

White Oak Land Conservation Society

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE POTTER SANCTUARY

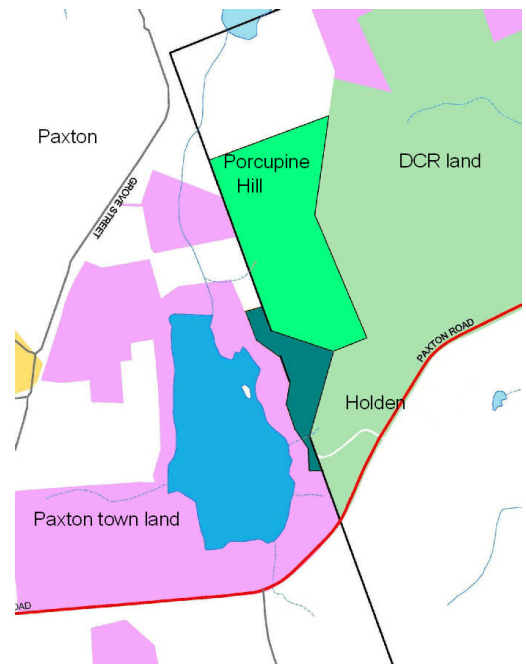
With much enthusiasm White Oak has committed its resources to pursue a 2011 land opportunity. This is our chance to preserve for public use the remaining 24 acres of the wilderness campus of the Nature Training School, a remarkable summer program run by the Worcester Natural History Society, where from 1946 through the 1980's, Worcester area children learned about the natural sciences. Three years ago we were able to buy a 60-acre portion of the former NTS property, now known as Porcupine Hill, thanks to grants and gifts from the Commonwealth, foundations and individual donors. This year the Ecotarium, which owns the land, is giving us the option to purchase the remaining acreage of this lovely forested upland, before offering it for private development.



These parcels contain the buildings of the former Nature Training School, and the Richard C. Potter Wild Life and Bird Sanctuary. The land lies between Porcupine Hill and Asnebumskit Pond, and would increase our total acreage there to 84 acres, linked to 500 more acres of conserved land. It protects the watershed of the pond, which is part of the drinking water resources of Paxton and Worcester. It also protects a fertile wetland, home to salamanders and wood frogs, which also serves the deer, porcupine, otter, fox, coyote and wild turkeys that live there.

Many of the graduates of the NTS have gone on to distinguished careers in biology, science and medicine. The two wooden buildings which served as classrooms will remain for continued events which we hope will inspire children's interest in nature. The observatory building will have to be demolished, since it would be far too expensive to maintain or even to be made compliant with the current regulations for buildings open to the public.

This land will expand the recreational opportunities of Porcupine Hill. It connects to our existing trail system, through paths which are level and easy to walk, making the whole more accessible to the elderly or frail. It will be a destination for bird watching, hiking, cross-country skiing, relaxing in the quiet of the woods, or just enjoying the view across the pond. Access will be via the driveway which served the observatory, with a small area for parking on the driveway next to Rte. 31. The land to be acquired is shown as dark green on this map.





If we're successful in acquiring this property, we will be donating a permanent conservation restriction on the property to the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, ensuring that the land will remain forever undeveloped and open to the public. White Oak will own and manage the land in perpetuity.

We've all seen the woods and fields we grew up with disappearing as the tide of development moves into Central Mass. The places we love will disappear, one by one, if we don't act now

to preserve them. This is a chance for each of us to take a stand, to save a piece of our natural heritage -- for ourselves, for our community, and for all of those who come after us.

You can help us make sure this land is preserved for future generations – please make a gift or a pledge today!

Please send your gift to: White Oak Land Conservation Society
P.O. Box 346, Holden MA 01520

To **donate online**, please visit our website, www.whiteoaktrust.org, or email us at info@whiteoaktrust.org

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Yes, I want to help preserve Potter Sanctuary, site of the Nature Training School!

Here is my donation of: ___(Other)___\$1000 ___\$500 ___\$200 ___\$100

Name _____

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My employer _____ will match my gift

This gift is in honor of _____

This gift is in memory of _____

Please send an acknowledgment of this special gift to the following person:
