



THE HINGHAM LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

2022 Annual Report & Newsletter

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CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF HLCT

On May 11, the Hingham Land Conservation Trust held its 50th annual meeting at the Hingham Heritage Museum, followed by a reception to commemorate the anniversary.

At the meeting, outgoing board chair Eileen McIntyre announced the launch of the Goodrich Environmental Research Grant. The annual grant program was inspired by, and initially seeded with, a generous bequest from the estate of HLCT founder Sally Goodrich, following her death in 2020. Long-time HLCT supporters joined the board in making additional contributions. The first grant will be awarded in January, 2023. McIntyre will remain on the board to help administer the Goodrich Grant. Prior to passing the gavel, she recognized fellow 50th anniversary committee members, including current board member Don Kidston and two former board members: Kathy Reardon and Barbara Wollan, for their work over the past year.

Incoming board chair Art Collins introduced an updated online edition of the HLCT's Parklands for the Public map. This ongoing work has been made possible by a generous contribution in memory of former board member Mike Austin, from his widow Nolly Corley and his family.

Long-time board member Don Kidston announced 50 Walks, a new, interactive tool on our website. 50 Walks provides detailed route descriptions for 50 walks in Hingham, and allows users to enter search criteria, such as length and difficulty. Kidston did all the research — including miles of walking! — to develop the 50 Walks. The 50 Walks logo was created by Gray Matter Agency of Hingham.

Special guests joining the HLCT anniversary celebration included Chuck Goodrich, Sally's son; former long-time board member Ginger Winslow; Ellen DeBard Adle, daughter of founding board member Stuart DeBard; and Brigitte Lehner Kingsbury, daughter of former board member Monique Lehner. Our guests shared memories of the HLCT's early years, including fond recollections of Sally and other founders. The Town of Hingham was represented by Select Board member Joe Fisher, and Conservation Officer Emily Sullivan — both instant enthusiasts for the 50 Walks initiative. 🌿

Our website, <https://hinghamlandtrust.org/>, has been beautifully updated by Katie Sutton of KLSutton Design in Hingham. The meeting was recorded by Harbor Media, and is available online, along with a slide show of the evening, with photos by Egle Ruth Photography of Hingham. 📸



HLCT board member Don Kidston introduces our 50 Walks initiative. You can search for the walk that's right for you on our website.



Former board member Ginger Winslow and Chuck Goodrich, son of HLCT founder Sally Goodrich, head to the post-meeting reception.



Brigitte Lehner Kingsbury (RIGHT), daughter of former HLCT member Monique Lehner, chats with Judy Coulon.



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF HINGHAM CONSERVATION

2022 marked a big year for the Hingham Land Conservation Trust as we celebrated the 50th anniversary of our founding in 1972. Throughout the year, we've reflected on the vision of Helen Burns and other founding members, the generous donors who gifted Jacobs Meadow, Eel River Woods, and Whortleberry Hollow to HLCT, and on our accomplishments since then.

After two years of virtual meetings and walks, it was wonderful to be able to gather in person again. Our Annual Meeting and 50th Anniversary Celebration was held in the historic Hingham Heritage Museum. We were delighted that several special guests could attend and speak to the early days of HLCT. (See page 1.)

To further commemorate the milestone, we overhauled and refreshed the HLCT website, <https://hinghamlandtrust.org/>. On the website, you can read about our three 50th Anniversary initiatives:

- **Parklands for the Public Map.** We updated this popular offering, including digitizing the original map which had been hand drawn in 1982.
- **Goodrich Environmental Research Grant.** Thanks to the generous donations of our members and board, we were able to create a grant that will fund conservation-related projects in Hingham and the surrounding area for years to come.
- **50 Walks.** We identified and mapped 50 scenic walks in Hingham, and created an interactive online portal that allows users to search based on criteria, including walk length and difficulty.

The HLCT board of directors saw a changing of the guard with Eileen McIntyre stepping down as chair after 3 years in that role. Her passion to educate the community about the history of the land and the legacy of our founders expanded HLCT's impact in the community. Eileen created programming partnerships with groups such as the Hingham Harbor Development Committee, the Old North Church, the League of Women Voters, and the Hingham Historical Society, among others. Eileen will remain on the board to administer the Sally Goodrich Environmental Research Grant program. We also welcomed Mark Loughlin to the board. (See below.)

Our well-attended Spring Walk to Triphammer Pond focused on the once-plentiful herring in the Weir River and efforts underway to restore them. As I write, we are planning our Fall Walk featuring Weir River Farm and views atop scenic Turkey Hill, where we will highlight the history of the area and the efforts to restore the critical meadow bird habitat. (See page 4.)

The pandemic highlighted the importance of our open spaces, and the value of our work. As your new chair, I thank the board and our members for your past and continued support of HLCT's mission. 🌱

Art presents Eileen with an inscribed Parklands for the Public map in gratitude for three years of service as Chair of the HLCT Board.



Trustee News

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER:

Mark Loughlin and his wife Carolyn moved to a historic 17th century home on North Street in Hingham in 1997, where they raised their three children. Originally from New Jersey, Mark lived in California, New York, Milan, Rome, Boston and S. Natick before settling here. After a 40 year career in the insurance industry, Mark retired last year. He has since become an avid walker, exploring all the wonderful natural assets and green spaces of Hingham and the surrounding communities. His favorite destinations include Wompatuck, Whitney Thayer Woods, Nantasket Beach, and the Brattle Bookshop in downtown Boston. You may see him leading a tour for the Hingham Historical Society, or volunteering with other organizations around town. 🌱



Philip O. Swanson Scholarship

Morgan Buczynski is this year's recipient of our Philip O. Swanson Scholarship. While at Hingham High School, Morgan worked with the botany program to grow plants using different methods including hydroponics and aquaponics in addition to traditional gardening, donating the vegetables harvested to local food pantries. Additionally, she worked on conservation projects such as mapping species and identifying invasive plants found in Jacobs Meadow. Morgan says, "The project will be continued by the botany programs where students will continue to identify and remove invasive species from the meadow. Here is the link to the website we used for mapping: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/species-of-jacobs-meadow> ." Morgan matriculated to the University of Rhode Island where she studies conservation biology. Congratulations, Morgan! 🌱





IN TRIBUTE: Monique Lehner

Monique Lehner (1930-2022). A HCLT board member for 37 years, Monique “[set] the gold standard for volunteer commitment” according to then-HLCT chair Charles Willse, at Monique’s retirement in 2015. The Lehner family made it possible for the town to acquire 50 acres in the heart of our watershed, now known as the Lehner Conservation Area. We are grateful for her dedication and ongoing legacy. Monique’s daughter Brigitte joined us for our 50th anniversary annual meeting, when we remembered Monique and the Lehner family’s contributions to the town of Hingham. 🍷



*Monique and Phil Lehner at
“The Orchard” c. 2012*

DID YOU KNOW?

PROTECTING OUR WATER SUPPLY

We asked Russell Tierney, Managing Director / Superintendent, Weir River Water System (WRWS) to answer some questions about this year’s drought.

1. How unusual is it for Hingham to be in a Level 2 water ban due to drought?

“This is the second Level 2 drought we have been in since I joined the WRWS in 2020. Drought conditions may become more and more of the norm. My expectation as a water professional is that we need to both protect our sources and monitor the weather to ensure we have sufficient supply to meet the needs of the WRWS. We will continue with water restrictions and bans to help protect our resources.”

2. Has the arrival of Fall improved things?

“The change of seasons has helped, but the water ban is helping more. We have gained 2 feet in Accord Pond and this should continue through the winter. We will shut down the pond soon, as we don’t need that additional water. This will give the pond all winter and early spring to recharge. As you may know, WRWS pumps most of its water from groundwater wells.

3. How would you assess the response from the public to the ban on outside water use?

“The response has been very good. We were averaging about 5.5-6.0 million gallons a day pumping before the ban, and that has decreased to 3.2-3.5 million gallons per day. We appreciate everyone’s collective efforts.”

4. What else can the water system do?

“One of the most important things we can do is reduce our unaccounted-for water within the system. This is being done with more frequent leak detection programs and an internal study of other metering systems that will help detect leaks earlier and faster. We also are planning to revise our drought stages, to be consistent with the five drought management levels used by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.”

5. How should residents plan going forward in terms of their water usage?

“Residents should manage their landscaping work so that it is completed in the early spring or later in the fall. Most summers we will have some type of restrictions and/or bans in place to preserve our water sources. Residents can also research how much water is needed for certain tasks and only use what is necessary. There are several conservation tips available from MassDEP, Rural Water, EPA, and MWWA.”



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 to contribute by credit card.

Contact us at info@hinghamlandtrust.org or by mail at the following address:

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Rick Rohleder
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2021 Financial Summary

Income	\$16,428
Goodrich Fund	\$61,870
Expenses.....	\$16,417
Cash assets	\$286,501



Fall Walk

It was a perfect fall day for a scenic walk at Turkey Hill on Sunday, October 16th. Local historian and naturalist John Galluzzo was our guide, weaving together geologic features along with flora, fauna, and historic events that have shaped this area. The walk followed a woodland path on the banks of the Weir River, and through a hilltop field of The Trustees of Reservations' Weir River Farm. Once providing locals a view of the Battle of Boston Harbor in the War of 1812 (in which Captain Lawrence famously exhorted his crew "Don't give up the ship!"), the top of Turkey Hill and surrounding fields now offer grassland bird species an increasingly rare place to nest. A slide show from the walk will be posted at hinghamlandtrust.org.



A once-common sight, farms have largely disappeared from the landscape. Weir River Farm's property provides grassland birds places to nest.



Spring Walk

Can you define "diadromous"? If so, you might have joined us on April 9. Undaunted by gray skies, the HLCT enjoyed our guided walk around the Conservation Land at Shultz's Farm and Triphammer Pond. The walk followed the dam path at Triphammer Pond to the spillway bridge and fish ladder. We were guided by Tom Bell, a retired hydrogeologist; Brad Chase, who leads the MA Division of Marine Fisheries Diadromous Fish Project; Samantha Woods, Executive Director of the North and South Rivers Watershed Association and Chair of the Weir River Watershed Association; and Dan Wells, HLCT Board Member and lifetime fly fisherman. Volunteer Tom Wells joined Dan to talk about their work to keep the local herring runs and fish ladders clear and healthy. A focus of the walk was the once-plentiful herring (a diadromous fish, which migrates between saltwater and freshwater) in the Weir River. A slide show from the walk is at hinghamlandtrust.org.



Remembering Martha Reardon Bewick (1941-2022):



A dedicated volunteer, historian, and champion of Hingham Ferry service, Martha also partnered with HLCT on our 2019 Fall Walk "Back to Tranquility Grove." The event, also featuring collaboration with New North Church, the Hingham Historical Society, and the League of Women Voters of Hingham, drew on Martha's deep research for her book, *Tranquility Grove: The Great Abolitionist Picnic of 1844.* A short video and slideshow from that memorable 2019 event are at hinghamlandtrust.org.



Helen Burns Bench. Our most recent bench installed in Jacobs Meadow recognizes Helen Burns, who generously donated the property to HLCT.