

Harvard Conservation Trust's 2012 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Harvard Conservation Trust was held on November 27th in the Harvard Public Library. Over 60 people came to hear Peter Alden, pioneering ecotourism guide and field naturalist, speak on "To Feed or Not to Feed" the birds. Trust President Molly Cutler opened the meeting and Executive Director Marylynn Gentry gave a recap of the year's activities. Highlights from the year included a generous gift from Elizabeth May, past president and beloved member who had recently passed away. Elizabeth left the Trust her house and roughly six acres of land on both sides of West Bare Hill Road. The Trust sold some of the land with a conservation restriction attached and sold the house with a deed restriction that ensured the memorable components of the house will remain in perpetuity.

Other business included Treasurer Tim Arnold's report and the approval of new Trustees Robin Carlaw and Peter Dorward. The evening ended with Peter's Alden lively talk about bird feeder habits with some good natured joking about placing meat on a feeder to attract birds of prey. The evening concluded with the traditional gingerbread, cider, good cheer, and a big heartfelt THANK YOU to all of the Trust's members for their support.



Peter Alden



Molly Cutler, President, welcomes the audience to HCT's 2012 annual meeting

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the north of the property is held as conservation land by the Harvard Conservation Commission.

These two properties together comprise another 48 acres of protected land in Harvard for residents and visitors to enjoy. *The Trust is grateful to the Harvard Conservation Commission and to our members, whose contributions made these efforts possible.*

Foraging for your Dinner: Wild Edibles Walk – Back by Popular Demand!

Thursday, June 6 from 6-8 pm, environmentalist and wild food enthusiast Russ Cohen will lead a walk to find edibles on the Fruitlands Museum grounds. Co-sponsored by the Harvard Conservation Trust and Fruitlands Museum, this event is free to members of either organization. Non-members pay \$10. Participation is limited to 30, so reserve your spot now. Call 978- 456-3924 x 239 or email education@fruitlands.org.



Glacial erratic on the Brown property

Harvard Conservation Trust Upcoming Events

Day & Date	Time	Activity	Place
Friday, April 26	7:30 pm	Lecture by Mary Holland	Volunteers Hall, Harvard Public Library, 4 Pond Road
Saturday, May 4	7 am	Birding with Pat White	Williams land, meet at the entrance. Take Stow Road, approx .4 miles south from Rt. 111.
Saturday, May 4 Sunday, May 5	8 am – 12 pm 10 am – 1 pm	Tree-For-All Selection: American Hornbeam	Transfer Station Town Center
Sunday, May 5	you choose the time!	Trails Clean-up Day	Spruce up a trail of your choice: contact mgentry@harvardconservationtrust.org to report your efforts
Thursday, June 6	6 – 8 pm	Foraging for your Food	Fruitlands Museum – RSVP required
Sunday, September 8	2 pm	Run For the Hills 5K	McCurdy Track, Harvard
We hope to see you around town . . .			

Would you Like to Become a Member? Need to Renew?

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 _____

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ Email _____

If your employer will match your contribution, please enclose the application form.

The following committees of the Trust invite your participation. Please check any that interest you.

Conservation	Stewardship	_____ event planning
_____ lands	_____ trail maintenance	_____ membership
Administration	_____ land monitoring	_____ publicity
_____ finance	Discovery	_____ website
_____ fundraising	_____ walks & talks	_____ photography
_____ archives	_____ tree-for-all	_____ graphic design/posters
	_____ newsletter & writing	_____ printing/mailling
	_____ education	



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Harvard Conservation Trust Legacy Review

President: Molly Cutler

Trustees: Laura Andrews, Tim Arnold, Robin Carlaw, Peter Dorward, Pam Durrant, Mark Finnegan, Glen Frederick, Pete Jackson, Ginger Kendall, Ted MacMahon, Robin Malloy, Susan Tarrant, Lucy Wallace

Trustees Emeriti: Frank Coolidge, Larry Finnegan, Erhart Muller, Edward Squibb

Honorary Trustee: Audrey Ball

This is a publication of the **Harvard Conservation Trust**.

Contributors to this issue are. Marylynn Gentry, Robin Malloy, Marion Kerr, Laura Andrews, and Michele Girard

Design. Karen Polcaro

Membership is open to all. To join the Trust, send your tax-deductible check for dues with the remittance at the back page of this Legacy Review. Alternatively, renew or join on-line.

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Note from the Executive Director

It is the Trust's 40th birthday. Forty years of being part of Harvard's community fabric. What does the word "community" mean to the Trust? Some consider a community to be a gathering of members, volunteers, and like-minded individuals who believe in the important work undertaken by an organization. How true. For 40 years, the Harvard community has supported important land acquisitions in town. Without its members, the Trust would not exist. For that fact alone, I am grateful for Harvard's "community". To our members – THANK YOU!

—Marylynn Gentry



Brown farm house and barn

Exciting Land Protection News!

As of this writing, the Trust has signed a Purchase and Sale agreement with the Brown family to purchase their 37-acre farm at the end of Murray Lane! For decades, the Brown property has been on the Trust's wish list as property worthy of protection. It is a wonderful property hosting roughly 37 acres of field, woodland, and swamp. There is a certified vernal pool on the land, with two more in proximity. The southern part of the parcel, which is mostly wet, is considered by the Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program to have rare species habitat. The property abuts over 285.4 acres of additional protected land including the Williams Conservation Land, Great Elms, Brehm, and the Ernst and Bilodeau conservation restrictions. Stay tuned for further news as the Trust finalizes the purchase.

Other exciting news includes the acquisition of the 11-acre Hoch property by the Town's Conservation Commission and gift of a conservation restriction to the Trust. The

property consists of a small field, beautiful wooded upland, and several wetland areas with a certified vernal pool nestled in an area bounded by West Bare Hill Road, Still River Road, and the Bolton town line. There are well-used walking trails in various locations. A perennial stream flows along the southern boundary of the land, with a small dam and spillway.

The property abuts HCT's Harris Lane conservation restriction to the south and is close to other existing town and state conservation lands. The protection of the property adds more open space to a larger conservation "necklace" with the contiguous protected Harris Lane land to the south into Bolton; through Bolton's Harris, Moen and Vaughn Hills conservation lands, and the nearby Bowers Springs conservation land. In total, including additional land with conservation restrictions, this area comprises approximately 390 acres of protected land through Bolton and part of Harvard. Another roughly 183 acres to

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We've seen you around Town at our events

Annual 2013 New Year's Day Walk

It was a cold and blustery day but 40 souls braved the weather to join the Trust in its Annual New Year's Day walk, held this year at Prospect Hill. Pam and Dave Durrant led the cheery group across the soccer fields, through the swamp and up to the top of Dean's Hill. They were rewarded with a spectacular view south across Bare Hill Pond and west to Mount Wachusett. A double reward of homemade cookies and hot chocolate greeted the walkers on their return to the soccer field parking lot off Depot Road. What a change from last year's walk at Holy Hill when it was positively balmy. Thank you to all of our walkers who were there either in person or in spirit. Your enthusiasm and support is greatly appreciated.



Chloe and Sarah Pyne



The group arrives at the top of Dean's Hill



News from the Nature Sightings Webpage

A big thank you goes to our members Sarah and Chloe Pyne, Ralph Fehlberg, Susan Johnson, Dave Guy, Dorothy Solbrig, Haley Newsham, Becca Day-Newsham, and Molly Cutler who sent in photos for our nature sightings webpage at HarvardConservationTrust.org/nature_sightings.htm, we invite any of you who has a photo of interest to submit it to mgentry@HarvardConservationTrust.org so we can post it on our website.

News from our Neighbors

Registration for the *Tom Denney Nature Camp* in Bolton is now open. There are five one-week-long sessions that run July 8 – August 9, Monday – Friday, 9 am – 3 pm for students entering the 2nd through 8th grades this fall. Scholarships are available for any camper in need. Applicants for Counselor in Training must be entering 9th grade or above this fall. Questions can be directed to bcttdnc@gmail.com (best form of communication) or 978-429-3004. For more information visit tdnc.boltonconservationtrust.org.

The Bolton Conservation Trust also invites people to get outside and hike Bolton's conservation lands. A new challenge series identifies great hikes with unique destinations to find and explore. The challenge is to find where Jack, a scout, is photographed in each of the eight places in Bolton. These trails are open to hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, dogs, etc. but are not open to hunting and motorized vehicles. Look for trailhead signs on the roads listed or follow the instructions provided at www.boltonconservationtrust.org or contact info@boltonconservationtrust.org for questions.

Tree-for-All May 4 and 5: American Hornbeam – *Carpinus caroliniana*

This year's Tree-For-All selection is the American hornbeam, a member of the Hazelnut family. It is a native small tree with a wide-spreading, flat-topped crown. Its habitat ranges from Nova Scotia to Minnesota and south to Florida and Texas.

American hornbeam is a handsome tree; its bark is smooth, thin and dark bluish gray in color. Older branches develop a slate gray, smooth fluted appearance, comparable to flexed biceps and fore arm muscles, hence the name Musclewood (other common names include ironwood, blue beech and water beech). Its leaves are deciduous, arranged alternately along stems, egg-shaped to elliptical in outline, ¾ to 4¾ inches long, with doubly-serrate edges. During the growing season, leaves are dark green but turn yellow to orange or red in the fall. The flowers are unisexual, in catkins. The male catkins are 1 to 2½ inches long. Female catkins are somewhat shorter. And both occur on the same plant.

American hornbeam is typically found as an understory tree in forests along rivers and streams throughout its native range where it can withstand periodic flooding. It prefers deep, fertile, moist, slightly acidic soils, and grows best in partial to moderate shade. It will, however, grow in full sun and in landscaped areas; it is not-drought tolerant.

Carpinus caroliniana wood is very hard and heavy. It has been used for making tool handles, mallet heads, levers and other small wooden objects. The wood doesn't tend to split or crack so American pioneers used it to make bowls and dishes.



American hornbeam has several wildlife attributes. Seeds, buds or catkins are eaten by a number of songbirds, ruffed grouse, bobwhite, turkey, fox and gray squirrels. Rabbits, beaver, and white-tailed deer eat the leaves, twigs and larger stems. It is occasionally used as nesting habitat by wood thrush and black-capped chickadees. American hornbeam is also used by beaver because it is readily available in typical beaver habitat.

The 18-24 inch seedlings will be distributed at the Transfer Station Saturday, May 4 from 8 am to 12 pm, and on the Common across from the General Store Sunday, May 5 from 10 am to 1 pm. The seedlings are a membership benefit of the Harvard Conservation Trust and are available to non-members for \$5.

Member's past Tree-For-All Trees: How Have They Fared?



Allegheny Serviceberry submitted by Becca Day-Newsham



Norway Spruce submitted by Tony Marolda



Oakleaf Hydrangea submitted by Dilia and Chris Holmes



Selectmen Lucy Wallace presents the award to Erhart Muller and Frank Coolidge



Executive Director Marylynn Gentry & Trust Vice-President Laura Andrews enjoy the ceremony



Citizens of Note Erhart Muller, Larry Finnegan, and Frank Coolidge

Bromfield Science Fair Winners



Jason Lancellotti



Emily Erdos

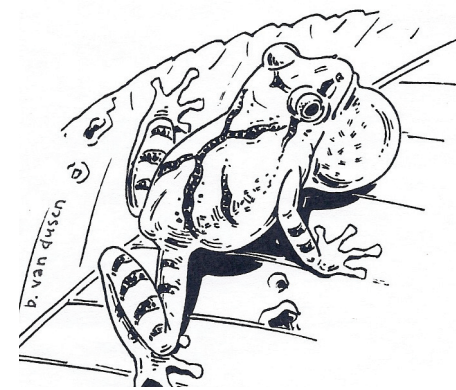
HCT awarded two prizes at the recent Bromfield school Science Fair. The middle school winner was seventh grader Jason Lancellotti for his project "Can Fertilizer Compensate for Lack of Water?" The high school prize was awarded to sophomore Emily Erdos for her project "Waste Not, Want Not."

Jason became interested in exploring ways to grow plants in an environment with little

water after reading that one third of the world's population lives in water-scarce areas (globalissues.org). From his experiment, he made two conclusions. One, fertilizer can partially compensate for the lack of water and two, fertilizer cannot replace a plant's need for water.

Emily explored whether there was a way that wastewater could be treated inexpensively. She tested whether or not a handmade microbial fuel cell (MFC) could produce electricity from and purify wastewater. The cell actually did produce energy although it did not produce a large amount. The fact that it produced electricity at all was significant. She believes that this finding holds larger implications and is a step toward creating a form of sustainable energy and making the world a more environmentally-friendly place.

Congratulations to both student scientists.



Sketches from Barry Van Dusen

This spring the Trust would like to thank Barry for his sketch of a Spring Peeper. The evening chorus of these small frogs from area wetlands is a sure sign that spring is indeed coming. Peepers are heard early in spring, soon after the ice melts. They are difficult to locate but sometimes can be seen during mating times in the shallows. On Martha's Vineyard they are commonly called "pinkletinks," in New Brunswick they are sometimes referred to as "inkletoes," and in Nova Scotia they are sometimes called "pink-winks."

Harvard Hikes:

- Millie's Path
- Small Nature Trail
- Shaker Spring House
- Powell-Reed-Abbot

The Harvard Conservation Trust welcomes and thanks

Our newest members!

Kenneth Ashe
Richard Blinn & Angela Mason-Blinn
Richard and Patricia Boerner
Chris Candon
Frank Carlson
Thomas Evans
Chris Hogan
Kristin Kelley
Bruce Lessley
Libby Levison
Karen Levitt
Jeff and Kim Manning
Sandra Mattson
Colleen McCaffrey
Gloria and Michael Pierce
Ellen O'Sullivan
Dr. Michele Pugnaire
Jeffrey Remillard & Stephanie Gant
Hakim Sahin
Tom and Heidi Sikina
Michael Symula
Robert Traver
Barry Van Dusen
Connie Woolcock

Appreciating a commitment to conservation . . . **Won't you join us?**



Where are We?

Do you know where this photograph was taken? The first person to respond correctly will win a Harvard Conservation Trust logo hat. Email your responses to mgentry@HarvardConservationTrust.org.