



Harvard Conservation Trust Legacy Review

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*Membership is open to all. To join the Trust, send
 your tax-deductible check for dues with the remit-
 tance at the back page of the Legacy Review.
 Alternatively, re-new or join on-line.*

Harvard Conservation Trust
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Autumn on the Dolan Mason Land off of Slough Road



Native to North America, pumpkins have been domestically grown for five millennia. The Native Americans used pumpkins for food, medicines and even as the material for mat-making, while the early colonists used this Cucurbit in pie crusts (not as the filling!)

Note from the Executive Director

Greetings!

Appreciating Harvard . . . A friend of the Trust remarked recently that they felt like the Trust is woven organically into Harvard's community fabric - something I sincerely believe. Land conservation is our top priority and we invite you to join this mission. I have been meeting with members at events and individually over the course and have asked about their feelings toward the Trust – how we are doing. It is confirming to hear that so many members are pleased with the Trust, its mission and activities. Combined with a high level of commitment from our members, committee participants and Trustees in supporting our mission, it offers great hope for the future of land protection here locally. Harnessing our energies toward this end will be a long-term benefit for generations to come.

Game, Set... Match Our \$10,000 Challenge!

Friends of the Trust have been issued a challenge where everybody wins! With land conservation as our top priority, we invite you to join this special challenge match from an anonymous donor here in town.

It's simple: If you become a new member or if you're an existing member and increase your contribution, our donor will match that donation up to \$10,000.

Every bit you give will go a long way towards meeting the \$10,000 match—and help us further our mission to add more protected land to our map!

– Marylynn Gentry

Member Registration

Yes, I want to preserve the unique character of the town of Harvard by joining the Harvard Conservation Trust. Membership is on a calendar year basis and is tax-deductible. Make check payable to Harvard Conservation Trust and send to PO Box 31, Harvard, MA 01451, or save a stamp and re-new or join online.

___ \$25 Individual ___ \$50 Family ___ \$100 Friend ___\$250 Associate ___\$500 Sustaining Other _____

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ Email _____

If your employer will match your contribution, please enclose the application form.

The following committees of the Trust invite your participation. Please check any that interest you.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Conservation | Stewardship | _____ event planning |
| _____ lands | _____ trail maintenance | _____ membership |
| Administration | _____ land monitoring | _____ publicity |
| _____ finance | Discovery | _____ website |
| _____ fundraising | _____ walks & talks | _____ photography |
| _____ archives | _____ tree-for-all | _____ graphic design / posters |
| | _____ newsletter & writing | _____ printing / mailing |
| | _____ education | |



**HARVARD
 CONSERVATION
 TRUST**

PO Box 31
 HARVARD, MA 01451

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Rural Route Patron or Boxholder

You're Invited: Annual Meeting & Program "Foraging for Food in Your Own Backyard"

Guest Speaker: Russ Cohen
 Wednesday, November 16th 2011
 7:30pm

Harvard Historical Society, Still River

Russ Cohen, professional environmentalist and wild foods enthusiast, is in his 38th year of teaching. He is author of many articles and his recent foraging book, *Wild Plants I Have Known...and Eaten* is now in its third printing. In addition, he offers walks and talks and foraging programs all over New England. He takes stock in his harvests and dinner preparations using his yield. Several of his recipes have even appeared on PBS' Victory Garden! He will share a slide presentation featuring many wild edibles found in your own backyard.

There will be a brief business meeting before the program & we invite you to stay afterwards to enjoy the traditional offerings of gingerbread & cider.

Won't you join us?



Harvard Conservation Trust Upcoming Events

Day & Date	Time	Activity	Place
2011 Wednesday, Nov 16th	7:30pm	Annual Meeting "Foraging for Food in Your Own Backyard"	Harvard Historical Society
2012 Sunday, Jan 1st	12 noon	Annual New Year's Day Walk	Holy Hill parking at So.Shaker Rd.
Saturday, May 5th		Tree-for-All	Transfer Station
Sunday, May 6th			Town Center
Sunday, May 6th	2 hours	Trails Clean Up Day (you choose the time!)	Spruce up a "trail of your choice" (a neighboring one or one you frequent)

We hope to see you around town . . .

You've seen us around town



Mushroom Foray

Al Ferry, President of the Bolton Conservation Trust and member of the Boston Mycological Society, led an interested group foraging into the fields and forests of Bowers Springs/Bare Hill Wildlife Sanctuary. The drizzle didn't put a damper on the search for mushrooms on this early October day.



Marion Stoddart

Together with the Warner Free Lecture Society, the Trust welcomed Marion Stoddart and her film, *The Work of 1000*, at the Harvard Public Library. The audience of over sixty people relished in Marion's story and learned more of her enormous works cleaning up the Nashua River, improving water quality, enhancing the natural habitat for local wildlife, and of course, beautifying the landscape in the region.



Pumpkins surround brothers Paul & Wendell at Willard Farm in Still River.

For more information and to register:
RunForTheHills.org
 In cooperation with the Harvard Road Race Association
 Runners & Walkers Welcome
 All proceeds will support
 Harvard Conservation Trust



Run for the Hills

On a beautiful September day, the Trust together with the Harvard Road Race Association, held its second annual Run for the Hills Trail Race covering 5 kilometers on wooded trails and field paths. Children and adults, runners and walkers, volunteers, sponsors and spectators enjoyed the landscape and raised money to help protect open space. Thank you!



Our website . . . How we connect.

Check out our newly revised and easy to remember website, www.harvardconservationtrust.org, where you can re-new your membership, join, donate, check on events and even submit nature sighting photos! And coming soon, in addition to seeing where lands are in town, you will also be able to print out an online trail map page before heading out for your next walk. Look us up and let us know what you think.



This vista of Mount Wachusett from Prospect Hill serves as our home page....a site with a view!



Among many talents, Barry Van Dusen is a superbly skilled field artist and we are grateful to him for the gifts of several lovely bird illustrations. The one shown here is a Bobolink, whose habitat is open grasslands and is unique as the only American bird that is black underneath and white on the back.



These juvenile cedar waxwings were spotted in a Scotch Broomstick last spring not far from the entrance to the Harris Land - beautifully camouflaged. Try to find these very young birds on our site.

Conservation:

"When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world."

— John Muir

Stewardship:

"The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago. The second best time is now."

— proverb

Discovery:

"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower."

— Albert Camus

The Harvard Conservation Trust welcomes . . .

Our newest members!

- Acorn Tree
- Dominica & Richard Amodi
- Ben Baron
- Juditra Burgess
- Sophia Collins
- Jeanie & Jim Colony
- Greg & Kathy Fricchione
- Peter & Susan Ginouves
- Connie Grabowy
- Karen & Don Green
- Virginia Hahn
- Brian & Cheryl Harrington
- Jonathan & Debra Hickok
- Susan Kaelin
- Tom Konop
- Liz Rotter Koetsch
- Russell Leroy & Diane Fitzgerald
- Arline Marteney
- Diane Moore
- Ginger Quarles
- David & Yookyung Selig
- Pat Shaw
- Tony & Lisa Shaw
- Sintros Family
- Julie & John Snyder
- Richard & Elsa Stroh
- Alice & Connie Thayer
- Art & Sally Turner
- Alice Williams

Appreciating a commitment to conservation . . .

Won't you join us?

Spotlight on Stewardship:

What is Stewardship?

Stewardship is a vital component of any land trust. Whether the Trust holds a conservation restriction or owns a property outright, it requires care and management.

What do you mean by "management"?

Fields need to be mowed and trails need to be cleared. Controlling unwanted growth of invasive plants is critical and periodic inspections of the various boundaries are necessary to ensure that the land is still in its natural state.

What does one look for when inspecting property boundaries?

Our volunteer stewardship teams walk the boundaries looking for any changes that have occurred from prior monitoring walks. These changes could be natural but sometimes they can be man-made and compromise the property's natural state. For instance, a neighbor might unwittingly expand their backyard into conservation land, dump grass clippings or other debris onto Trust property.



If you find such man-made changes, how do you correct them?

We work with the abutting landowner to correct the problem. It is all about building relationships and being good neighbors.

How often do you inspect properties?

Currently the Trust holds 17 conservation restrictions which require periodic monitoring (inspection) to ensure the conservation values of the restriction are not compromised. In addition, the Trust owns 22 properties outright. Our volunteer monitoring teams are hard at work in the fall and spring visiting 2 to 3 properties per season.

What is a conservation restriction (CR)?

A conservation restriction is an easement given by a property owner to a land trust (or other conservation minded organization), that permanently protects the property's open space by restricting its development rights. By law, the organization holding the restriction must monitor the property on a periodic basis to ensure the terms of the restriction are upheld.

Many thanks to our stewardship members: *Jim Saalfield, Chair, Tom Cotton, Pam Durrant, Steve Finnegan, Peter Jackson, Robin Malloy, Ken Nygren, and Marc Sevigny.*

Our stalwart Stewardship Committee has been hard at work making field visits to all of our CR's, regardless of the weather, ticks, and poison ivy!

The Ernst property had a monitoring team out during snowy conditions last spring. Robin Malloy, a member of the stewardship team, was busy recording her findings.

Harvard Hikes:

- Bare Hill Wildlife Sanctuary
- Blomfelt Land
- Clapp-Scorgie-Tufts-Smith Land
- Williams Land
- Find trail descriptions in the Harvard Trails Guide

"The landscape belongs to the person who looks at it." — Ralph Waldo Emerson

Explore the trails!

Stop by our office for:

Trail Guides	\$10
(also at the General Store & Town Hall)	
HCT baseball caps	\$10

We're at:
 102 Prospect Hill Road
 (Fruitland's Museum)
 978.456.9292
info@harvardconservationtrust.org