

# the OAK LEAF

A PUBLICATION OF THE WHITE OAK LAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Summer 2009

## Growth Is Not a Four-Letter Word

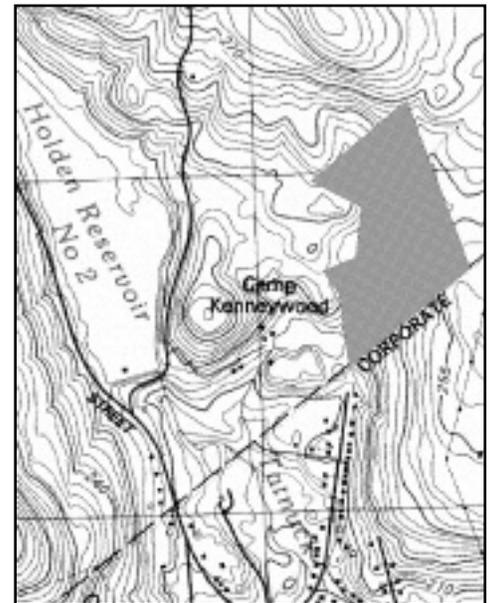
Is growth good or bad? For some, the word has negative connotations—think urban sprawl and algae blooms. For White Oak, however, growth has meant several happy endings of late. Since the spring newsletter, not one, but two new properties have come under White Oak's protection.

On June 30, together with the Greater Worcester Land Trust (GWLT), White Oak purchased a 53-acre portion of Camp Kinneywood, located in Holden on the Worcester border. Girls, Inc., the former owners, sold part of their land to raise funds for program expansion.

GWLT holds the deed for the property, while White Oak and Holden's Conservation Commission co-own and monitor the Conservation Restriction. These measures ensure permanent protection for the parcel, which will be managed for public trail access and wildlife habitat.

tions from White Oak members and friends. We are extremely grateful for their support, and are still accepting additional donations toward the purchase and stewardship of this property.

The Zimmerman family has also demonstrated their generosity and commitment to open space. This spring, the Zimmermans contacted White Oak to offer a donation of their 11-acre parcel along Stanjoy Road, in Holden. A tour by White Oak board members Anthony Costello and George Dresser revealed a beautiful piece of land in good condition, composed mainly of wetlands. Their positive report inspired the White Oak board to take quick action on accepting the donation. This property has excellent wildlife habitat, housing a least two unusual species, the four-toed salamander and a spotted turtle. The preliminary plan is to

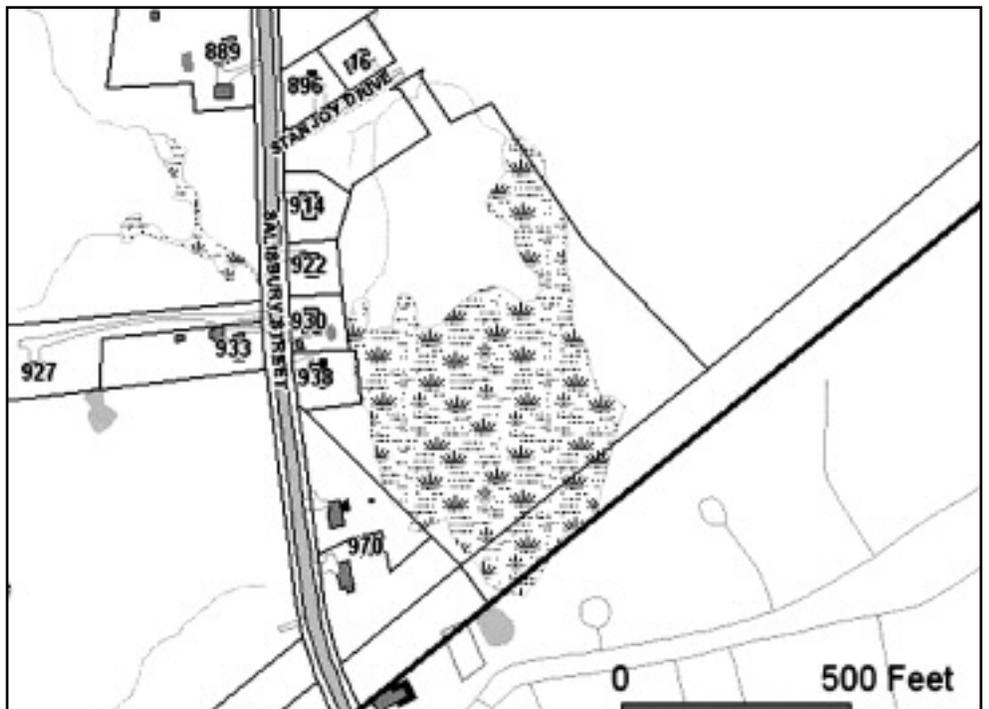


Camp Kinneywood parcel



Spotted turtle  
Photo by Dave Pape

The \$148,000 purchase price for the parcel was divided by GWLT and White Oak, and was raised entirely through donations and grants. These include a \$75,000 state partnership grant, a \$25,000 grant from the Bafflin foundation, a \$20,000 grant from the Stoddard Charitable Trust, a \$10,000 grant from the Fletcher Foundation, and contribu-



Zimmerman parcel



## Growth *Continued From page 1*

manage the parcel for public use as a wetland study area.

White Oak now protects a total of 448 acres of open space in this community. More information on these new properties will soon become available on our website: [www.whiteoaktrust.org](http://www.whiteoaktrust.org).

We hope to continue this positive growth trajectory, which falls in line with recent

trends in Massachusetts. In a study called "Losing Ground," the Massachusetts Audubon Society (MassAudubon) has found that, for the first time in decades, land conservation in our state is outpacing urban sprawl at a rate of two to one.

Are you interested in jumping on the conservation bandwagon? Contact us at [info@whiteoaktrust.org](mailto:info@whiteoaktrust.org) to learn more about donating land or a conservation restriction.

The White Oak Land Committee recently voted to invite any interested White Oak members to join the committee. Meetings are held bi-monthly at 4 p.m. in the EcoTec office in Worcester. The land committee focuses on clarifying criteria for land acquisition, contacting large parcel owners, educating the public on the benefits of conservation, and placing signs at properties currently managed by White Oak. For more information, email us at [info@whiteoaktrust.org](mailto:info@whiteoaktrust.org).

## White Oak Gratefully Acknowledges Contributors to the Campaign for Camp Kinneywood

### FOUNDATIONS:

The Bafflin Foundation  
The Stoddard Charitable Trust  
The Fletcher Foundation

### INDIVIDUALS:

Colleen and James Abrams  
Janice Babbitt  
Mr. and Mrs. William Barrett  
Charles and Gail Belanger, Jr.  
Barbara Bessette

Richard Callahan  
Sherron D. Carson  
Deborah Cary  
Allen Doe  
Dr. Theodore DelDonno and S. Jane Arntz  
Steven Dubrule  
James C. Dunn  
George Dresser  
Edward Driscoll  
Richard and Anita Fenton

Arlene Johnston-Drawbridge  
Barton D. Kamp  
James and Barbara Matheson  
Stanley Nelson  
Marie and Gordon Newcomb  
Catherine Roberts and John MacDonald  
Thomas and Kathleen Runstrom  
E. A. Swenson  
**\*\*contributions are still welcome for the Campaign for Camp Kinneywood\*\***

## The More Things Change . . .

While sorting through the White Oak archives we found this precious gem, excerpted from our December 4, 1978 newsletter, entitled "Containing Urban Sprawl":

Holden has a strategic position in its being one of the towns surrounding Worcester. It contains the transition from urban to rural; traditionally "the suburbs." However, should Holden become urbanized, this interface would move further out from the center...

From the perspective of central Massachusetts planning, then, Holden's overriding concern should be the containment of Worcester as an urban area. That way, while Worcester itself grows as a city, the surrounding region can intensify agriculturally and silviculturally to supply the LOCAL resource base necessary to a post-petroleum economy. Sterling apples burn a lot less oil than Wenatchee ones.



*Huck Truesdale and George Dresser, two of White Oak's founders, circa 1978  
Photo, White Oak archive*

How does this translate into specifics in Holden? It means we have to think about

making a greenbelt for Worcester. We need to demarcate the urban-rural boundary, and protect it with a belt of public, semi-public, and private land never to be developed more intensively than cropland...

A secure future for the Eagle Lake area and for the Griff Farm is of utmost importance, since they connect protected land around Kendall Reservoir with the large wetland along Warren Tannery Brook.

Once this urban-rural boundary is specifically determined, there should be two planning objectives in relation to it. First, protect it and strengthen it by adding to the greenbelt wherever possible. Second, restrict intensive development to that part of the town south of the greenbelt.

Perhaps it is not totally unrealistic to think that one day there will be a hiking and skiing trail from one side of Holden to the other.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

White Oak regrets that the August 1 “Wild Saturdays” program at Eagle Lake has been postponed. We look forward to rescheduling this event at a later time, and will post updates in future issues of the *Acorn*, our monthly news bulletin.



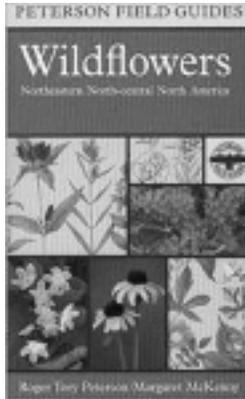
*Galileo Galilei*

Other events planned for the fall and winter include guided walks, a stargazing program celebrating the 400th anniversary of Galileo’s invention of the telescope, an evening with beavers, cranberry picking, and a turtle talk. Dates and details are still in the works.

Not getting your monthly *Acorn*? Send your email address to [info@whiteoaktrust.org](mailto:info@whiteoaktrust.org) to get the latest information about White Oak. We will not sell or distribute your email address.

## White Oak + Nature Books = Donations to Gale Free Public Library

As a community-based, volunteer-led organization, White Oak has long been part of the fabric of Holden. We are excited about deepening our connection to the community by offering the Gale Free Public Library some resources on conservation and natural history.



White Oak will be donating a total of six books to the library, including *Civic Engagement and Land Conservation in Massachusetts*, as well as several Peterson’s nature guides and a guide to vernal pools for the children’s collection.

The donation has been coordinated through Beverly Dinneen, the children’s librarian, who has said that her nature guides get used a great deal and are worn out quickly—a good indication that Holden’s children are getting their proper doses of the outdoors!



*Gale Free Public Library  
Photo by Michael Femia*

We hope adults and children alike benefit from White Oak’s contribution to the library, and that these books inspire future conservationists.

“Adopt the pace of nature:  
her secret is patience.”

-Ralph Waldo Emerson



WHITE OAK LAND  
CONSERVATION  
SOCIETY

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Nancy Wilson  
George Dresser  
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*White Oak is a member of the Land Trust Alliance  
and the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition.*

## I FOUND MY PARKING ON PORCUPINE HILL

What a thrill! The state Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has formally approved White Oak’s application to install signage and a parking area at Porcupine Hill, the property we purchased just over a year ago. We are currently planning the dimensions of the parking area and will be searching for a backhoe operator who can open the access road, now blocked with rubble. These improvements to Porcupine Hill will allow for a higher profile for the property and increased use of the beautiful 2.5 mile trail. When the project is complete, we expect to hold our “official” opening ceremony, to which we will invite all of our members and friends.



# Give... In Any Way You Can



A sassafras tree seedling at the Henrickson Property  
*Photo by Stephanie Santoro*

While we always welcome donations of land and funds, White Oak also deeply values contributions of time. We could not survive without assistance from volunteers, who serve on our board, monitor conservation restrictions, and assist at events, among numerous other jobs.

Most recently, local resident Stephanie Santoro graciously volunteered to update White Oak's photo library of our properties. Many of our images are in a non-digital format, or are outdated. Some of our newer properties completely lack photo documentation. Stephanie will be

hiking the trails and photographing the most interesting areas of White Oak lands. Her first stop was the 11-acre Henrickson property, which is off Chapin Road. This former farm is part woodland and part open field, and includes the remnant of an old apple orchard. Although there are no marked trails as yet, it is a peaceful place for an afternoon ramble.

We look forward to seeing more of Stephanie's images and using them in our publications. If you feel inspired to put your talents to work for White Oak, do not hesitate to email us at [info@whiteoaktrust.org](mailto:info@whiteoaktrust.org).



Strolling around the Henrickson Property  
*Photo by Stephanie Santoro*

Printed on recycled paper with soy ink

