

Recap: Harvard Conservation Trust's 2013 Annual Meeting Celebrating 40 years!

On November 19, Rick Roth, wildlife expert and as founder of Creature Teachers in Littleton, was the guest speaker at the Harvard Conservation Trust's 2013 Annual Meeting – celebrating 40 years! Rick brought live animals that are representative of those found in Harvard's protected land and in your backyard, including a fisher, possum, grey fox, and flying squirrel. The fisher was the main attraction and being nocturnal was quite lively throughout the presentation. There was a short business meeting beforehand and a birthday celebration, complete with cake after the presentation. Many thanks to Abbe Alpert for baking such



40th Anniversary cake donated by Abbe Alpert, owner of Gingersnap Bakery

a delicious treat and to our members for being so supportive of the Trust's mission!



Rick Roth, Trust President Molly Cutler, and friend

News from the Nature Sightings Webpage

Thanks to all who sent photos for our nature sightings webpage at HarvardConservationTrust.org/nature_sightings.htm. We invite any of you who have a photo of interest to submit it to [mgentry@HarvardConservationTrust.org](mailto:mgency@HarvardConservationTrust.org) so we can post it on our website.



A fisher stares back at photographer Molly Cutler



Elizabeth May Hawthorn Trees Dedication

Please join us June 1 at the library to dedicate the three Hawthorn trees planted last fall in honor of Elizabeth and Geoffrey May. Elizabeth was a long-time advocate of conservation in Harvard, a past president and generous supporter of the Trust.

Harvard Conservation Trust Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 19	1 pm	Walk off tax-filing blues	Brown land, end of Murray Lane
Saturday, May 3 Sunday, May 4	8 am – 12 pm 10 am – 1 pm	Tree-for-All Selection: Chokeberry	Transfer Station Town Center
Saturday, May 3	7 am	Bird walk with Pat White	Brown land, end of Murray Lane
Sunday, June 1	tbd	May Tree Dedication	Public Library
Sunday, September 7	tbd	Run for the Hills 5K	McCurdy Track
Saturday, September 13	10 – 11:30 am	Fairy House Building	Children's Trail behind HES

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/mailing
	_____ 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, Michele Girard, Pete Jackson, Ginger Kendall, Jim Lee, Ted MacMahon, Kim Manning, 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:

Laura Andrews, Molly Cutler, Marylynn Gentry, Michele Girard, Lois Frampton, and Kim Manning

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 online.

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Note from the Executive Director

Greetings! As I write this, it is still March, still cold, and there is still snow on the ground. Hopefully, by the time you read this we will be well out of winter's grasp and moving into spring. As a new season approaches, the Trust becomes busier hosting events and taking care of the land you all have helped to protect. We cannot thank our members enough for their contributions, their wonderful participation in our outings, and for the volunteer work they do on the Trust's behalf. On April 22 we will celebrate Earth Day, and we will celebrate all of you who support us. Thank you!
Marylynn Gentry

"I think having land and not ruining it is the most beautiful art that anybody could ever want to own." – Andy Warhol



Spring, Harvard. Oil painting by Agnes Abbot

Update on the Brown Land and Buildings

Here's the latest on what's happening at the Trust's recently acquired Brown property.

mgentry@harvardconservationtrust.org for more information or call (978) 456-9292.

- We are working on a trail system for the land. In the meantime, we'll be scheduling exploratory walks, like the post-tax-paying-blues walk on April 19 and the bird walk with Pat White on May 3. There are wonderful sights to see!
- The barn is a safety hazard and will come down. We are currently obtaining bids.

After much discussion, the Trust decided that its goal for the house is to find it a good home off site. We will entertain the best offer. If you're interested in buying and moving it, email



We've seen you around Town at our events:

Fairy Homes



In October the Trust held its first "Fairy Home" building event on the conservation land behind the Hildreth Elementary School. Children of all ages were invited to dress up and participate in constructing fairy homes made out of material found in the woods. It was a terrific event with many fairies arriving in full regalia to build their houses. Thank you to Sarah Pyne for organizing and to all the fairies who constructed some amazing dwellings.

Left: Violet Pyne's fairy house is ready for occupancy

Right: Violet, Chloe and Jocelyn Pyne wear their fairy wings to build fairy houses

Post-Thanksgiving Walk

On a chilly November 30, in conjunction with Harvard's Park and Recreation department, the Trust held a walk on the Williams land off Stow Road. In an effort to walk off the Thanksgiving turkey, over 20 residents met at the pond and walked to the top of the Drumlin where they posed for a group photo. Thank you to those who came out; it was a great day.



Hikers pose at the top of the drumlin on the Williams land November 30



Annual New Year's Day Walk 2014



On the first day of 2014, hardy souls meet on the Brown land at the end of Murray Lane

Winterfest Scavenger Hunt



Three generations of one family take part in the scavenger hunt at Fruitlands in January

Tree-for-All May 3 and 4: Black Chokeberry – *Aronia melanocarpa*

Please stop by the transfer station or town center to let us say thank you for your support!

This year's seedling is *Aronia melanocarpa*, commonly known as Black chokeberry. It is a member of the rose family. It is a multi-stemmed, deciduous shrub that can grow three to six feet in height and form dense colonies over time in areas where it thrives. Native to eastern North America, its habitat ranges from Nova Scotia to Florida and west to Michigan.

Black chokeberry is noted for its smooth, elliptic-to-oblong-shaped leaves, one to three inches in length and finely serrate. The leaves are dark green above and lighter green below. Black chokeberry flowers bloom in the spring (mid-May) and have five white petals and numerous pink stamens. Its primary pollinators are small bees. The foliage can produce good red-wine color in fall, with fruit forming in clusters of blackish purple berries. Young twigs are slender, smooth and rather straight, yellowish brown to purplish brown in color; older twigs become gray or ash-like.

Black chokeberry is a very adaptable species. While it is moderately tolerant of shade and prefers moist acidic soils, it can grow in a wide range of soil moisture. Common natural habitats include bogs and swamps, low wooded areas and clearings. Dry natural habitats are rocky slopes, bluffs and cliffs. It is often found along clearings, roadsides and utility rights of way. For landscaping, black chokeberry is suitable for planting in a woodland garden, sunny edge location, dappled shade, or shady edge. It can be grouped in shrub borders or in open woodland areas.

The name "chokeberry" relates to the mouth-puckering astringency of the fruit when eaten directly from the shrub. Although unpleasant eaten raw, black chokeberry has culinary and nutraceutical values when processed. Its fruit is a very rich plant source of phenolic substances that are high in antioxidants. The fruit is used as a food colorant and to make jam and juice. Historically in North America, the Potawatomi used the fruit as food and made an infusion of the fruit as a treatment for colds. Black chokeberry has wildlife attributes: white-tailed deer and rabbits browse on the twigs, and the fruit is a food source for birds, such as ruffed grouse.

Black chokeberry seedlings will be distributed at the Transfer Station Saturday, May 3, from 8 a.m. to noon, and on the Common across from the General Store Sunday, May 4, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The seedlings are a membership benefit of the Harvard Conservation Trust and are available to non-members for \$5.

Content compiled by Michèle Girard from various sources such as the Manual of Woody Landscape Plants, by Michael A. Dirr, and the University of Maine Cooperative Extension website.



<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:Sten>



<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:Nova>

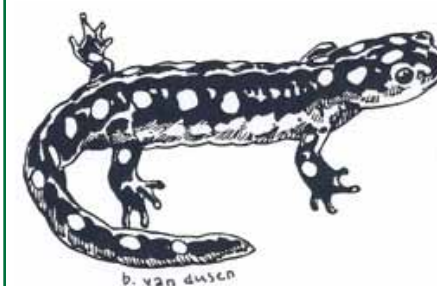
News from Our Neighbors

Registration for the Tom Denney Nature Camp in Bolton is open and online at tdnc.boltonconservationtrust.org. The camp at Bower Springs is for students entering first through eighth grade in September. Five weekly sessions run July 7 through August 8, Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm. Scholarships are available to qualified campers.

Activities include swimming, group games in the field and woods, Mystery Animal, Predator and Prey, The Amazing Race, arts and crafts, songs, tracking, scavenger hunt, hiking, exploring, campfires, building a shelter, and more.

Campers entering grades six, seven, or eight may participate in the Eco Adventures program where they will explore the wildlife of Bolton while learning how to safely and responsibly enjoy the outdoors, kayak with Still River Outfitters, go to a rock climbing gym, have a raft building completion, camp overnight, and more.

For more information visit the Bolton Conservation Trust's website: tdnc.boltonconservationtrust.org or email bcttdnc@gmail.com.



Sketches from Barry Van Dusen

The Trust thanks Barry Van Dusen for his spring sketch of a spotted salamander. These Harvard neighbors are not often seen, though hundreds of them swarm to our vernal pools the first warm, rainy night in spring to gather in a "congress" and breed. The rest of the year, adults live underground or in rock-wall crevices dining on worms, centipedes, crickets, spiders, slugs, and other goodies. If they lose part of their tail or leg to a predator, they can grow back a new one.



Photos by Kim Manning

Mysterious Rocks

Friday, October 18, Peter Waxman gave a talk on "Discovering Native American Stone Structures in the Massachusetts Woods." His slideshow reviewed the different types of stone structures one can find in wooded areas. In many cases, Peter rediscovered stone structures that have not been used for centuries. Some believe that the stone structures were used in Native American ceremonies. Peter's appearance was jointly sponsored with the Warner Free Lecture Series.



Peter Waxman, center, is joined by Jic Davis, left, and Tom Aciekewicz



Trust President Molly Cutler points out an unusual pile of rocks on the Brown land. Its source is unknown.

Our Land, Our Legacy.

Science Fair Winners

The Trust judges were impressed with all the Bromfield Science Fair entries they judged in February, but had to narrow the awards to two.

The middle school award went to eighth-grader Michelle Jiang, who presented "What type of wind turbine is most effective." Michelle tested three different variables (orientation of axis, number of blades, shape of blades) in three rounds to find which prototype would be the most efficient. The final device was a Horizontal Axis Wind Turbine with six rectangular blades.

The high school award went to junior Justin Gordon, who presented his research on "Concentrating Solar Power: The Technology That Could Save Humanity." Justin demonstrated how these power plants use molten salts, solar power, and mirrors to create steam power generators.

Explore the trails!

Stop by our office for:

Trail Guides	\$10
(also at the General Store & Town Hall)	
HCT baseball caps	\$20

We're at:

102 Prospect Hill Road
(Fruitland's Museum)
978-456-9292
info@HarvardConservationTrust.org

Office hours 9 am to 1 pm Monday through Thursday.



Marsh Marigolds on Holy Hill (Photo by Lois Frampton)

The Harvard Conservation Trust welcomes and thanks our newest members!

Patricia Anklam
Jennifer Finch
Eve Griliches
Barbara Kirwood
David and Virginia Latham
Anya Priestler and Pete Kane
Erica Tremblay
Bill Walsh
Paul Willard

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



Where are We?

Thanks for trying, but nobody correctly identified our last photo (above). It was taken from the top of Pin Hill.

Help the lost hikers below figure out where they are. The first person to respond correctly will win a Harvard Conservation Trust logo hat. Email your response to mgenry@HarvardConservationTrust.org.

