

HOPKINTON AREA LAND TRUST INC.

NEWSLETTER



Volume XXXVII, SPRING

May/June 2017

A Word from the President

David Goldman

It has been a busy few months since our last newsletter, Where shall I begin. The Trust submitted two grant proposals to the Community Preservation Committee for funding. The first was to restore/replace three bridges in the Cameron Woods Conservation Area; the second grant proposal was to place granite, stone benches along Center Trail. On May 1st the town meeting approved both the proposals and after July 1st the trust will begin to satisfy the requirements for the grants. **As such the Trust will be looking for either one or two Life Scouts that are looking for an Eagle project to help construct the three wooden bridges.**

During the past few months, the town has requested the Trust prepare four Conservation Restrictions (CR) for the following properties: an addition to the Terry/High School/Center Trail (add the 1st 1200 feet of the trail to the current CR and add an additional 4-acre parcel with the Weltzel Trail); the Wyckoff properties including the Echo Trail; a property on East Main Street; and finally the Hughes and surrounding 11 open space properties that encompass over 80 acres. These CRs are in preparation and will take some time to be completed, but the Trust will report the progress as they near completion.

As most of you are aware, the Trust and the Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT) have been working on the 203 Pond Street property, now named **Whitehall Woods**. The Trust received the recorded CR early last fall and SVT received the recorded deed shortly thereafter. Since then, the property and the trails that connect the States Lake Whitehall Conservation Area to the Upton State Forest have been cleared and are ready for use. SVT will lead a "Weekday Walk at Whitehall Woods" on June 22, 2017, 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM (see page 4 for details). In addition, there will be a Grand Opening at the **Whitehall Woods** parking area on June 3rd at 4 PM (see page 2).

The Trust is now hosting four Eagle Projects. **Dante Sivo** is working on the Betty Fitzpatrick Memorial Trail off of Wedgewood Drive near Cedar Street Extension; **Dan Bradbury** is working on the Judith Wiley Memorial Trail; **Cam Allen** is working on the Amy & Rolf Andersen Memorial Trail off of Deer Run/Cross Steeet; **Gabe Lopez** is working on the Karl Memorial Trail off of North Mill Street; **and finally the Trust would like to congratulate Andy Pallieko who was awarded his Eagle badge in March at a Court of Honor.**

The Trust is extremely active in obtaining new open space and maintaining these open spaces in Hopkinton. The Trust is helping to preserve, protect and increase the value of your property and maintain the rural character of the town. **We have over 1000 acres of open space land in the Trusts ownership or under Conservation Restrictions**, which provides for the preservation of that rural character we all want in Hopkinton. We are at the beginning of the great New England summer season and the beginning of spending time in the outdoors. If you enjoy the use of the open spaces, please remember to **help support the Trust, by becoming a member or by making a tax deductible donation**, so that we can continue to provide this value to you the residents. So have some fun, get outdoors and enjoy nature's wonders. Find a geo-cache, take a walk in the Trust's properties, **welcome home**. The Trust values your kind and generous support. Won't you kindly make a donation today!

Very truly: *David Goldman*, President

PO BOX 56, WOODVILLE MA 01784

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SIGNS of SPRING

Most people can't wait for spring to arrive, and backyard bird watchers seem especially eager for the earth, spinning on its invisible axis, to lean closer to the sun. This subtle planetary shift creates warmer weather for those of us in the northern hemisphere. Warmer weather brings us many of our favorite things: birds, flowers, butterflies, and best of all, an end to being cooped up inside the house during bitter cold winter days. Here are sure signs of Spring.

Songbird songs. The first species that I noticed tuning up this year was a tufted titmouse singing Peter, Peter, Peter in on a sunny Sunday afternoon in late January. Since then I've heard house and purple finches, white-breasted nuthatches, song sparrows, and northern cardinals.

Woodpeckers drumming. Woodpeckers use drumming both as a territorial announcement and as a part of spring courtship. Some suburban woodpeckers have discovered the great resonance of chimney flues and drainpipes, much to the dismay of slumbering human homeowners. Among our drummers are pileated, red-bellied, hairy, and downy woodpeckers, and northern flicker.

Owls hooting. Our evenings are punctuated with hoots from great horned and barred owls. Spend an hour outside right at dusk, listening quietly, and you might tune into a little night music.

Tree and flower buds. Our water maples and red maples are the first trees to show signs of budding. Soon, leafless branches will offer a reddish glow—the effect created by the thousands of growing red buds at the end of every twig. Soon every living tree in our woods will be about to burst into leaf.

Peepers. One night soon I'll be making my way from the garage to our front door and I'll hear that high-lonesome sound of spring. No it's not a Bill Monroe bluegrass ballad, it's the evening chorus of spring peepers—those tiny cold-hardy amphibians that sing from every wet patch of ground in the woods. Peepers start vocalizing so early in spring they might be more accurately called late-winter peepers. Hearing them lets us know that the ground is thawing and the springs are starting to flow.

That spring smell. I love to inhale the earthy spring smell that the land produces in late February and early March.

It's equal parts rain and soil, grass and ozone, creating a perfume that no amount of chemical wizardry can replicate. The kids often catch me standing in the front yard at dusk, nose pointed skyward, eyes closed, breathing deeply. It's heaven.



WHITEHALL WOODS RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

Saturday, June 3

4:00 PM

SVT's Whitehall Woods

Reservation

203 Pond Street, Hopkinton, MA

01748

Join us as we celebrate the official opening of SVT's newest reservation with those who helped us conserve the land!



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DEER RUN

This is a hidden treasure that is accessible by following Cross Street north into Ashland and bear left when you see a Cross/High Street sign. About ½ mile along Cross Street, you arrive at Fawn Ridge Road. Follow Fawn Ridge to the circle and look for the trail entrances to the north and south. The Deer Run property and trail are a quiet sylvan glade that abuts the Liberty Mutual property (some side trails into the property are available) and the old Weston Nurseries (now Legacy Farms) property.

There is a geocache on this property and there is also an old chimney/fireplace remains. The trail is circular around the subdivision in that starting at either entrance and following the trail will bring you back to the opposite entrance on the other side of the circle. The trail is about one mile and a beautiful walk any time of the year.

The Deer Run property contains the Amy & Rolf Andersen Memorial Trail, a one mile hiking trail abutting Weston Nurseries property, and passes by an old house foundation. Property size is about 12 acres. This space is a hidden treasure that is accessible from trailhead on circle at end of Fawn Ridge Road off Cross Street. The trail circles around the cul-de-sac and exits on same circle opposite the entrance trailhead. The cache is owned and maintained by Hopkinton Area Land Trust.

Location: Fawn Ridge Road

GPS Coordinates of trailhead: 42°14.940'N, 71°30.003' W

Geocache: GC34X5Y 42°14.870'N 71°29.895'W

Trails: Amy and Rolf Andersen Memorial Trail



Location	Latitude	Longitude
Northwest start	42°14'56.89"N	71°30'0.35"W
Bench	42°14'57.40"N	71°30'5.18"W
Bench	42°14'55.58"N	71°30'7.57"W
Side trail	42°14'54.77"N	71°30'8.65"W
Side trail	42°14'53.11"N	71°30'10.23"W
Side trail	42°14'48.90"N	71°30'0.91"W
Side trail	42°14'52.72"N	71°29'53.99"W
Bench	42°14'53.42"N	71°29'53.38"W
Side trail	42°14'53.87"N	71°29'53.02"W
Bench	42°14'54.81"N	71°29'55.73"W
Southeast entrance	42°14'55.50"N	71°29'57.20"W

RUSTY PATCHED BUMBLE BEE

In his last days as President, Barack Obama added the rusty patched bumblebee to the endangered species list. Although the Trump administration temporarily froze the regulation, on March 21, 2017 the bee was officially added to the endangered species list. It is the first time in history in the continental United States that a bee species is under federal protection.

The bee joins 700 other species on the list, including the Florida panther and the whooping crane. The federal government, using its budget of \$2 billion for endangered species, must not only ensure that it survives, but flourishes. It is also now a federal crime to harm or kill the bees, which were once abundant along the East Coast and through South Dakota and parts of Canada, but has seen its numbers plummet by 87 percent in recent decades, according to experts.

The rusty patched bumblebee is just one of a slew of pollinators that are disappearing across the country. The list of suspected causes for the disappearance are many, including farm pesticides, household herbicides, human development over bee habitat, disease and climate change. Bees pollinate our blueberries, almonds, tomatoes, apples, peppers and more. The value of this free labor is estimated to be between \$9 and \$15 billion a year. Bees have been pollinating flowers for 120 million or more years.

Bumble bees are generally cold-tolerant insects, but even amongst their relatives, the rusty patched bumble bee is special; it flies in cold temperatures and at elevations that even many species of bumblebees cannot deal with. This cold-tolerance means that rusty-patched bumble bees are active for much of the year, and thus, they require access to a variety of flowers over a long period of time.

How you can help bumble bees and other native insect pollinators:

- Plant native wildflowers that bloom throughout the year in containers on your window sill, porch or deck, or in your garden. Since these flowers attract bumble bees and other pollinators, they will enhance pollination of your fruit and vegetable crops, too.

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- Avoid all pesticide use. Instead, use a “companion planting” system to discourage pests from snacking on plants.
- Provide bee/insect hotels for insects to nest in

Weekday Walk at Whitehall Woods

June 22, 2017 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM

LOCATION: Whitehall Woods, Hopkinton

LEADER: Lisa Long. Land Stewardship Coordinator, MassLIFT AmeriCorps Member

PRICE: Free

Sudbury Valley Trustees and Hopkinton Area Land Trust’s newest reservation is nestled between Whitehall State Park and Upton State Forest

Leashed, friendly dogs welcome. Please let us know in the comments if you are bringing along your four-legged friend.

Register on the Sudbury Valley Trustees web site:
www.svtweb.org

“The sun does not shine for a few trees and flowers, but for the world’s joy” – Henry Ward Beeche



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:
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