



“Some of the most memorable, and least regrettable, nights of my own youth were spent in coon hunting with farmers. There is no denying that these activities contributed to the economy of farm households, but a further fact is that they were pleasures; they were wilderness pleasures, not greatly different from the pleasures pursued by conservationists and wilderness lovers.”

WENDELL BERRY
*Bringing it to the Table:
Writings on Farm and Food*

Balancing Hunting with Other Recreational Pursuits in Southeastern Massachusetts

Like many land managers in our region, Wildlands Trust continues to grapple with the often contentious issue of hunting.

If you asked our office manager Karyn Lord what her most frequently fielded phone call was this fall, the hands down winner would be: “Do you allow hunting on your properties?”

Unfortunately for Karyn, the answer is not a simple “yes” or “no.”

Most of the activities typically permitted on conservation land induce little consternation on anyone’s part. We have yet to hear of a cross-country skiing adventure that elicited the attention of law enforcement, or birders who precipitated a brawl in the course of pursuing spring warblers. However, hunting is an activity that elicits passionate opinions from many quarters.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



The Wildlands Trust is a non-profit organization dedicated to conserving land and preserving the natural heritage of Southeastern Massachusetts. We work to permanently protect and steward important habitats and landscapes, including woodlands and fields, ponds, coastal areas, agricultural lands, and river systems.
www.wildlandstrust.org

Funding Land Protection Is an Ongoing Challenge

Wildlands Trust depends on your support to do our work—and we appreciate you stepping up to the plate.



There is still tremendous work to be done to protect the remaining high quality conservation lands in

southeastern Massachusetts. But the time is running short and the fate of many of these coveted properties will be determined during the next decade. Will our best farms, forests, coastal properties, open fields, and wildlife habitats be protected in perpetuity, or will they be developed for housing tracts, big box stores and retail malls?

Every day the Trust learns of more quality land that needs to be protected. Our phone rings with calls from landowners, towns, and organizations asking us to help them save threatened open land. However, to do this work we must rely on the generosity of private individuals who value our mission.

The Trust received a significant boost during the 2013 giving season when nearly 50 individuals and families joined our first ever donor society, the Chairman's Council. Membership to the Chairman's Council requires a minimum annual fund gift of \$500 and all funds raised go toward protecting new parcels and caring for the 220 pieces already in the portfolio.

We were encouraged to see just how many people increased their annual support for the Trust through this program and based on this response, the future of land conservation in southeastern Massachusetts looks bright. As significant investors in the Trust's mission, our Chairman's Council members are providing important financial stability for Wildlands Trust and for this we thank them.

Karen Grey
Executive Director

P.S. Each and every contribution we receive, no matter how big or small, is an important investment in protecting our region's most significant lands before they are lost forever. Thank you to ALL of our supporters.

Board of Directors

CHAIRMAN

Doug Hart/*Duxbury*

VICE CHAIRMAN

Crystal Farrar Gould/*N. Marshfield*

SECRETARY

Charlotte Russell/*Plymouth*

TREASURER

Greg Lucini/*Berkley*

Allan Caggiano/*Norwell*

Sam Chapin/*Plymouth*

Lisa Fortune Creeden/*Middleboro*

Scott Ford/*Brockton*

Michael J. Hanlon/*Plymouth*

Gary Langenbach/*Kingston*

Jean Loewenberg/*Plymouth*

Virginia Murray/*Plymouth*

Wayne R. Petersen/*Hanson*

Molly Fannon Williams/*B'water*

SPECIAL COUNSEL

Michael Nuesse/*Hull*

Staff

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Karen H. Grey

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Gabriela Silva, Ph.D.

DIRECTOR OF LAND PROTECTION

Scott MacFaden

MEMBERSHIP MANAGER

Debbie D'Isabel

GIS & WEBSITE CONTENT MANAGER

Marilyn Levandoski

OFFICE MANAGER

Karyn Lord

ACCOUNTING

Lisa Burch

COMMUNITY GARDEN MANAGER

Elaine Pollack

AMERICORPS MEMBERS

Mike Cerasaro

Moire Loftus

Allegra Wrocklage

Administrative offices are at
165 West Street, Duxbury, MA.

FOR INFORMATION about membership or the benefits of conveying land or conservation restrictions (agricultural included) to the Trust, call or write:

Wildlands Trust
PO Box 2282
Duxbury, MA 02331

(781) 934-9018 Phone
(781) 934-8110 Fax
info@wildlandstrust.org

www.wildlandstrust.org



Hanson to Acquire 115 Acres in Important Headwaters Area

Drinking water protection, extension of a wildlife management area, and an extensive corridor on the Shumatuscacant River are just a few of the conservation values of the Stone property.



The Stone property is outlined in white. Hatched area shows nearby municipal open space.

In late December, the Town of Hanson received some very good news: it qualified for a “LAND” Grant from the state to assist in the purchase of the 115-acre Stone property situated in Hanson’s southwest corner. The LAND (Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity) grant program, formerly known as the Self-Help Program, is administered by the state’s Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, and provides qualifying communities with funds to be applied to the purchase of land for conservation.

The Stone property possesses a multitude of conservation values that has made it a long-time priority for preservation. It contains an extensive riparian corridor along the Shumatuscacant River, Brett’s Brook, and Poor Meadow Brook, an important Taunton River tributary. This extensive and largely undisturbed riparian area provides habitat for a wide range of wildlife.

The Stone property helps protect Hanson’s water supply. It lies within a Mass. DEP-designated Zone II Water Supply Area, and is partially within a zone of contribution for the town’s Crystal Spring Drinking Water Well located approximately one-quarter mile downstream.

The Property is also closely proximate to multiple town-owned conservation properties, and will serve as the northern anchor of an expanding wildlife corridor in Hanson that extends southerly to the Massachusetts Division of Fish and Game’s 1700-acre Burrage Pond Wildlife Management Area. The town intends to establish a trailhead parking area that will enable access to the Shumatuscacant River, and eventually to Poor Meadow Brook for a range of recreational pursuits, including kayaking and fishing.

Hanson Community Preservation Act monies will provide the balance of the funds needed to complement the LAND Grant award of \$82,880. The town expects to close on the Stone property within the next several months, and will subsequently grant a conservation restriction to the Trust in accordance with Community Preservation Act requirements.

PHIL CLEMONS: CONSERVATION DYNAMO



A lifelong Hansonian whose ancestors settled in the town in the 1700’s, Phil Clemons [left] is a tireless advocate for open space protection in Hanson and beyond. Working closely with the Trust as Hanson’s Open Space Committee Chairman, Phil was instrumental in getting the LAND grant for the Stone property. He notes that “The Stone acquisition will help balance necessary development with the green infrastructure needed in order to sustain our high quality of life.” Phil has worked with the Trust on other projects and is an active member of the Bay Circuit Trail Alliance. Congratulations to Hanson for receiving the LAND grant, and to Phil in particular for his outstanding work on behalf of open space protection.

You Asked For It And Wildlands Trust Is Delivering

Survey results told us that the Trust's trails are important to you. A new comprehensive trails management plan is well underway.



We've always known that you, our members, value our trails. But the results of the recent online Communications Survey conducted by Wildlands Trust underscored the importance you place on our management and improvement of those trails. Mike Cerasaro, AmeriCorps MassLIFT Land Stewardship Coordinator, has taken the lead in developing a Comprehensive Trails Management Plan.

Mike, who graduated with a degree in Natural Resource Management and Policy from Paul Smith's College, joined the Trust in September, 2013. He's accomplished a lot in that short amount of time. By visiting preserves to study their ever-changing landscapes and differing types of usage, Mike has developed a trail management plan to fit the properties he has studied. The scope of the plan can be summed up with these three goals he has for our visitors:

DON'T GET LOST. Current GPS mapping is being done at our preserves to identify boundaries, install consistent trail markers, and develop new signage at trail junctions with directions and mileage to connecting trails and parking areas.

LEARN SOMETHING NEW. Information will be added to our kiosks and interpretive trail guides will be developed for selected preserves, providing background on the cultural and natural history of the properties.

WANT TO COME BACK. Improvements are being made to existing trails, and new trails are being designed, to enhance the experience for new and returning visitors.

We need help to fully implement this ambitious new Comprehensive Trails Management Plan. That's where you, our Trailblazers volunteers come in. Check out our website and the monthly E-News for dates and details about Trailblazer events that will be held in the coming months and to find out how to join our Trailblazers stewardship team.

Volunteers aged 16 to 81 participated in four Trailblazer events at the end of 2013—with plenty more to come. Major trail improvements were made at Striar Conservancy in Halifax, Great River Preserve in Bridgewater, Willow Brook Farm Preserve in Pembroke, and Great Neck Conservation Area in Wareham. Visit these preserves to see first-hand the work that Mike and the Trailblazers have done!

To keep current, check out www.wildlandstrust.org regularly and make sure we have your email address to receive monthly E-news updates.



SAVE THE DATE: 4th ANNUAL RUN FOR CONSERVATION

June 28, 2014
Myles Standish State Forest
Plymouth, MA

Show your support for land conservation in our region, while meeting like-minded people, and having fun—all at the same time. The event features a special barefoot division (Vibram FiveFingers allowed) and a pre- and post-run Eco-fair. Proceeds support land conservation in southeastern Massachusetts.

For information on individual and team registration, visit www.wildlandstrust.org



AmeriCorps Helps Trust Forge Important Partnerships

Joining hands with other towns helps bring synergy to the region's conservation efforts and multiplies our capacities.

In the interest of promoting our conservation and outreach goals across our service area in southeastern Massachusetts, Wildlands Trust seeks to form partnerships with towns and organizations that are also committed to land conservation. These partnerships are crucial to increasing the capacity of Wildlands Trust to facilitate larger scale land conservation initiatives in the region.

Allegra Wrocklage, the AmeriCorps Regional Conservation Coordinator at Wildlands Trust, is working closely with the Norwell Conservation Agent, Nancy Hemingway, to survey the open space lands that are owned by the Town of Norwell, and determine which are of high conservation importance and need further protection. The Wildlands Trust is looking forward to working with Norwell to protect the properties that are identified, adding to the portfolio of protected open space in the town that already includes exceptional preserves like Wompatuck State Park and The Nature Conservancy's Black Pond Bog Nature Preserve. Wildlands Trust is excited to form this partnership with Norwell, a town that has already made great strides in land conservation, thereby increasing local capacity to conserve valuable open space and natural resources in the town and region.

Allegra is also assisting several town Open Space Committees as part of her service term to increase their volunteer capacity and give technical assistance. She is working with the Open Space Committee in Plympton to GPS a trail on a town property, to help them create trail maps in anticipation of opening the preserve to the public. In Middleborough, Allegra is working with the town's Conservation Agent, Patricia Cassidy, to recruit volunteers to help monitor and survey town trails, and to provide expertise and assistance on the town's update of their Open Space and Recreation Plan. Allegra is also looking forward to working with the committee in Dighton on their Open Space and Recreation Plan revision this spring. By working with Open Space Committees throughout the region as a part of her AmeriCorps service, Allegra is helping Wildlands Trust build and enhance relationships with towns that are not only interested in land conservation but also in working with the Trust on future projects.

DAVIS-DOUGLAS FARM RESTORATION WELL ON ITS WAY

Work is well underway at Davis-Douglas Farm, the site of the new home of Wildlands Trust on Long Pond Road in Plymouth. The farmhouse is being restored for our staff offices and the foundation has been poured for the new Conservation Hall, which will allow us to host meetings and programs related to our land conservation mission.



We are closing in on our fundraising gap but we still need another \$250,000 to complete Phase II of this project. If you are able to help us in any way, please contact Karen Grey at 781.934.9018. We can't do it without your support!

DRAWING WITH BOTANICAL ARTIST TRICIA CASSADY



Saturday

April 26, 2014

Location: TBD

Local botanical artist Tricia Cassady, President of the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators—New England Chapter, will be leading another workshop for the Trust. Meet us at one of our favorite preserves and learn to create beautiful sketches inspired by nature.

For more information, visit www.wildlandstrust.org, and [www.facebook.com/Wildlands Trust](http://www.facebook.com/WildlandsTrust).

Balancing Hunting with Other Recreational Pursuits...

—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Why does a perfectly legal (within certain parameters), traditional, and for some, cherished pursuit often prove so controversial?

A recent incident at a Trust property in Marshfield may provide some insight. This past October, the Trust became aware of a heated confrontation involving local duck hunters and property neighbors to our Hoyt-Hall Preserve. The police became involved when the incident escalated to threats from both parties. The hunters were claiming that the homeowners interfered with their right to hunt and the neighbors were countering with claims of reckless use of firearms against the hunters.

LAWFUL HUNTING IS ALLOWED ON THESE 4 WILDLANDS TRUST PRESERVES:

Bridgewater: Great River Preserve

Halifax: Barnes Preserve

Halifax: Striar Preserve

Plymouth: South Triangle Pond Preserve

The Boston and South Shore media picked up the story, a number of them visiting the property with film crews and news anchors to document the incident for evening viewers.

Although, cases like this are rare, this particular high profile situation in Marshfield raised questions about hunt-

ing on conservation lands and led to dozens of inquiries about the Trust's position on the matter.

From our inception in 1973 until 2009, Wildlands Trust maintained an outright ban on hunting for a variety of good reasons: the limited scale of properties, the proximity of homes and roadways, and in some cases, deed restrictions prohibiting hunting. However, after much research and deliberation, an ad hoc committee of Wildlands Trust board, staff, and outside advisors concluded that some select

preserves, such as the Great River Preserve in Bridgewater, were large and diverse enough to support legal hunting. In 2009, in cooperation with the Mass. Division of Fish and Game (DFG), Wildlands Trust opened a small number of properties to hunters. (See sidebar on left)

This new approach has thus far worked smoothly. As DFG's Southeast District Manager Jason Zimmer noted, "Generally, the policy the Trust has adopted is consistent with how other larger state-based groups handle hunting, taking it property by property. We are pleased to see the Trust allowing some hunting because any time we can open conservation land to hunting we have the opportunity to better manage the deer herd, which is a growing problem in southeastern Massachusetts."

According to Zimmer, there are hundreds of car accidents on the South Shore each year involving deer, as well as a rapidly growing population of residents infected with Lyme disease.

As the pressure on our open spaces increases, various user groups will continue to insist that their favorite activities receive preference. One of the perennial challenges faced by public and private land managers is balancing the demands that the various constituencies place on our open space lands. Hunting continues to be controversial, can certainly be dangerous if practiced negligently, and is sometimes incompatible with other recreational pursuits. However, it is also a time-honored pursuit that has cultural, historic, and as we continue to learn, ecological and social significance. And as the estimable Wendell Berry notes on the cover, hunting also provides a way of interacting with landscapes that has more in common with "typical" outdoor activities than some of us may want to recognize.

For its part, the Trust will continue to assess its preserve portfolio to determine which properties are suitable for hunting. We will work with all user groups to minimize conflicts, and endeavor to provide a quality experience for all those who use and enjoy our preserves responsibly.

DEER DENSITY

According to the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, the deer population in the state is currently between 85,000 and 95,000 animals.

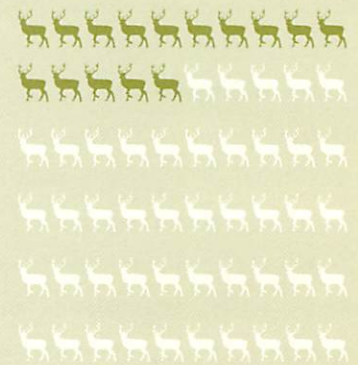
MANAGEABLE DEER DENSITY:
12 to 15 deer / square mile



DENSITY IN SOUTHEASTERN MA:
Approx. 20 deer / square mile



DENSITY ON CAPE & ISLANDS:
40 to 60 deer / square mile



Thank You for Your Contribution

The Trust relies on private philanthropy to fund the work we do to save land throughout the region. You, our supporters, *are* Wildlands Trust. Thank you for your vision and for your dedication to preserving land for future generations.

New Members

A big welcome to the 45 new members who joined the Trust since our last newsletter. We appreciate your support.

In Memory of

CLIFFORD & ELIZABETH BARBER
-Liz & Jim Hester, *Plymouth*

RICHARD C. & JEANNE S. BIRD
-Dorothy & Leighton Price, *Plymouth*

EDWARD DROZDICK
-Henry Drozdick, *Apple Valley, CA*
-Adela Rymut, *Halifax*

CHANDLER GREGG
-Kim Patch, *Topsfield*
-Ronnie Kimball, *Topsfield*

RICHARD GUIDOBONI
-Mark Guidoboni, *Kingston*

RICHARD WARREN HOWE
-Mr. & Mrs. Robert S. Martin,
W. Hartford, CT
-Fisher Howe, *Washington, DC*

HESTER KELLER
-Margaret Chiles, *Philadelphia, PA*

EDITH KEMP
-Barbara Barker-Kemp &
Wallace Kemp, Jr, *Hanover*

HELEN PHILBRICK
-Esther C. Bremer & Linda Hewitt,
Pembroke

BENJAMIN RYMUT
-Helen Drozdick, *Medfield*
-Audrey Neely, *Catonsville, MD*
-Ellen & Bart Orth, *Burlington, IA*
-Lisa Rego, *Portsmouth, RI*
-Adela Rymut, *Halifax*
-Josephine Zysk, *Tacoma, WA*
-Laraine Zysk, *Tacoma, WA*

B. WILSON
-P. Cavanagh & K. Wilson,
E. Falmouth

In Honor of

SAM AND DOTSIE DAVIS
-Pamela Schmidt, *Lakewood, CO*

BEVERLY GOURLEY
-Kristen Draper, *Fort Collins, CO*

JOE GRADY
-Ilene Horvitz, *Duxbury*

MARY HATHAWAY
-George & Martha Mutrie, *Kingston*

HARRY KATZ
-Ilene Horvitz, *Duxbury*

PAT LORING
-Ilene Horvitz, *Duxbury*

SCOTT MACFADEN
-Donald Cann, *Rockland*

HOLLY MORRIS
-Ilene Horvitz, *Duxbury*

MARY HEATH WINSLOW
-Elizabeth Nordell, *Duluth, MN*

MEET A MEMBER



MEET TRUST MEMBER SKYE STANTON

When fifteen year old Skye Stanton turned nine, instead of having his birthday party at the typical movie theatre or indoor soccer stadium, he decided to invite his friends to his favorite place: Willow Brook Farm Preserve in Pembroke. Every birthday since, he has invited a few friends to join him there. They run down the trails to a picnic spot set up with apple cider and homemade cinnamon doughnuts. The kids play Frisbee, capture the flag, and climb the observation tower. Skye has been exploring Willowbrook since he was a toddler and knows the preserve well. He is currently a sophomore at Rising Tide Charter School in Plymouth and plans to study music in college.



THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN OUR ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS SURVEY IN NOVEMBER.

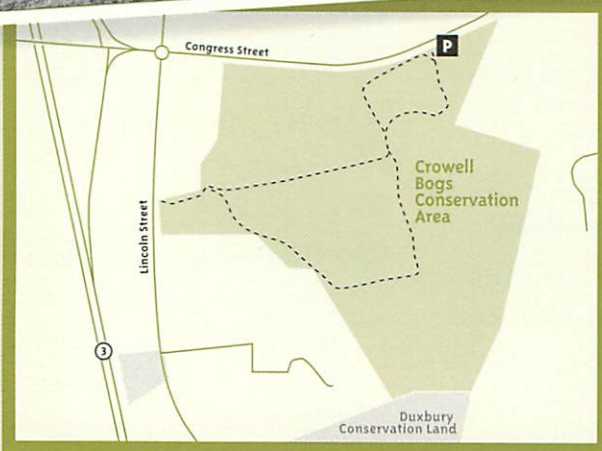
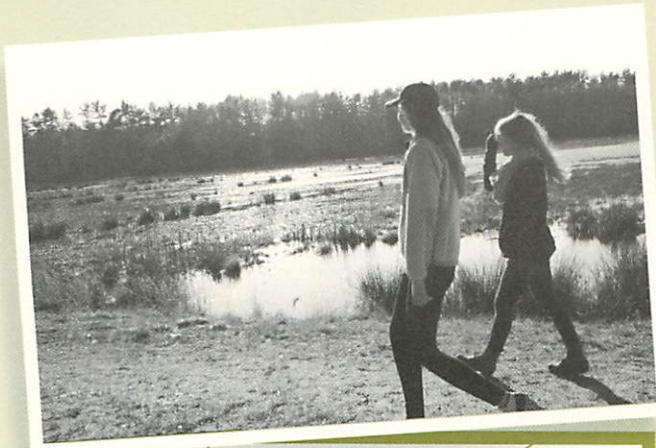
We had a very positive response about Wildlands Trust communications efforts and received some great suggestions and comments. We learned that you would like to hear more about trails and hikes in our communications with you. Look for our new regular feature called "staff picks" in our newsletter where Wildlands Trust staff will share their favorite local trails. Our printed newsletter received high marks overall and while most of you would like to continue to receive a paper copy in the mail, there are some who prefer an email-only version. If you would like to discontinue receiving a paper newsletter in the mail, email Debbie D'Isabel at ddisabel@wildlandstrust.org with your current mailing address. To see the comprehensive results of the survey, please visit our website.



PROPERTY SPOTLIGHT

STAFF PICK: CROWELL BOGS / 43 Acres, Duxbury, MA

MassLIFT AmeriCorps volunteers Moire Loftus and Allegra Wrocklage share what they like about their favorite preserve.



We like to visit Crowell Bogs not only because of its convenient location but because it offers scenic beauty with ease of access. Strolling around the preserve offers great views of historical cranberry bogs and surrounding forests. It's also a great opportunity to enjoy the sunshine in a wide open area (if the weather is nice!). We've been excited to see great wildlife on our visits, including Great Blue Herons, wading ducks, and other water fowl. For many people it's the first thing you notice upon entering Duxbury from Route 3 which is why we think it's a great introduction to a beautiful town and a community that values open space.

The main trail is a large loop that circles the two bogs, which can be seen from Congress Street. The trail around the bogs is flat and easy to walk, taking only 10-15 minutes to complete. The trail is also wide and open, ideal for jogging or dog walking. The Town of Duxbury acquired this property using CPA funds while Wildlands Trust holds a conservation restriction on the 43 acres, ensuring it will

be protected for years to come. Next time you're driving by Duxbury, take a quick stop at Crowell Bogs to appreciate some of the natural beauty of Southeastern Massachusetts!

Directions: Take Route 3 to Exit 11. Continue east on route 14, go straight through the traffic circle to remain on 14. Parking lot and trailhead are located on the right.