



THE HINGHAM LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

## 2019 Annual Report & Newsletter

WWW.HINGHAMLANDTRUST.ORG



### Annual Meeting Program: Impact of Climate Change on our Natural World


Thank you to all who attended our annual meeting on April 25th at the Hingham Public Library. During the business meeting portion of the evening, we thanked two outgoing and long-serving board members (see Notes from the Chair, page 2), and elected a board slate for the next year including 2 new board members (see Trustee News, page 2.)

Our educational program for the evening featured a panel of experts discussing “How Climate Change Is Impacting our Natural World: Meadows, Bodies of Water, Forests and the Wildlife Who Live There.” Our three panelists took a deep dive into the science driving this phenomenon, and the results already observed locally. We also learned some steps each of us can take to lessen impact on fish, birds and other wildlife in our community.

Panelists were:

- Dr. Sarah Grady, Ph.D., South Shore Regional Coordinator, Mass Bays National Estuary Program and Watershed Ecologist, North & South Rivers Watershed Association,
- Dr. Jon Atwood, Ph.D., Ornithologist and Conservation Biologist; Director of Bird Conservation, Mass Audubon, and
- Zak Mertz, M.S., Executive Director, Cape Wildlife Center; Assistant Director, New England Wildlife Center; Member, HLCT Board of Trustees

Through documentation presented in photos and informative charts and graphs, panelists showed us the changes to landscapes, habitats, and wildlife that they are seeing in their everyday work, and the expected long-term consequences. HLCT board chair Eileen McIntyre then kicked off a Q & A session, which fostered an informative discussion involving audience members.

For those unable to attend the meeting during what was a very busy week in Hingham (including a two-night Town Meeting), Harbor Media once again recorded our annual meeting program, which can be found at [www.hinghamlandtrust.org](http://www.hinghamlandtrust.org). 



*Zak Mertz discusses disruptions for hibernating wildlife.*



*Sarah Grady notes challenges caused by changes in coastal ecology. Jon Atwood (LEFT) shared concerns about migrating birds.*

*Eileen McIntyre (at lectern) leads Q & A with our panel of experts.*





2019: OBSERVING CLIMATE CHANGE, RENEWING PARKLANDS AND MORE

- Our HLCT April annual meeting program provided an opportunity for education and reflection about the already-observed impact of climate change on our local natural world (see page 1.)
- The Trust’s collaboration with local scout troops continues to produce improvements for parklands in town. You can read about recently completed Eagle Scout projects for Whortleberry Hollow on page 3. In late October, HLCT board member and property steward (Jacob’s Meadow) Rick Rohleder chaired another scout project planning session involving Loni Fournier of the Hingham Conservation Commission, HLCT board members and property stewards Don Kidston (Eel River Woods) and Daniel Wells (Whortleberry Hollow) along with scout leaders representing Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts.
- HLCT’s 2019 spring walk was a rain drenched exploration of the conservation area at Triphammer Pond. In the fall, we enjoyed blue skies and seasonal temperature for a very special program-plus-walk event, “Back to Tranquility Grove,” for which we collaborated with multiple organizations and individuals (see 2019 Walks, page 4).

At our annual meeting, we acknowledged the important contributions of two long-serving board members, Skip Hull and

Joe Bierwirth, who stepped down from roles on the board but expect to stay involved in HLCT activities.

- Skip Hull served 7 years on the HLCT board including 2 terms as Secretary and one as President. Skip also was steward of HLCT’s Jacob’s Meadow property for several years. Thank you, Skip!
- Joe Bierwirth served as a member of the Board since 2010 and was vice-chair for 4 years. We appreciate Joe’s work as a legal resource for the Trust and thank him for the support he plans to continue as needed.

The board gathered in June to celebrate Skip and Joe at a reception hosted by HLCT board member Tom Bright at Hitchcock Shoes. Also honored that evening was Barbara Wollan.

- Barbara Wollan concluded 7 years as a board member and tireless volunteer in May. Barbara’s behind-the-scenes work on our database, organizing mailings of our parkland map, and, more visibly, acting as our greeter at annual meetings and seasonal walks, was so extensive that we’ve divided up her duties among multiple board members.

Thanks to all who contribute to our mission of land conservation and its benefits for our water supply, for wildlife, and for walkers, hikers, bird watchers and all who enjoy time in nature. 🌿



Trustee News

WELCOME OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS:



**Helmut Fickenwirth (L)** works in Microsoft’s Healthcare group as a Customer Success Manager. Helmut and his wife Ann recently moved to Hull from Hingham, where they raised their family and lived for 18 years. He loves exploring our area’s parklands, and particularly enjoys mountain biking, skiing, hiking, kayaking and walking the beach. Helmut is a strong believer in land conservation, and as an HLCT board member, he looks forward to carrying on Hingham’s tradition of preserving open spaces and helping safeguard the area’s natural landscapes.

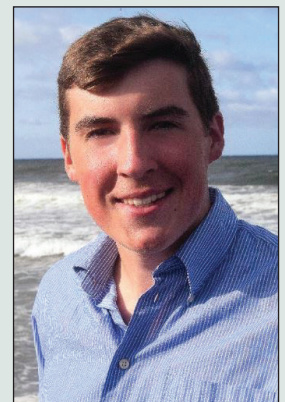
**Daniel Wells (R)** works in commercial real estate for Cushman & Wakefield as the general manager for 28 State Street, a commercial office building in Boston. He has lived in Hingham since 2013, after exiting active duty army service that spring. He and his wife Laura, born and raised in Hingham, are raising their two children here.

Dan grew up in scouting and the outdoors. As an Eagle Scout he is very excited to live in a town with so much public land and a great scouting organization. An avid hunter and fisherman, Dan recently started the South Shore Fly Casters, with his co-founder Marc Gut, to help introduce more people to the sport of fly fishing for striped bass in our local estuaries and beaches. By serving on the HLCT Board, Dan hopes to help protect our amazing public land resources for the next generation. 🌿



Philip O. Swanson Scholarship

Congratulations to Dylan Diersch, our 2019 Philip O. Swanson Scholarship recipient. Hingham High School principal Rick Swanson noted the following about Dylan’s achievements as part of the HHS Green Team:



“A two-year member of the HHS Green Team, Dylan Diersch has made important contributions to many of our school’s environmental initiatives. While contributing ideas to our ongoing efforts to improve sustainability, Dylan has always been willing to roll up his sleeves and do the real work required to protect the environment. Every day for the past two years, after lunch, Dylan has helped to collect and deliver all the recyclables and compostables to the proper locations. He is supremely reliable, conscientious and dedicated to making our school (and our planet) a cleaner and more sustainable place.” Well done, Dylan! 🌿




## Eagle Scouts Complete Projects

This summer, Hingham Troop 1 boy scout Trent Hesselman completed construction of boardwalks in Whortleberry Hollow to fill his Eagle Scout badge requirements. The boardwalks, which are a combined 48 feet in length, span a stream and low-lying tree roots. They replaced 3 old severely deteriorated structures. Trent built the boardwalks with help from his dad Richard. Fellow scouts Nicky Gibson, Denis Johnson and Evan Lamlein, and friends Eric Lamlein and Will Schiffmann also helped. Hingham Lumber, which supplied the materials, agreed to reimburse half their cost upon completion of the project. The Howard Family Foundation contributed toward the remaining project expenses. Prior to construction, HLCT Board Member Don Kidston and local contractor Benjamin Burnham assisted Trent in securing permits from the Hingham Conservation Commission and Building Department. Burnham also generously donated the fee for the building permit.



Hesselman shown with boardwalk as it neared completion.

Also this summer, Evan Lamlein, a Hingham Troop 1 boy scout, installed 3 benches in Whortleberry Hollow. He built the benches to fill his Eagle Scout badge requirements. The benches replaced 3 badly deteriorated benches, one of which had turned to dust. Evan built the benches to comply with applicable design standards and to avoid contact with the ground thereby minimizing potential for dry rot. Helping on the project were Evan's dad Eric, mom Marcy and brother Raymond. He was also helped by relatives Steve and Terry Hurley; Carol and Ray Dwyer; fellow Troop 1 scouts Denis Johnson, Nicky Gibson and Trent Hesselman, and friends Will Schiffman, Will Hussey, Richard Hesselman, Piper Strong and Nick Sourds. Hingham Lumber, which supplied the materials, agreed to reimburse half their cost upon completion of the project. 



Lamlein and crew at work installing new benches

### DID YOU KNOW?

#### Ticks are with us year-round

By Blake Dinius, Entomologist Educator, County of Plymouth

Fall is here! We can bid farewell to nymphal deer ticks and American dog ticks. But adult deer ticks are emerging and are actively looking to feed throughout the winter and into next spring. Enjoy your fall and winter walks but keep safe by following these tips:

- **Do not kick the leaves.** Deer ticks will use leaves as insulation to prevent from freezing during the winter. Leaves can either be removed to reduce tick habitat or left behind, as they provide habitats for other animals. (HLCT note: You might create a brush shelter, or rake leaves into a less-trafficked area of your yard to provide food, shelter and nesting materials for a variety of wildlife and insects including butterfly pupae.) Of course, care should be taken when walking through or around leaf piles.
- **Keep protecting your pets with anti-tick meds and tick checks.** Pets can pick up ticks any time of year. Ticks cannot infest our homes but may live long enough to bite.
- **Treat clothing with permethrin.\*** Permethrin repels and kills ticks for 1 month or 6 washings. Protect anything that might be near the ground, e.g. shoes, socks, pants, backpacks, and gloves.
- **Use EPA-registered repellents on skin (or anything not protected with permethrin).** Look for the following active ingredients and concentrations:  DEET, picaridin, IR3535: 20% or more  Oil of lemon eucalyptus: 30% or more
- **Check your body for ticks after each outing.** Notice a new mole? A new scab? Take a closer look!

\* Make sure to safely follow instructions when using permethrin or repellents.



Scott Bauer, USDA

#### Additional resources:

- Tick Tips: <https://tickcounter.org/>
- Tick Removal: [https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/removing\\_a\\_tick.html](https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/removing_a_tick.html)
- Tick Identification: <https://tickcounter.org/tickspotters>
- Tick Testing: <https://www.tickreport.com/>

## Why Support the Hingham Land Conservation Trust?

The HLCT works to acquire, hold, and preserve open space in Hingham for the benefit and enjoyment of our town. Presently we own 65 acres and hold conservation restrictions on 118 acres in the town of Hingham.

We conserve land to protect our water supply, wildlife habitat, and freshwater ponds and streams. We collaborate with other civic organizations on educational programming and events.

Your gifts fund trail blazing and seasonal mowing to provide access while protecting forest, wetlands and open meadow habitats; surveys to define property boundaries; the printing of our beloved “Parklands for the Public” map, and other organizational needs.

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. Use the enclosed envelope or visit our website [www.hinghamlandtrust.org](http://www.hinghamlandtrust.org) to contribute by credit card.

Contact us at [info@hinghamlandtrust.org](mailto:info@hinghamlandtrust.org) or by mail at the following address:

Hingham Land Conservation Trust  
PO Box 10  
Hingham, MA 02043

### Board of Trustees

Eileen McIntyre, *Chair*  
Art Collins, *Vice Chair*  
Tom Bright, *Treasurer*  
Helmut Fickenwirth, *Secretary*  
Martha Falvey  
Don Kidston  
Zak Mertz  
Rick Rohleder  
Nick Sowles  
Daniel Wells

*Printed on recycled paper  
Design & printing by Powder Horn Press*

### 2018 Financial Summary

Income .....	\$ 19,439
Expenses .....	\$ 12,447
Cash Assets .....	\$ 190,565



## 2019 HLCT Walks

### SPRING

On a rainy Sunday, May 12, a small but hardy group joined us for the HLCT Spring Walk at the Triphammer Pond Conservation Area. Our guide for the walk was Steve Gammon of Friends of Wompatuck, with some additional history commentary provided by local author/history buff Stephen Dempsey. The fascinating 90-minute walk first took us past historic artifacts in Wompatuck and along Accord Brook, which feeds into the 19-acre Triphammer Pond. We then continued into Hingham’s 98-acre conservation property abutting Wompatuck Park and walked around the pond. For more details and photos of the walk go to [www.hinghamlandtrust.org](http://www.hinghamlandtrust.org)



*More than 50 walkers joined us in the grove where Martha Reardon Bewick (center of photo) described what took place here 175 years ago. Martha stands near a reproduction of a banner from the 1844 event.*



### FALL

For our 2019 Fall Walk on Saturday, Oct. 19, the Hingham Land Conservation Trust (HLCT) collaborated with multiple organizations to commemorate one of Hingham’s hidden historical highlights: the 1844 “Great Abolitionist Picnic” at Tranquility Grove. The walk also celebrated the recently renewed access to Burns Memorial Park, a 26.6-acre public wilderness parkland within what in 1844 was the larger footprint of Tranquility Grove. In recent months Burns Memorial Park, owned by the Hingham Conservation Commission, has been restored with new entrance steps and sign on Hersey Street.

The event began with a ceremony at New North Church followed by a walk through town to Burns Memorial Park on Hersey Street. Key collaborators in this wonderful event were Hingham resident Martha Reardon Bewick, author of *Tranquility Grove: The Great Abolitionist Picnic of 1844*; Reverend Steve Aucella of New North Church, and Loni Fournier, Senior Planner, Hingham Conservation Commission. We also acknowledged Hingham’s Jared Mayo for his work earlier this year to restore the entrance steps from Hersey Street to Burns Memorial Park. Mayo did this work as an Eagle Scout project. Clearing of the entrance path, along with trail-blazing and trimming in the interior of Burns Memorial Park ahead of “Back to Tranquility Grove” was done by HLCT volunteers led by board member Don Kidston, with guidance and hands-on involvement by Loni Fournier and Heather Charles Lis for the Hingham Conservation Commission. Much more about the event, including a slide show, is available at [www.hinghamlandtrust.org](http://www.hinghamlandtrust.org)