

HOPKINTON AREA LAND TRUST INC.

NEWSLETTER



Volume XLIX, Spring/Summer

April 2018

A Word from the President - David Goldman

Hopefully, most of you are aware that the Trust was deeded **8.2 acres of the Ora Cheney property at 22 School Street late on December 2017**. As such, the Trust is reaching for a goal of 1280 acres protected as either land owned by the trust or land protected by a Conservation Restriction. At the present time, the Trust has well over 1000 acres protected.

If you came to our annual meeting in September, you are already aware that you are a member of the Hopkinton Area Land Trust's "1000 Club." You probably don't remember joining. It's okay, because there was no formal sign-up. You became a member of this exclusive club, as either a member or a person who has made a donation to the Trust, because you are responsible for helping the Trust preserve 1000 acres of open space within our Town.

You are special! The environment is important to you. You have helped preserve the rural character of our Town, providing space for us to breathe, and habitat for untold flora and fauna.

I'm sure every animal in that open space, although not aware that it was you, is aware of the respite you have provided, aware of the opportunity to live and thrive and raise a family. And the flora? Why I can practically see the goldenrod, bayberry, blueberry, asters and milkweed moving in the wind with a silent nod in your direction.

So take a second. Reach your arm, either left or right (or both if you are flexible) over your shoulder and pat yourself on the back. Good Job. You are members of the 1000 Club and we think that is pretty amazing.

Oh, by the way, you are also members of the "Square Mile Club." Yup we have preserved 640 acres (and more) or one square mile together in a town of roughly 28 square miles. And, when we reach 1280 acres, with your help, you will be a member of the "Two Square Mile Club"

It does seem we continue to ask Mother Earth to hold on, to hang in there. We think we need to take just a little bit more. And we promise that someday we'll start to preserve, we'll start to care.

Someday we promise, we'll be there for you. We know you're important, but somehow, life gets in the way. We've built an infrastructure that, for the most part, helps us thrive as human beings in our town. We have grocery stores and pharmacies and restaurants. We have highways, and byways and parking lots galore. We continue to ask for just a little bit more, and Mother Earth continues to give.

We respect that we have infrastructure needs as human being, and we couldn't live well without much of what we have created. We need it. However, the reason we fell in love with Hopkinton was not for the infrastructure, but for the lakes, and their beaches, the warm summer nights, the wildlife, and all that green – the woods, the state parks- a place to breathe, to be at peace.

We in the environmental community are sometimes criticized as being over-zealous in our pursuit of all things wild. We have been criticized for "crying wolf." After all, there's still so much the earth has left to give. Well, in the words of Joni Mitchell's song, "You don't know what you've got till it's gone."

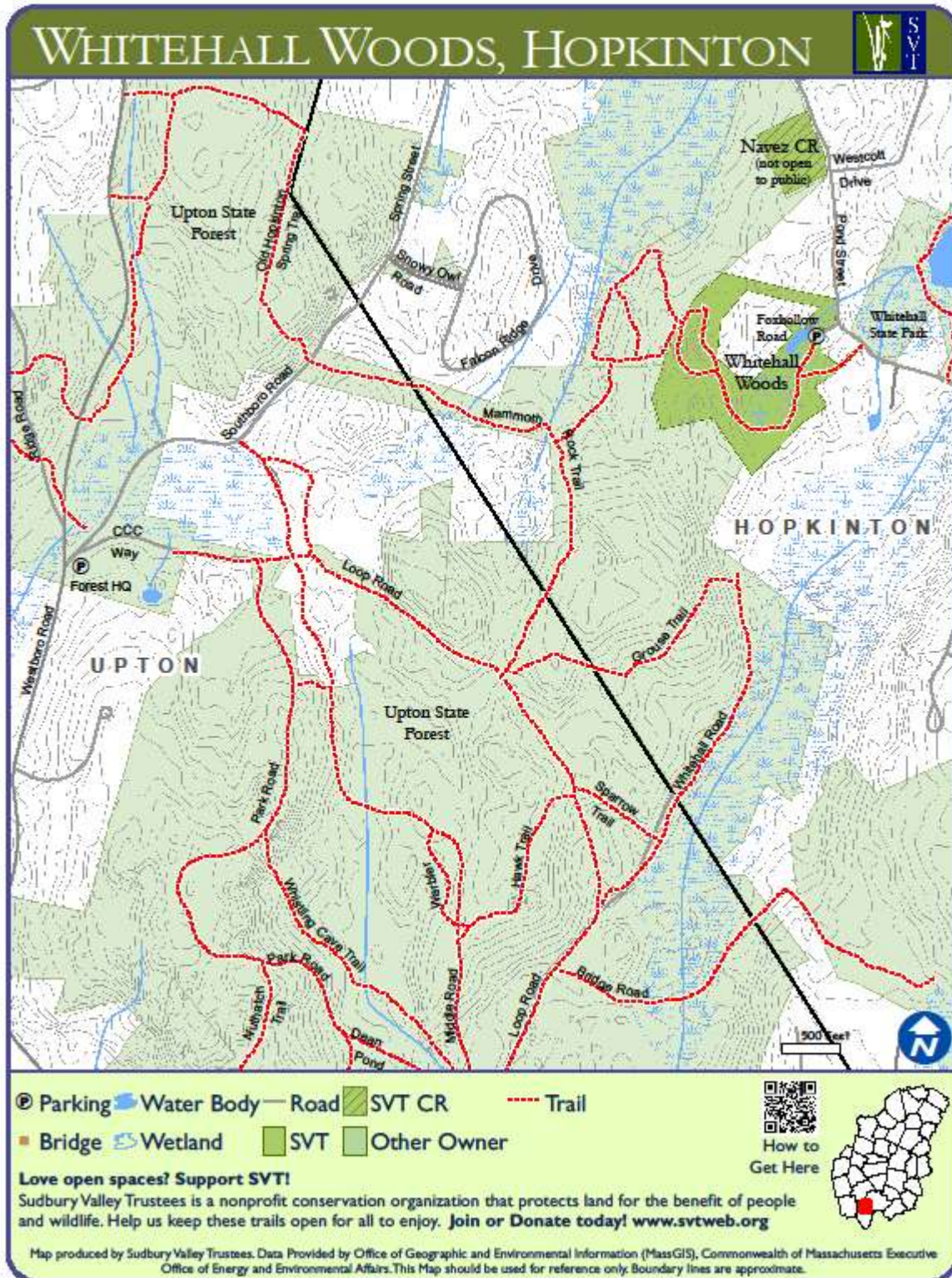
So we keep coming to you. We will ask you for your support and your advocacy. We will never stop asking, and we hope you will never stop giving. It would be an awful legacy if all that we leave to those who follow us is a place that used to be "special."

Very truly: *David Goldman*, President

**Adapted from the Dennis Conservation Trust's presidents letter.*

PO BOX 56, WOODVILLE MA 01784

HOPKINTON AREA LAND TRUST INC.



Whitehall Woods parking is on Foxhollow Road, which is off of Pond Street.

PO BOX 56, WOODVILLE MA 01784

HOPKINTON AREA LAND TRUST INC.

LAKE MASSPENOCK

By Jeff Furber

This is the continuing article on the three lakes that the residents in Hopkinton have available to them. The first was Lake Whitehall and in this installment we will discuss Lake Maspenock.

Lake Maspenock, also known as North Pond, is a Great Pond and is approximately 270 acres and almost two miles in length. The lake is located just off of West Main St. at the base of Bare Hill. The recreational use on the lake is great, as there is a public beach and a public boat ramp. There are restrictions placed on the beach and boat ramp from Memorial Day to Labor Day as it is for resident use only. Fishing, water skiing, swimming and boating of all kinds are very popular summer activities.

The waters of Lake Maspenock form the headwaters of the Mill River. The name Maspenock comes from the Algonquin native American word meaning "The Waters at the Base of the Great Hill" and flows in the Blackstone River and then into the Woonsocket, R.I. area.

Fishing is a very popular activity and the lake supports largemouth and smallmouth bass, chain pickerel, bluegills, calico bass and perch and catfish. Water depth at the West Main St. end of the lake, is often less than eight feet and caution should be used while boating, as there are a great deal of rocks many of which are not marked. For the first time boater to the lake, caution should be used

Traveling south towards the dam the water depth is often more than eighteen feet and the town has a very popular public beach midway down the lake called Sandy Beach. The towns Parks and Recreation charge a fee during the summer months to use the beach and boat ramp. Unlike the other lakes in town, Lake Maspenock is owned by the town of Hopkinton and many private residences line the shores of the lake. Boating is very popular activity during the summer months and most residences have docks and pleasure boats.

Both Milford and Upton abut the lake and there are a few hiking trails on the western side of the lake and more planned in the future.

In summing up, Lake Maspenock is a popular venue for recreational activities and can be very busy during peak hours during the summer.

PART II: NEW SERIES FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Readers of this newsletter may have noticed that HALT has often named its trails and properties after a particular person or family. Hopkinton residents may be interested in learning more about these particular persons or family, and why HALT would have named a trail or property for them. This series will discuss some of these people or families in upcoming issues.

II. Karl Mighton Trail

This trail runs between North Mill Street and East Street. With a loop trail in the middle, it is possible to enter and end your walk at the same trailhead with a minimum of overlap. Passage is very easy since most of the trail is through open, quiet uplands, with a few bridged stream crossings. This trail is very family-friendly. There is also an established geocache on this trail.

Karl Mighton, who died unexpectedly in May of 2005, had been a resident of Woodville for 34 years. He loved the community in Woodville, its people, history, and environment. He was adamant about protecting the waters of Lake Whitehall and its environs, and was instrumental in the founding of the non-profit Friends of Whitehall.

A charming personality, he was friendly and out-going at all times. Quick with a smile and an offer to help out with whatever needed to be done, he was a man of many interests, especially fishing. The only waters of greater interest to him than those of Lake Whitehall were the waters on the beaches of Nantucket, where he and his wife had a summer home. After all, there were no stripers in Lake Whitehall!

A short time after Karl's death, the Friends of Whitehall, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, dedicated a granite bench to Karl that sits near the historic gatehouse on Lake Whitehall.

HOPKINTON AREA LAND TRUST INC.

The inscription reads "Karl Mighton (1941 - 2005) Friend of Whitehall".

From the brochure given out at the dedication of this bench, here is a quote about Karl:

Karl was zealous about life. He approached everything with a spirit of adventure that made many of us quake... He loved politics, baseball, fishing, reading, cooking, gardening, football, history and an endless list of other things. But most of all he loved people. He made friends wherever he went and he loved to help people. The thing he liked most was to connect people together and many of you here today have friendships that are the result of his "connecting".

Karl once referred to Lake Whitehall as Hopkinton's "Walden Pond and Chapel in the Pines." He would have loved walking this trail!

BIRDS KEEPING WARM

Excerpts from "Naturally Curious with Mary Holland," January 3, 2018

Birds utilize a number of behavioral adaptations that afford them some protection from frigid air such as we have been experiencing lately. They include sunning (turning their backs to the sun, exposing the largest surface of their bodies to the heat), shivering, tucking (placing one foot up inside feathers while standing on other leg, or squatting to cover both legs and feet with feathers; tucking their bill into their shoulder feathers and breathing air warmed by their body), roosting together in small groups (often in a small cavity, so as to conserve heat) and, most obvious of all, fluffing themselves up (creating air pockets that are warmed by body heat).

While feathers serve many purposes, from helping to attract a mate to providing camouflage, one of the most important jobs they have in winter is to keep a bird warm and dry. A bird's body heat (the average bird's body temperature is 105 degrees Fahrenheit), warms the air between its feathers. Birds fluff up in the cold to trap as much air in their feathers as possible, as the more trapped air, the warmer the bird. They can appear two or three times larger than they appear on a 32 degree day. This insulation is effective because it also is a barrier to water. The oil that birds apply to their feathers when they preen serves to waterproof the feathers.

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.

Become a Member of HALT

Family	\$30 _____
Sentinel	\$50 _____
Centurion	\$100 _____
Steward	\$250 _____
Protector	\$500 _____
Conservator	\$1,000 _____
President's Circle	\$1,000+ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

Email Address _____

All contributions to HALT are deductible for income tax purposes.

Mail to:
Hopkinton Area Land Trust, Inc.
PO Box 56
Woodville, MA 01784
508-435-6578

Or email: info@hopkintonarealandtrust.org

Choose your membership level now at:
www.hopkintonarealandtrust.org



Printed on recycled paper

PO BOX 56, WOODVILLE MA 01784