

Conservation Success!

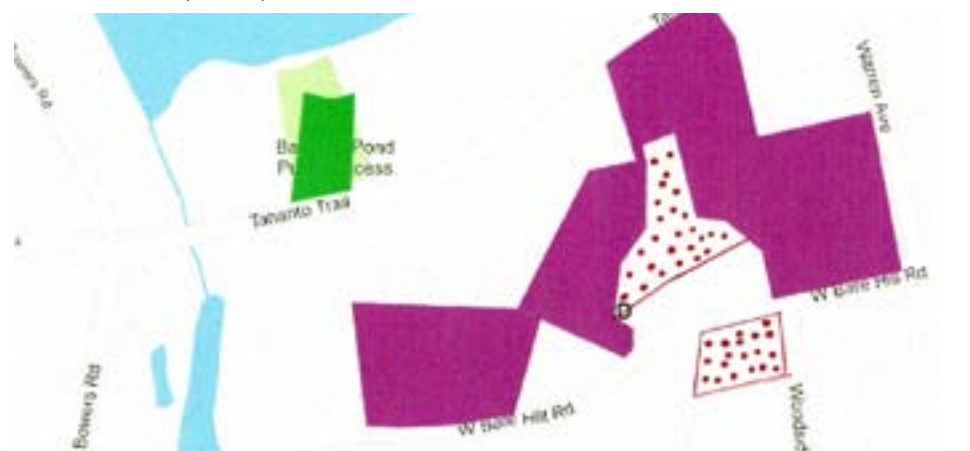
Another 3.5 acres has been protected in Harvard! As you may have read in HCT President Molly Cutler's column, thanks to a generous bequest from Elizabeth May, the Trust was given all of Elizabeth's buildings and grounds on West Bare Hill Road.

The property was in two parts, the buildings on 4.34 acres of land on the north side of the road and a 1.5-acre parcel on the south side of West Bare Hill. The former was sold with deed restrictions to ensure that the back half of the property, almost 2 acres, would never be developed. This land is now part of a larger 15-acre parcel previously gifted by Elizabeth to the Trust.

The 1.5-acre parcel across the street was sold to the abutter, Dennis Murphy, who generously gave a conservation restriction on the entire piece. The Trust is very grateful for both gifts.

See the map below for a visual representation of the newly protected lands

Former May land: solid colors—existing conservation land; red dots—newly added protected land



View from Prospect Hill overlook

You're Invited: Annual Meeting and Program

"To Feed or not to Feed the Birds"

Guest Speaker: Peter Alden

Tuesday, November 27, 2012

7:00 pm Business meeting and program

Volunteers Hall, Harvard Public Library, 4 Pond Road, Harvard

Peter Alden is a pioneering ecotourism guide who has scouted out and led many of the first birding and natural history tours worldwide. He has lectured and been field naturalist on over 300 birding trips, safaris, cruises and private jet trips to 100 countries on the seven continents and the seven seas for 50 years. In recent years, he has also focused on biodiversity issues in eastern North America, giving lively talks on the invasive alien plant crisis (and the role of birds in their spread), the ups and downs of our birds, changes in our flora and fauna, and the pros and cons of bird feeding.

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

Won't you join us?



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 at www.HarvardConservationTrust.org.

___ \$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 | |



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Harvard Conservation Trust Legacy Review

President: Molly Cutler

Trustees: Laura Andrews, Tim Arnold, Pam Durrant, Mark Finnegan, Glen Frederick, Pete Jackson, Ginger Kendall, Ted MacMahon, Robin Malloy, Margaret Nestler, Susan Tarrant, Lucy Wallace

Trustees Emeriti: Frank Coolidge, Larry Finnegan, Erhart Muller, Edward Squibb

Honorary Trustee: Audrey Ball

This is a publication of the **Harvard Conservation Trust**.

Contributors to this issue are: Marylynn Gentry, Robin Malloy, Margaret Nestler, Marion Kerr, Molly Cutler, Becca Day-Newsham, Sarah Pyne, Laura Andrews, and Sue Fitterman

Design: Karen Polcaro (karenpolcaro.com)

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

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Harvard, MA 01451
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www.HarvardConservationTrust.org



"Williams Pond" courtesy of Sue Fitterman



Trust membership helps to insure that bucolic scenes such as this remain preserved and protected for future generations.

Note from the Executive Director

As I write this, I am sitting at my desk from the office by Prospect Hill, looking out over the spectacular vista that stretches across Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge, and the Leominster State forest all the way to the Wachusett Mountain State Reservation. It is a clear, blue, September day and the colors are glorious. This beauty reminds me of why the Trust exists. For almost 40 years, the Harvard Conservation Trust has been working hard to protect Harvard's open spaces.

While we are just a small part of a larger effort that has, in the last 5 1/2 years, protected over 100,000 acres of land across Massachusetts, we do take our work seriously by aiming to conserve land in our corner of the state. And when I say "we," I mean YOU, our members who have been supporters of the Trust since day one. The Trust cannot do its work without member support – whether through donations or attending our events that promote the outdoor world, together as partners we

can do our part locally in our community. Every person makes a difference. This newsletter is for you, and with it comes a big THANK YOU for being a part of the Trust. – *Marylynn Gentry*

Game, Set... Match YOU DID IT!

Last fall, friends of the Trust were issued a challenge where everybody wins. An anonymous donor offered to match, up to \$10,000, contribution increases by existing members or by new memberships.

Well, 28 new members joined this year, 20 former members rejoined, and 52 members increased their donations to smash the \$10,000 mark. You did it! The Trust is so grateful to our members for their generosity and loyalty to the organization. It was YOU, our members, who made it possible.

Harvard Conservation Trust Upcoming Events

Day & Date	Time	Activity	Place
2012 Tuesday, November 27	7:00 pm program	Annual meeting "To Feed or Not to Feed the Birds" Peter Alden, guest speaker	Volunteers Hall, Harvard Public Library 4 Pond Road
2013 Tuesday, January 1	12 noon	Annual New Year's Day Walk	Prospect Hill Depot Soccer Field Parking lot
Saturday, February 9	1 – 3 pm	Scavenger Hunt – Winterfest	Fruitlands Museum
March, date TBA	7 pm	Talk given by Ken Warchol, Worcester County Bee Inspector	TBA
Saturday, May 5 Sunday, May 6	8am – 12 noon 10am – 1pm	Tree-For-All Selection – TBA	Transfer Station Town Center
Sunday, May 6	you choose the time!	Trails Clean-up Day	Spruce up a trail of your choice

We hope to see you around town . . .

We've seen you around Town at our events



Audubon Ark's Wetlands program at the Harvard Public Library



Colin Harte at Audubon Ark's Wetlands program



Earth Day Fair (Becca Day Newsham and Chloe Pyne)



Wild Edibles walk with Russ Cohen at Fruitlands Museum

From the President:

From my perspective, this past year was somewhat atypical. To be sure, the normal business of the Trust was conducted – ongoing and active stewardship of protected land, work with landowners and the Conservation Commission on projects to protect additional parcels of land, diligent oversight of the Trust's assets, and outreach, education and community building through walks and talks, children's programs and Run for the Hills. What made this past year different was a generous bequest from former Trust president Elizabeth S. May. Elizabeth May lived a long and productive life – she died at 103! Professionally, she was an internationally-known economist who served in two presidential administrations, an economics professor at Goucher College, and academic dean and acting-president at Wheaton College. She was a strong advocate for women around the world. When she became a full-time Harvard resident in 1974, Elizabeth focused her considerable energy on the

community, including the eight years she served on this board. In recognition of her contributions she was chosen, at the age of 93, as Harvard's millennial Citizen of Note.

Elizabeth's gift to the Trust included cash for creating an endowment and her property on West Bare Hill Road. Setting up the endowment and the policies for its use required some extra focus on the part of the board, as did reaching a decision on how to manage the property. In the end, the property was sold. The parcel with the buildings now has a deed restriction protecting the land in back that is surrounded by land previously given to the Trust by Elizabeth. A lot on the other side of the road was purchased by an abutter, who generously gifted the Trust a conservation restriction protecting the entire parcel.

The process of selling the properties was stressful and time-consuming for the board and staff. Unexpected rewards came in the form of new connections

to Elizabeth May's nieces and nephews and to descendants of Frank and Isabella Wigglesworth, the previous owners. We were able to find homes for most of the contents of the buildings, including some unusual machinery and equipment from Wigglesworth's sculpting studio. We recycled as much as possible.

It is our plan to honor Elizabeth May in several ways. At the request of her family, we will plant her favorite tree, a hawthorn, in the spring, location TBD. At our annual meeting November 27th, we will have our first of many Elizabeth May Annual Meeting Speakers and will recognize her value to the community and conservation at that time.

Looking ahead, we are enormously grateful to Elizabeth May's vision and commitment to conservation, thanks to which we find ourselves well positioned for the mission-focused work we have already begun.

— Molly Cutler

Are you using the Interactive Trails Page?

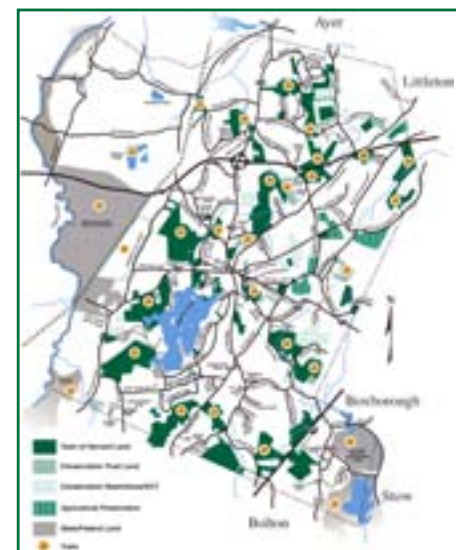
Many of you have commented on how useful the new Trails Page is on the website. Thank you for your feedback. The maps are works of art. They were generated by Kim Becker, Martha Dillard, Otto T. Solbrig and Barry W. Van Dusen and are worth looking at. Simply go to www.HarvardConservationTrust.org, and go to the "Trails" tab. Click on any "maple leaf" and a map of the trail will pop up. If you want to hike the trail, print out the map, or use your smart phone and just go!

Explore the trails!

Stop by our office for:
Trail Guides \$10
(also at the General Store & Town Hall)
HCT baseball caps \$20

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

Office hours 9am to 1pm Monday through Thursday.



Sketches from Barry Van Dusen

This fall the Trust would like to thank Barry for his sketch of the Golden Crowned Kinglet. Golden-crowned Kinglets are small active birds that are usually olive-green to gray. Their wings are dark, with two white wing-bars. The orange-red in the center of a yellow crest differentiates males from females. The kinglet is a tiny bird that is easier to see in the winter when they flock with other small birds and will travel in greater numbers. Although they breed in dense fir and pine forests that can be in remote locations, during migration and in winter they can be spotted in other habitats that include lowland deciduous woodlands, orchards, and along tree-lined streams.

Tree-For-All

A few years from now you may be driving through Harvard in autumn and notice trees whose leaves are turning gorgeous colors of scarlet, purple and orange... and all on the same tree! These will be the 2012 Tupelos given to our members in appreciation for their support during our annual Tree-For-All event.

This year the HCT gave away over 250 native trees to our members continuing our long tradition of caring for Harvard's rural beauty and natural resources. The Tupelo was selected for its spectacular fall color as well as its important eco-system value: pollinators and birds depend on Tupelos for nectar and fruit.

Looking for Trees!

The Trust is curious about how past "Tree-For-All" trees have fared. Each spring since 1981 the Trust has been giving trees to our members as a thank-you. Do you have a favorite? How much have they grown? Send your photos to mentry@HarvardConservationTrust.org and we will publish as many as we can in our spring newsletter.

Take the Trail Challenge!



The Trust has partnered with the Harvard Conservation Commission to establish a Trail Challenge on a number of your favorite conservation lands. A numbered red control punch (shown in the photo above) has been placed on a variety of trails in Harvard. Each punch has a unique set of pins which, when stamped on paper, will make a design. The numbers on the punches correspond to a number on the official control card (shown in the photo above). The Challenge is simple: Demonstrate that you have been out enjoying the trails by collecting as many punches as you can. A simple prize will be given to each person who collects all 12 punch marks (eight for children under 10). Official Tyvek control cards are available for free at the Trust's office, Town Hall, and the General Store. As of the publication of this newsletter, one punch has been placed on the primary trail (yellow blaze) of each of the following lands: Blomfelt, Clapp-Scorgie-Tufts-Smith, Holy Hill, Kaufmann Land, Millie's Path (on Maxant Land map), Ohlin, Old Mill Road, Pin Hill, Prospect Hill, Sprague Land, Shaker Spring House, Small Nature Trail, Tripp Land and Vesenska/Black Pond. Additional trails will be added in time and notices will be posted with the control cards. The punches have been attached to trees close to the trail at an easily reachable height, so you don't need to turn over every rock or scour the forest looking for them – simply get out and walk! Good luck and may the best trail walkers win! When finished, contact HCT Trustee Robin Malloy at rmalloy5@verizon.net to collect your prize.



"Round Hill" courtesy of Sue Fitterman



The Start at Run for the Hills

"Run for the Hills" 5K was a huge success!

The Trust's annual 5K trail race was greeted by a gorgeous sunny September sky and over 250 runners from Harvard and beyond. Race Director, Ted MacMahon, a Trustee of the Harvard Conservation Trust, was pleased with the way the event turned out: "The Run for the Hills was again such a wonderful mix of ingredients – beautiful day with hundreds who participated in a spectacular event that raised awareness and critical funds for the Harvard Conservation Trust. The support from sponsors and volunteers was the 'glue' that enabled such success." For more photos go to the Trust's website: www.HarvardConservationTrust.org. To all of you from Harvard who ran – THANK YOU, and we hope to see you again next year!



Marisa Steele (winner in her age group): "I love running in the woods"

"What do you like about 'Run for the Hills'?"



Rob Hult (overall winner) "It's a real trail race."
John Kinnee (formerly of Harvard) "I like the roots."
Matt Day "There were great volunteers. I didn't have to worry about a thing."



Kate Toll "I like running the trails and fields, and it is mostly flat!"



Congratulations to Sarah Sobalvarro for winning the "Run for the Hills" poster contest. Ted MacMahon, race director, presents Sarah with her award certificate and a cash prize. Thank you, Sarah, for such a wonderful poster!



Maegan Cullinan "The race is well organized and there are no big hills."

The Harvard Conservation Trust welcomes . . .

Our newest members!

Dan Breslin
Chapman-Ruze Family
Robert Hult
Janice Kennedy
Warren and Meredith Kundert
Hilary Kuss
Dennis and Julie Murphy
Nancy Labbe
Aaron Landeryou
Linda Mara
Spencer Marks & Victoria Anderson
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Pyne
Josh Sniderman & Britt Argow
Karin Stanley
Bill Walsh

Appreciating a commitment to conservation . . .

Won't you join us?

Conservation:

"...the care of the earth is our most ancient and most worthy and, after all, our most pleasing responsibility."
— Wendell Berry

Stewardship:

"In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks."
— John Muir

Discovery:

"Nature will not be admired by proxy."
— Winston Churchill