



WHITE OAK

LAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 346

HOLDEN, MA 01520



Printed on recycled paper with soy ink



* Not actual size. A baby Box Turtle is approximately the size of a quarter.

Potter Sanctuary Grand Opening Event



SUNDAY

September 30, 2012

2 to 4 p.m.

Rain or Shine

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
FOR THE GREAT REVEAL!**

Join us and enjoy a treasure hunt for kids, a craft activity, a new trail, camp songs, geocaching, GPS demonstration, and refreshments.

IT'S FREE, AND OPEN TO ALL!

THE

Oak Leaf

A PUBLICATION OF THE WHITE OAK LAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY

SUMMER 2012

What's Happening at Potter Sanctuary?

As of late June, the progress on Potter Sanctuary and its two buildings, adjacent to our Porcupine Hill property, is happening at a blazingly fast pace. Board members Anthony Costello and Ralph Peck, among others, have been particularly active in seeing this project through.

Recently, Anthony reported that he had finished marking all of the trails with colored disks. He said, "The rules are: blue out, yellow back to Porcupine Hill entrance, white back to Potter Sanctuary." A new trail as a second connector to Porcupine Hill has just been cleared. The trails still need more work, but significant progress has been made. New trail maps are provided at the kiosk at the Porcupine Hill parking lot.

Meanwhile, Potter Lodge and the Rotary Lodge are both being rejuvenated at an amazing rate. The Potter Lodge has had major repairs, including replacing the sills and part of the front wall and fitting new doors. We are still seeking a large granite slab for a doorstep. Electrical repairs are in progress, and we hope to have a portion of the roof damaged by fallen branches repaired soon. The Rotary Lodge is also having new doors in-



Photo by Anthony Costello

Potter Lodge under construction in late spring.

stalled, and requires some minor repairs, together with a lot of house cleaning. A professional survey, new roof, and electrical should be completed soon.

While everything might not be perfect in time for the Grand Opening on September 30,

we do expect to be fully up and running by then. We want to pay homage to the legacy of the Nature Training School, while welcoming a new generation of Holden residents to enjoy this special place. 🌿

“There is pleasure in the pathless woods; There is rapture on the lonely shore; There is society, where none intrudes, by the deep sea and music in its roar: I love not man the less, but Nature more.”

—Lord Byron

Potter Sanctuary Recognition

White Oak Land Conservation Society wishes to thank the following donors, who made possible the purchase and preservation of Potter Sanctuary.

Major State and Foundation Grants:

Bafflin Foundation, Cricket Foundation, Fields Pond Foundation, Fletcher Foundation, Massachusetts Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Conservation Partnership, Stoddard Foundation, and Wharton Trust

Individual Donors:

Jim & Colleen Abrams, Betsy & Steven Alspach, Janice Babbitt, Christian Baehrecke, Joyce Bagdis, George Balko, Mr. and Mrs. William F. Barrett, Lee Bartlett, Charles & Gail Belanger, Robert Bennett, Robert Bertin, Dr. William Blake, Bradford Blodget, Nancy Borglund, Cynthia & Robert Brooks, Sherron Carson, Deb Cary, Anna Casavant-Chaney, Hunter & Marie Casavant-Chaney, Luigi & Susan Ceccacci, Anthony Costello, Sean P.

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Matheson, Craig McColl, Samantha McDonald, Dorothy and Corrine McLoughlin, Paul McManus, Francis McNamara, Ronelle & Hubert Meunier, Bethany & Erich Mierzejewski, David & Linda Miller, Motorola mobility Foundation, James and Ida Nystrom, Barbara & Roland Olson, Arthur & Sandra Peabody, Ralph & Jane Peck, Jonathan Phelps, Edward Robbins, Nancy Rocheleau, John C. Root, Kathleen Runstrom, David & Kim Sabourin, Valeda C. Schmucki, Satish and Renate Shrivastava, Patricia Snider, Carol & Richard Spedding, Kristin Steinmetz, Eugene Stirchak, Kenneth & Elizabeth Strom, Lisa Sutter, Alfred and Nancy Swenson, Andrea Thackeray, Philip & Jo Truesdell, Alice Tuomivaara, Virginia Ursin, Daniel & Nancy Von Burske, Richard & Phyllis Whitten, Nancy Wilson, Madeline Wilson, Molly & Benjamin Woodbury 🌿

We Want YOU!

White oak trees tend to grow slowly... but White Oak Land Conservation Society seems to be having a growth spurt these days. Our current board has its hands full, between coordinating new land projects, building trails, developing a volunteer corps, programming nature events, and other exciting duties.

Come grow with us! We are actively seeking new members, with a wide range of interests and experience, to join our board. To learn more, email info@whiteoaktrust.org. We'll invite you to attend a board meeting, which may help decide if this is a good fit—there's no obligation.



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LAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY

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Board of Directors

Scott Morrison, *President*

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.

The New Newton Trail at Potter Sanctuary

Why the name Newton for the half-mile trail blazed and cut this spring at White Oak's newest property on Route 31, 3 miles west of Holden Center? Does it end up in Newton, MA? Hardly.

White Oak has been influenced by the strong history of Nature Training School (NTS), a project of the Worcester Natural History Society, who colonized these woods for environmental and conservation education programs for 40 years, beginning in 1946.

A young mother, Mrs. B. Larz (Nancy) Newton, was president of the Directors Council of the Society. She explained the beginnings of NTS in Nature Education, the bulletin of the Society, in 1944: "In the spring of 1941, I was interested in locating for my daughter a camp where Nature Education was emphasized... There were places for adults but none for children. Here was the reason



why camp directors found it increasingly difficult to get Nature councilors; young people were not being trained in Nature Education."

Mrs. Newton drew the enthusiastic support of the Society's director, Richard C. Potter, and the camp opened its first summer in 1941. Costs for programs were kept modest: by 1944, tuition for a three-week session was \$10 with an added \$3 for transportation and \$.75 for milk (chocolate on Wednesdays).

by
NANCY WILSON

It is thanks to Mrs. Newton's daughter, Gail Newton Martin, that we have this history and a 15-year span of Nature Education. Mrs. Martin was an NTS camper, later counselor and assistant director, before beginning her career in elementary education. Now a resident of Florida, she and her husband plan to attend the rededication of Potter Sanctuary on September 30.

The Newton Trail swings west from the driveway towards Asnebumskit Pond, parallels the shore through laurel, blueberry and hardwood forest to join the Peabody Trail on the contiguous Porcupine Hill land. With the opening of Potter Sanctuary in September, the public will be invited to walk this gentle trail, whose name board will appear soon. 🌿

Remember to Visit White Oak's Other Trails...

Porcupine Hill: White Oak acquired this 60-acre parcel in 2008 through foundation grants and the help of many contributors. Located on the north side of Rt. 31 near the Holden/Paxton border, it was formerly used as part of the Nature Training School. White Oak has established a marked trail system and small parking lot. Access to Porcupine Hill is through property managed by DCR.



Path Porcupine Hill by Susan Sedgwick.



'Out for A Stroll' by Stephanie Santoro, taken along the White Oak trail.

North Street: White Oak's property off North Street was acquired in the 1980s, and functions today as an extension of the town-owned Trout Brook Conservation Area. The White Oak trail traverses these lands, and is a great way to start exploring the wild areas of Holden. The White Oak trail begins on the eastern side of North Street, loops around to the north and west, and emerges 3 miles later at the North Street parking lot, connecting along the way with the trail system in Trout Brook. A trail map is available on White Oak's website.

Eagle Lake Dam: The acquisition of partial ownership of this dam represents one of White Oak's earliest achievements. White Oak retains no ownership in the lake itself. Plans were in place in the early 1980s to drain the lake and build on it, after the dam fell into disrepair. Through a major fund raising effort and the support of the public, this was



'Water Lily' by Doris O'Keefe, taken at Eagle Lake.

averted, the dam repaired, and Eagle Lake remains as a destination for fishing, swimming, canoeing, ice skating and hockey. Eagle Lake is open to the public at town-owned access points, including the Massachusetts Audubon Sanctuary properties, on Kendall Road and on Causeway Street, and at the Holden Town Beach, off Causeway Street. 🌿

White Oak also owns and protects the Zwiep, Zimmerman, White, and Waterman parcels, four properties without trails or public access.