

HOPKINTON AREA LAND TRUST INC.

NEWSLETTER



Volume XXXI, Fall

September, 2009

A Word from the President *David Goldman*

Fall is one of the most beautiful and colorful times of the year in New England. A wonderful time to come out and enjoy the outdoors without the humidity, without the mosquito's and other flying pests. A good time to enjoy a walk in the woods on a trail created by a coalition of the town's organizations. On September 13th the Center Trail was dedicated and reopened for the enjoyment of all. The organizations that contributed to this effort are the Open Space Preservation Commission, the Trails Club, the Community Preservation Commission, the Hopkinton Area Land Trust, and many others. The entrance to the trail is on Main Street (south side) opposite Lumbertown. The trail is about a mile long and passes through the Middle/High School and Hopkins school areas and ends on Chamberlain Street.

The Trust, along with the Friends of Whitehall (FoW) is working with a boy scout who is seeking his eagle badge. He has proposed to clean up the trails in the Whitehall Conservation Area, create some new trails, mark the trails, and provide some needed structures along Piazza Lane to discourage the entry of motorized vehicles onto the Conservation Restricted, Whitehall Conservation Area. This work will be undertaken in October and be completed in November. The Whitehall Conservation Area is, perhaps, one of the most beautiful areas set aside for outdoor enjoyment in Hopkinton. The trails are wide and the species of flora are plentiful. The terrain is gentle and the walking is easy. There is parking for several autos at the entrance between 273 and 279 Wood Street on the south side. Please come and enjoy the Conservation Area.

A friend of mine compares land protection to the leaves changing colors in the fall. He had read an article describing the intricate series of steps necessary to transform green foliage into the wonderfully warm palette that brightens our Octobers, before individual leaves detach and fall. He says that when you see brilliantly colored leaves on the ground, the process looks simple, smooth, and inevitable, but when you know what it really takes to make it happen, you have much more appreciation. This analogy makes me think of all the effort that went into several projects and the Eagle Farms project in particular. It took nine years to bring this project to fruition but, now it is a reality. Soon, the Trust will begin trail work in this property, in the northeast section of town.

As always, I must come to you with hat in hand, and plead for your support. We all suffering from the tough economic times, but if you think about it, the Trusts' open spaces in town provides some very real benefits to each of you. First, it provides open space land that is always open to you and your family for your fun and enjoyment (free of any charges). Second, by maintaining the open spaces, the Trust is helping to preserve and increase the value of your property in Hopkinton. With close to 700 acres of open space land in Trust ownership or under Conservation Restriction, **the Trust provides for the preservation of that rural character that we all say we want in Hopkinton. So please help support the Trust so that we can continue to provide this value to you, the residents.** Thanks for the time you spent reading my letter and please enjoy the fall season.

Very truly: *David Goldman*, President

PO BOX 56, WOODVILLE MA 01784

HOPKINTON AREA LAND TRUST INC.

Farmer's Almanac Weather Predictions for This Winter

The venerable almanac's 2010 edition, which went on sale September 1, says numbing cold will predominate in the country's midsection, from the Rocky Mountains in the West to the Appalachians in the East. Managing Editor Sandi Duncan says it's going to be an "ice cold sandwich."

"We feel the middle part of the country's really going to be cold — very, very cold, very, very frigid, with a lot of snow," she said. "On the East and West coasts, it's going to be a little milder. Not to say it's going to be a mild short winter, but it'll be milder compared to the middle of the country."

The almanac, which has been published since 1818, issues annual forecasts using a formula based on sunspots, planetary positions and the effects of the moon.

This winter, the 200-page publication says it'll be cool and snowy in the Northeast, bitterly cold and dry in the Great Lakes states, and cold and snowy across the North Central states.

The almanac's forecast, however, is at odds with the National Weather Service, which is calling for warmer-than-normal temperatures across much of the country because of an El Niño system in the tropical Pacific Ocean, said Mike Halpert, deputy director of the NOAA Climate Prediction Center in Camp Springs, Md.

"The stronger El Niño becomes the more confident and the more likely it will be the northern part of the country will have a milder-than-average winter," Halpert said.

The almanac and the Weather Service agree on their predictions of warmer-than-usual conditions across much of the country next summer.

From Mother Nature Network web site

Massachusetts Forests: A Wilderness Rebounds

From the windswept coastal forests of southeastern Massachusetts to the vast rolling wilderness of the Berkshires, our way of life is tied to our forests. Massachusetts forests provide an estimated **\$2.9 billion per year in life-essential services** — filtering our air and water and absorbing carbon from our atmosphere.

But these temperate broadleaf woodlands are not only important here in Massachusetts: they are among the least protected habitat types on Earth.

New Pressures, New Strategies

Massachusetts forests have experienced a remarkable comeback. Just 150 years after being cleared for pasture and farm fields, they have recovered to more than **3 million acres**. But these forests now face threats that could be more permanent — and more devastating — than anything they've had to face in the past.

The Nature Conservancy's plan is to conserve a network of forested landscapes that is strong enough to withstand the impacts of climate change, the spread of invasive species and the pressures of sprawling development. To do so, we must work closely with state agencies, other non-profits and land trusts to **accelerate land protection that expands and connects Massachusetts' sustainable working forests and ecological reserves**. We must also ensure that conservation here is linked to conservation beyond our borders.

Preserving Our Link in the Chain

It is said that in the 1500's, a squirrel in Maine could hop its way to Florida on tree tops alone. Today, that same squirrel would be lucky to make it to the county line. Over the past 500 years, human development along the Eastern seaboard has disrupted the integrity of **the vast green highway we call the Appalachians**.

The challenge we face today is to identify how — and where — to piece together the remaining forest blocks for the greatest results. **That's where Massachusetts comes**

HOPKINTON AREA LAND TRUST INC.

in. When the Conservancy identified more than 100 intact forest blocks from southern Maine through northern Virginia, they found more than 20 of the most connected blocks in Massachusetts.

To strengthen these links, the Conservancy is working with the University of Massachusetts to create a computer model that shows where **connections should be preserved or restored**. When complete, the model's maps and scenario-testing software will inform land protection, road design and the building of structures to accommodate wildlife and key ecological processes like river flow.

Keeping Woodlands Wild – and Working

Forests are much more than tree cover. Securing large “core” areas, or reserves, where the forest is fully protected and managed only by nature helps maintain habitat for forest species from salamanders to songbirds. Large, intact forests with a range of tree ages and species can also better withstand disturbances like storms, invasive species and insect pests and forest diseases.

But to accommodate natural processes and allow wide-ranging species like black bears and bobcats to move between habitats, forest cores must be surrounded by larger swaths of protected lands. This is where **forestry — done carefully and sustainably — can work hand in glove with conservation**, providing landowners with a sustainable income that in turn provides a disincentive for clearing and developing forest lands.

To this end, the Conservancy is working with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and other partners to help the state maintain green certification on its lands, enhance community outreach and implement incentives that will help landowners keep their lands forested. The ultimate goal of all of these strategies is to **protect nine large forest reserves and surround them with more than a million acres of sustainably-managed working forests**.

A Future for Our Forests

Regaining our forests only to lose them again is a painful possibility. But The Nature Conservancy is committed to achieving a different future in Massachusetts. We envision

thousands of acres rolling over green hills, through pristine wetlands, down into valleys and up mountain slopes. We envision **stable forest economies** where a healthy balance between forestry, tourism and recreation helps ensure the future of our forests.

Putting this plan into action now will help our forests weather the changes ahead and ensure that they continue to support **a magnificent network of life** — both human and wild.

From The Nature Conservancy web site

2008 Land Protection Report Summary

In 2008, the state expended \$54.9 million on 223 conservation projects that protected 13,819 acres through a combination of grants, fee purchase, and conservation and agricultural preservation restrictions. An additional 10,285 acres were preserved through 248 approved conservation restrictions approved by EEA Secretary Ian Bowles, the greatest number approved since the conservation restriction program began in 1967.

2008 Acres Preserved

Via Expenditure: 13,819

Via Restrictions: 10,285

TOTAL: 24,104



Asian Longhorn Beetle

It was just over a year ago that the Asian Longhorn Beetle (ALB) was first reported by Worcester resident Donna Massie. Since that time, local, state, and federal entities have joined together to fight the infestation of an invasive pest that has caused negative impact to the City of Worcester and placed the Commonwealth as well as the entire Northeastern United States on high alert.

The Asian Longhorn Beetle is an invasive species native to China. It was first discovered in the U.S. in New York in 1996, and has also been found in Chicago and New Jersey. The beetles cause damage by tunneling within the trunks and branches of trees, disrupting the sap flow and weakening and eventually killing them. This pest attacks a

HOPKINTON AREA LAND TRUST INC.

Receive HALT Newsletter Electronically

wide variety of hardwood trees, particularly maples, and is considered a serious threat to the nursery, lumber, wood products, maple syrup, and tourism industries in our state. If it became established over a large area, it could also significantly disrupt the forest ecosystem.

Host plants:

The following tree species are considered to be good hosts for the Asian Longhorn Beetle:

Common Name	Genus
Maple	<i>Acer</i>
Horsechestnut	<i>Aesculus</i>
Birch	<i>Betula</i>
Plane-tree	<i>Platanus</i>
Poplar	<i>Populus</i>
Willow	<i>Salix</i>
Elm	<i>Ulmus</i>

Key ID Features:

- The Asian longhorned beetle is 0.75" - 1.5" long with antennae that are 1 to 2 times its body length.
- Adults are shiny black with irregular white spots. (Figures 1, 2)
- Antennae have alternating black and white bands.
- Feet and antennae may have a bluish tinge.
- Adults are active from early summer through mid-fall.
- Adult females dig bowl-shaped holes in the bark, typically about 1/2 inch (15mm) in diameter, to bury their eggs in. These "oviposition pits" often appear orange in color.
- Larvae can grow to be 2.4 inches long (60mm), with many-segmented, off-white bodies and brown mouthparts. They burrow beneath the bark and are rarely seen. (Figure 6)
- "Frass" or sawdust/wood shavings may be apparent around the base of infested trees. Severely impacted tree may have exposed wood where larval feeding galleries (tunneling) is visible.

From Massachusetts Introduced Pests Outreach Program web site

If you want to receive our newsletter electronically or be kept informed of special events sponsored by the Trust, please send an email to: HALT@hoplandtrust.org

You can take an important step for your community: Offer your leadership, political support, and charitable gifts to a land trust. Better yet, consider donating a conservation easement on your land. It is an investment in the future that offers attractive tax benefits and the satisfaction that the land you love will be protected forever.

APPLICATION AS a FRIEND OF HALT

Individual Friend \$15 _____
Senior Friend \$10 _____
Family Friend \$25 _____
Associate Friend \$50 _____
Supporting Friend \$100 _____
Sustaining Friend \$300 _____
Corporate Friend \$500+ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

All contributions to HALT are deductible for income tax purposes.

Make checks payable to:

HOPKINTON AREA LAND TRUST, Inc.

Mail to:

Hopkinton Area Land Trust, Inc.

PO Box 56

Woodville, MA 01784

Email us at: HALT@hoplandtrust.org



Printed on recycled paper

PO BOX 56, WOODVILLE MA 01784