

Horse Meadows Knoll Opening

On Saturday September 29th, HCT and Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT) invited the public to celebrate the grand opening of Horse Meadows Knoll. The two conservation groups collaborated to save this spectacular 47-acre site of ecological importance on Sherry Road. The Horse Meadows Knoll property boasts a beautiful beech forest, a historic reservoir and wetlands, and is home to several endangered species. A naturalist gave a guided tour over the 1-mile loop trail to see the steep slopes, rocky ledges, and large pond, and pointed out plant and bird species found on the site.

The partnership with SVT was a first for the Trust and a unique arrangement whereby the Trust owns the permanently protected land and SVT manages the land and trails. HCT removed an abandoned house on the property and SVT added a sign and kiosk, cut a new trail, and removed invasive species. We are so thankful for SVT's contributions, which helped make this latest land acquisition possible.



Reservoir at Horse Meadows Knoll



Harvard Conservation Trust
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www.HarvardConservationTrust.org



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HARVARD CONSERVATION TRUST LEGACY REVIEW

Fall 2018—Celebrating 43 years

A Cultural Collaboration

In the spirit of collaboration, HCT and the Harvard Cultural Collaborative (HCC), which supports culture and the arts in the former town library in the center of Harvard, worked together this summer to the benefit of both organizations. Both art and nature inspire and nurture us, and producing art in the landscape is a tradition that was practiced by the best of the French Impressionists.

HCT worked jointly with HCC to support our mission of encouraging people to explore Harvard's most inspirational settings. Over the spring and summer, local artist Gwen Leonard held a series of outdoor painting sessions on permanently protected land in Harvard. The avid group of enthusiastic sketchers and painters visited beautiful sites in Still River and Harvard, and tried to capture the scenes before them. After the first series of painting sessions, which ended with a gallery opening of the produced works at the HCC, the enthusiasm from the participants prompted a second round of sessions at different properties. Facilitating access to some privately owned, permanently protected properties not normally opened to the public was a feature that was appreciated by the participants. It was an opportunity to spend focused time creating art on some of Harvard's hidden gems.



Top: Pastel study in progress at Burgess-Brown Land. Photo courtesy of Ann Gillespie
Bottom: Gallery Reception at Harvard Cultural Collaborative. Photo by Mamie Wyrwal



Author Kathryn Aalto Discussed New Book at Volunteer's Hall

On Monday, September 24, the Author Kathryn Aalto discussed her new book *The Natural World of Winnie-the-Pooh: A walk through the forest that inspired the Hundred Acre Wood* to an enthusiastic audience in Volunteer's Hall. The presentation was a collaboration of the Harvard Garden Club and the Library Trustees with donations collected generously donated to HCT's Muller Conservation Collaborative. Ms Aalto, a landscape historian and garden designer, has made Exeter England her home for 11 years. She described her love of walking long distances through Sussex with her family and discovering the beauty of Ashdown Forest, the landscape that inspired A.A. Milne's children's stories. Ms Aalto did some selective readings, and presented illustrations from the book as well as photos from her travels through the heaths, forests and fields that are so familiar to readers of Milne's books. She emphasized the importance of children exploring outdoors to stimulate the imagination. HCT wishes to thank the Harvard Garden Club and the Library Trustees for this collaboration.

2018 HCT UPCOMING EVENTS

HARVARD FARMERS' MARKET

COMMUNITY TABLE—Stop by HCT's booth at this week's indoor market at the Harvard Unitarian Church Fellowship Hall.

Saturday, October 20, 10 am–1 pm

FOREST WALK—Experience the peace and tranquility of Harvard's woodlands in a new way. Certified guide Pam Frederick leads this one hour introduction to Forest Bathing or "Shinrin Yoku." The walk includes slow, mindful walking which helps us become present to the wonders of the natural world. Contact Pam Frederick for more information and to register. pwfederick@gmail.com or 978-460-0781 or 978-456-3312

Saturday, October 20, 1 pm

RUN FOR THE HILLS ANNUAL 5K—Community Harvest Project on Prospect Hill Road. Come run, walk or cheer at our annual 5K trail run.

Sunday, October 21, 10 am start

ANNUAL MEETING—Join us for a short recap of the year, followed by a local hard cider presentation and tasting with Paul Correnty. Harvard Congregational Church Fellowship Hall.

Thursday, November 1, 7 pm–9 pm



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This is a publication of the
Harvard Conservation Trust

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Notes from the Executive Director

"Collaborate," or a form thereof, is a word often found in this edition of the Legacy Review, placed throughout these pages like cairns marking the way from piece to piece. Derived from the Latin *com*, meaning "together with" and *laborare* "to work, strive, endeavor," it is a fitting and meaningful word for HCT these days. With the population steadily increasing in the Metro-west region*, housing development pressure continues to mount while real estate values balloon. Though there are still significant undeveloped lands in Harvard whose natural and agricultural condition benefit all of us, conserving these lands for public good has become more and more difficult. Land is now generally too valuable to donate for conservation, and too expensive for the Trust to buy. Conservation is indeed a labor, one which can no longer be borne by any one group or individual. It requires a collective effort, and is the reason these pages highlight our many joint endeavors. HCT is grateful to our friends and collaborators at the Sudbury Valley Trustees, Community Harvest Project, Harvard Cultural Collaborative, Garden Club of Harvard, Harvard Farmers Market, and Harvard Conservation Commission. Thank you as well to the many individuals and families that joined HCT over the spring and summer for the first time. We look forward to continuing to work together to make Harvard a verdant and healthy home for people and wildlife.

*Long-term Population Projections for Massachusetts Regions and Municipalities, UMass Donahue Institute, March 2015.



Run for The Hills Race

The Trust's annual Run-For-The-Hills 5K event has a new venue, and that means a truly hilly run. This year's track will begin on the site of the Community Harvest Project on Prospect Hill Road, winding its way through the orchard, then onto the Dean's Hill and Prospect Hill conservation lands. The varied terrain and magnificent views will make for a more diverse and challenging run.

We hope that the new setting attracts families who want to participate in a non-competitive fun run (or walk!) over an abbreviated trail. Those participants also will get to see the amazing views and ripening apples in the orchard. This year delicious soup and snacks will be available for all to enjoy while listening to live music.

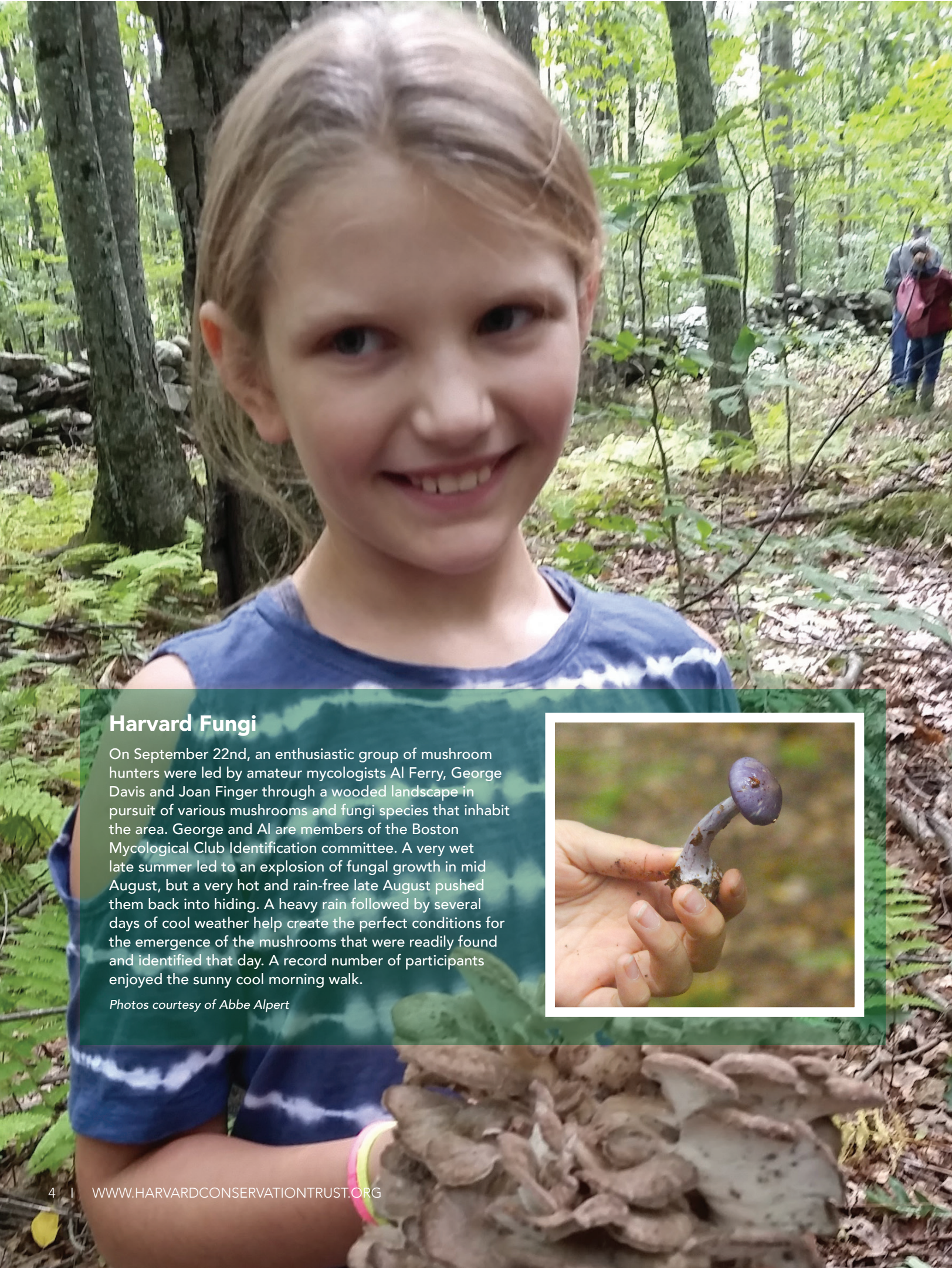


HARVARD CONSERVATION TRUST



Community Harvest Project is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide healthy, fresh food and vegetables to needy families in Worcester County. We thank them for providing the venue for the run and a beautiful barn to house the food and music.

Please join us. You can still register for the 5K competitive run, show up on the day of the event to support the runners or participate in the fun-run/walk (suitable for all ages). Or just enjoy the action with a cup of soup. October 21st. Race starts at 10:00am.



Harvard Fungi

On September 22nd, an enthusiastic group of mushroom hunters were led by amateur mycologists Al Ferry, George Davis and Joan Finger through a wooded landscape in pursuit of various mushrooms and fungi species that inhabit the area. George and Al are members of the Boston Mycological Club Identification committee. A very wet late summer led to an explosion of fungal growth in mid August, but a very hot and rain-free late August pushed them back into hiding. A heavy rain followed by several days of cool weather help create the perfect conditions for the emergence of the mushrooms that were readily found and identified that day. A record number of participants enjoyed the sunny cool morning walk.

Photos courtesy of Abbe Alpert



"Chef Paul" Speaks of Cider at HCT Annual Meeting

Celebrity chef and raconteur Paul Correnty, author of *The Art of Cider Making* and founder of the largest hard cider festival in North America (November 2-4 in Franklin County), will be the guest speaker at the Harvard Conservation Trust's annual meeting on November 1, 2018. In his talk, Chef Paul will examine the history, the science, and the pleasures of hard cider, a beverage with deep roots in New England's heritage. Artisanal hard cider was once an important element of the economics of local family orchards. In the 20th century, however, social and industrial pressures disrupted that way of life and hard cider production was on its way to becoming a lost art. Then 24 years ago, in an "aha" moment, Chef Paul and some friends decided to reinvigorate central Massachusetts' hard-cider-making culture. Their efforts have been a phenomenal success: award winning brands now abound and amateur cider making flourishes.

The Harvard Conservation Trust is delighted to welcome Paul Correnty as our guest speaker. Along with enthusiasm, Chef Paul will bring an assortment of hard ciders for the audience to taste. The meeting will be held at the Harvard Congregational Church on Still River Road. From 7-7:30, HCT business portion of the annual meeting (*please join us for that!*) and at 7:30 Mr. Correnty will take the floor.

Photos courtesy of Abbe Alpert



WELCOME New Members

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David and Helen Berry
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Wendy Feddersen
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☐ **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 renew or join online at www.HarvardConservationTrust.org.

☐ \$25 Individual ☐ \$50 Family ☐ \$100 Friend ☐ \$250 Associate ☐ \$500 Sustaining ☐ Other _____

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☐ YES! I would like to learn more about making a legacy contribution to the Harvard Conservation Trust through a bequest.

☐ Please contact me with more information about volunteer opportunities relating to: event planning, trail maintenance, landscaping and property management, outdoor education, ecological inventorying, and/or organizational management.