

## Reliving Old Memories And Making New Ones at Potter Sanctuary

**T**he Grand Opening of White Oak's newest property, Potter Sanctuary, took place on Sunday, September 30. A good-sized crowd of over sixty attendees enjoyed taking a step back in time to when this land, along with White Oak's adjacent Porcupine Hill property, was used by the Worcester Natural History Society as the Nature Training School (NTS) from the 1940s to the 1980s.

Board members and visitors alike reminisced about their experiences here, and reflected on how their views of the natural world were influenced by their time at the Nature Training School. "I've lived in Holden for over 50 years," said longtime White Oak board member Nancy Wilson, "and I think a big part of why we treasure our open space can be traced back to what campers learned at the NTS."

Though the weather threatened to ruin the day, the newly refurbished Potter Lodge and Rotary Lodge were on hand to provide shelter from the storm. These buildings will continue to prove themselves useful for other events, enabling White Oak to hold public programs indoors.

White Oak's board president, Scott Morrison, remarked on how grateful the or-

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Clockwise from top left:

White Oak Treasurer Anthony Costello with State Representative Kim Ferguson. Photo by Jennifer Leith.

Linwood Erskine, of Paxton, who had represented Worcester Rotary when the Rotary Lodge was originally dedicated, in 1958. Photo by Paul McManus.

Chip Martin, of Boston, grandson of NTS founder Nancy Newton, and son of Gail Martin, former NTS camper and counselor. Photo by Doris O'Keefe.

White Oak President Scott Morrison on right, with local Boy Scout leaders who helped at the event. Photo by Doris O'Keefe.

Marion Charbonneau, former NTS camp nurse, with White Oak Treasurer Anthony Costello. Photo by Doris O'Keefe.



# Another Alien Invasion

## Emerald Ash Borer Confirmed in Massachusetts

Information courtesy of the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources. Full article can be found at [www.massnrc.org](http://www.massnrc.org).

Officials with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR) announced in September that the Emerald ash borer (EAB) has been detected in Massachusetts. The destructive beetle was detected in the western Massachusetts town of Dalton on August 31, 2012, and was confirmed by federal officials on September 6. Massachusetts is the 18th state in the country to detect EAB.

DCR and DAR officials are working together, in collaboration with the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the USDA's United States Forest Service to take a number of swift proactive steps aimed at preventing the spread of the invasive beetle.

The EAB is a small, flying beetle, native to Asia. It was first discovered in North America in 2002, in the Detroit, Michigan area. Unlike

other invasive beetles, the EAB can kill a tree fast, within just a few years, because it bores directly under the bark, where the tree's conductive system is. Since its discovery in North America, it has killed millions of ash trees and has caused billions of dollars in economic loss across the nation.

Ash is a main component of the Northern Hardwood forest in Massachusetts and is a common species in the Berkshires. Ash is also a common street tree in eastern Massachusetts.

Residents are urged to take the time to learn the signs of EAB tree damage and be sure to report any sightings.

- Look for tiny, D-shaped exit holes in the bark of ash trees, die-back in the upper third of the tree canopy, and sprouting of branches just below this dead area.
- The Emerald ash borer is a tiny, emerald-green metallic beetle, so small that seven of them could fit on the head of a penny.

To report possible EAB tree damage or insect sightings, use the online reporting form: <http://massnrc.org/pests/eabreport.htm>. 🌿



Tracks made by Emerald Ash Borer larva (Photo JP. Mars) (Photo courtesy Massachusetts Department of Agriculture)



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LAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY

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Erich Mierzejewski, *Vice President*

Marci Driscoll and Jennifer Leith,  
*Secretary/Clerk*

Anthony Costello, *Treasurer*

Karen Eisenhauer      Ralph Peck

Paul McManus              Nancy Wilson

*White Oak is a member of the Land Trust Alliance and the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition.*

## Accreditation Application Is In

For years, we've been alerting our members that we are planning to apply for accreditation. Finally, that day has come. As of September 13, 2012, the Land Trust Accreditation Commission received our application for accreditation.

Karen Eisenhauer, Erich Mierzejewski, and Anthony Costello, of White Oak's Board and on the Accreditation Committee, prepared the numerous required documents and statements for the application, along with consultant Deborah Kreiser-Francis. "It was a lot of work, but we know it will be worth it," said Karen, the committee chair, pointing to two thick binders filled with accreditation paperwork.

While it will take months for the commission to review the application and alert us as to the results, White Oak is proud to have joined the small handful of other Massachusetts land trusts that are pursuing accreditation this year.

# Goodbye, White Oak

No, not White Oak Land Conservation Society—we're still growing strong. However, a white oak tree in New Braintree, Massachusetts, believed to be the largest in the Commonwealth, was recently discovered to have been burned by an arsonist, which caused its collapse.

This tree was designated Massachusetts' Great Oak—the largest of its species—in 1983. Measurements taken over a decade ago found the tree had a 247-inch circumference at chest height, a height of nearly 100 feet, and a canopy nearly the same width.

A reward of \$5,000 is being offered in hopes of finding the person responsible for this destruction. 🌿



...hall, IDNR). Inset an adult Emerald Ash Borer (Natural Resources)



The Massachusetts Great Oak in New Braintree, before its demise. Photo by Chris Buelow.

## Reliving Old Memories

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ganization is to the foundations and individual donors who gave financial support for this project, as well as the volunteers who were involved in the process. “A key to our success was the dedication of Ralph and Jane Peck, Anthony Costello, Nancy Wilson, and Jennifer Leith, and with the support of the White Oak board, all of whom worked tirelessly to make this project happen. From grant writing to trail building to digging out old fence posts, these folks have done an amazing job,” he said. “It’s a really special thing for White Oak to be preserving Holden’s past while conserving the land for future use.”

New trails on the Potter Sanctuary parcel connect with those at Porcupine Hill, for a total of 1.5 miles of trail. Well-behaved dogs are welcome, and can often be found making themselves at home among the masses of mountain laurel there. For those who like a



Brad Blodgett reminisced about his time at NTS.

little extra challenge in their walks, at least one geocache is also on the property. You are welcome to visit, and figure out your favorite feature. Parking is available at Porcupine Hill



Lisa Sutter, who began and maintains geocaches at Porcupine Hill and other White Oak properties.

or at Potter Sanctuary. Look for the Porcupine Hill sign or mailbox #215 along Paxton Road and follow them to fun. 🌿

Photo's by Paul McMannus



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LAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY

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**WHITE OAK'S ANNUAL MEETING:**

# **Drought, Stress, and What It Means for Your Trees**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8**

**7 p.m.**

**Holden Town Hall ~ All are welcome!**

This summer, all of Massachusetts was classified as “abnormally dry,” with large portions considered to be in a “moderate” state of drought. What do these cycles of drought mean for our forests and urban areas? Presenter Rick W. Harper is the Extension Assistant Professor of Urban & Community Forestry at UMass Amherst.