, enhanced by town funds, federal government donation of lands, and the landmark purchase of World's End through a public/private partnership.



*Mary Niles, Subia Whittemore & Ann Reardon at Whortleberry Dedication, May 1994*



*Will Ertman and Sally Goodrich*

(over)

The time had come for the formation of a private land holding conservation trust, and its founders set out to achieve three main goals that remain principal objectives of HLCT today:

1) Enhance neighborhoods through gifts of land: *HLCT now holds 60 acres in neighborhood areas primarily through gifts of founding trustees.*

2) Hold restrictive covenants preserving land for recreational or open space uses: *HLCT now holds conservation restrictions on 34 acres.*

3) Work with the Town to develop and recommend planning for open space: *HLCT continues to work with public and private conservation groups to support land planning and preservation projects such as the Turkey Hill acquisition in 1996.*

While we continue to pursue these goals, the value of open land has risen beyond the wildest expectations of our first founders. Today's HLCT, therefore, places high priority on educating the public about the value of Hingham's parks and natural areas in an effort to build public support for continuing conservation efforts.

In the first 40 years, the Hingham Land Conservation Trust was built and strengthened by the talents and generosity of thirty Trustees along with hundreds of donors and volunteers. In our next decades, we will look to new sources of talent, enthusiasm and support.

In land trust terms, 40 years is very short. Our mission is to preserve land in perpetuity so that, as Mason Foley wrote in 1935, "Though much has been taken, the air of permanence endures" in the hills, meadows and woods of Hingham forever. 🌿



*Back row: Monique Lehner, Martha Horn, Ginger Winslow.  
Front row: Sally Goodrich and Kathy Reardon.  
Sally received the HLCT medallion for years of service.*



*Phil Swanson presents  
"Parklands for the Public" Map*



*Katherine Morrison leading one of her many Winter Walks*

*Note: Historical information comes from "Not All Has Changed" (Lorena and Francis Hart, 1993) and "Hingham Old and New" (Mason Foley, 1935)*



## HCLT Founding Trustees and Chairmen

### HCLT Founding Trustees, 1972

Helen Burns, Stuart DeBard, Willis Ertman, Sally Goodrich, Frank Gregg, Lou Niles, Phil Swanson, Suvia Whittemore

### HLCT Chairmen

Suvia Whittemore (1972-1979), Stuart DeBard (1980-1990), Sally Goodrich (1991-1994), Katherine Morrison (1994-2002), Katharine Reardon (2002-





## Trustee News

**Anton Nielsen** brought his technical expertise and enthusiasm for open space to the Board in 2005, and is responsible for dragging us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century! He designed and maintained our website, including an efficient array of administrative tools. Due to heavy business obligations, he reluctantly resigned this year.

**Tony Kiernan** joined the board in 2010. He and his wife Susan and five children have lived in Hingham for 34 years, and feel very fortunate to have been able to raise their family in a community that has a long tradition of valuing and preserving open space. A former member of the Town's Advisory Committee, Tony now looks forward to helping advance the goals of the HLCT.

**Martha Falvey** is our newest trustee. Born and raised in the Seattle area, some of her fondest memories include walks in the woods with her father and summers on an island in the Puget Sound. Residents of Hingham for 23 years, she and her husband, Jack, have four children. She hopes to promote use of the green spaces in Hingham so that today's children will have their own memories of walks in the woods. 🌱



## Scholarship Recipient: Christopher Stenson

As a young boy, Chris enjoyed the great outdoors, helping his mother with the gardening, moving plants, trimming shrubs, and yard work. The family spent a good deal of time at the beach, which nourished his interest in marine life and the sea. As a four-year member of the high school Crew team, he spent many hours on the waters of Hingham Bay honing his rowing skills and developing the teamwork necessary for success. The highpoint of that experience was competing in the Head of the Charles Regatta last year.

During his senior year at Hingham High School, he was fascinated by the environmental science course which confirmed his college path toward the study of nature and environmental sustainability. As a freshman at Boston University his favorite course is Oceanography, and he is hoping to obtain an internship at Wood's Hole Oceanographic Institute this summer. We wish Chris the best of luck in his studies and his future, as he develops a career helping us live intelligently and wisely with the natural resources of this planet. 🌱



## Holly Hill Farm Walk



*Above:  
Members  
gather with  
Cindy Prentice  
at Holly Hill  
Farm barn.  
Right: Walking  
the fields at  
Holly Hill  
Farm*



On a lovely Saturday in May, HLCT members toured the fields and woodland trails of Holly Hill Farm. Our tour guides were Cindy Prentice, former HLCT trustee; and Jean White, whose late husband's family has owned Holly Hill Farm for generations. Preservation of an historic farm, organic farming, land conservation and environmental education all come together in this 140-acre gem on Jerusalem Road in Cohasset.

We visited the historic barn with its old wagons and sleigh, the rustic furniture shop and ice pond, and learned about the value of organic agriculture,

techniques such as covering spinach and salad greens with fabric to keep out insects, crop rotation, and soil testing. As elsewhere, Holly Hill Farm is fighting invasive weeds such as Black Swallowwort and Garlic Mustard, but instead of using chemicals they pull them out and "solarize" them in black plastic bags to heat and destroy the seeds.

The trails through woods, alongside huge rock ledges and wet meadows, connect to the Wheelwright Park lands, and they are open to visitors. Visitors are also welcome to purchase organic produce and flowers at the farm. Friends of Holly Hill Farm supports the farm and its many educational programs with volunteer work and tax-deductible donations. 🌱



## 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 visit [www.hinghamlandtrust.org](http://www.hinghamlandtrust.org).

### Board of Trustees

Katharine W. Reardon, *Chairman*  
Anthony P. Kiernan, *Treasurer*  
Joseph L. Bierwirth  
Thomas J. Carey, Jr.  
Martha Falvey  
Monique Lehner  
Lori V. Shoyer  
Charles E. Willse

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## Financial Summary for 2010

Contributions .....	\$16,433
Expenses .....	\$15,024
Net Income .....	\$1,409
Bequest .....	\$25,000
<b>Total Cash Assets .....</b>	<b>\$152,527</b>



## "Time Travel" Walk at Plymouth River Nature Trail

On a sunny morning in early spring, 35 Hinghamites of all ages were treated to a guided "time travel" tour of the Plymouth River Nature Trail, which winds through pine woods, along an esker and past vernal pools and large glacial boulders behind Plymouth River School. Our guide was Katie Roberts, BA in Biology and MS in Marine Biology, an experienced science teacher and invaluable natural science resource in the Hingham Public Schools and South Shore.

Katie emphasized that, though ocean life arose over 3 billion years ago, plants and animals only began to colonize land around 500 million years ago. Evolutionary adaptations to terrestrial environments represent just a small part of Earth's 4.5 billion year history. The history of plant evolution can be traced from algae, to acid-secreting lichens that etch growth crevices in rocks, bryophytes such as ground pines (Lycopodia) that adapted to increasingly arid conditions, conifers (pines, hemlocks etc.) that reproduce using cones, and finally flower-bearing deciduous plants. Clues to the evolution of vertebrate animals are found in vernal (seasonal spring) pools that host the descendants of the first amphibians – vertebrates that made the transition from the ocean to land. Amphibians were a crucial evolutionary link that paved the way for other vertebrates, such as reptiles, mammals and birds.



*Katie Roberts*

The glacial history of this area is seen in the eskers (glacial deposit ridges) and large boulders (glacial erratics) carried from the north and left by the retreating Laurentide ice sheet that covered Hingham 20,000 years ago. The Pliocene-Quaternary glaciation, which began more than 2 million years ago, has been marked by glacial (cooling) and interglacial (warming) periods. We are in an interglacial period that began about 12,000 years ago. As the ice melted, plants and animals re-colonized our terrestrial ecosystems with pioneer species, followed by later succession species.

This trail, like many wonderful trails in Hingham, is an important educational resource as well as a recreational asset. HLCT encourages the use of such rich natural areas through these guided walks. 🌱



*Human chain representing geologic timeline.*