

THE

Oak Leaf

A PUBLICATION OF THE WHITE OAK LAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY

FALL 2014

SAVE THE DATE! White Oak Annual Meeting on November 20

Members and non-members alike are welcome at White Oak's annual meeting, to be held Thursday, November 20 at 7 p.m. at the Holden Senior Center.

Dr. Robert Bertin, a popular professor from the Biology Department of the College of the Holy Cross, will give a presentation on the changing plant life in Worcester County, and how it is affected by non-native species, land-use patterns, and climate change.

Here is a partial summary of Dr. Bertin's research, from his website, <http://academics.holycross.edu/biology/faculty/rbertin>:

My floristic work involves compilation of a flora of Worcester County, Massachusetts. This work has several goals. One is to understand the ranges and ecological affinities of our native flora. A second, using comparisons with extensive herbarium records from the past century, is to understand patterns of change in abundance of both native and non-native species in relation to succession, human activities and climate change.

Invasive and Native Species: *My floristic work has revealed a great abundance and diversity of introduced species. These comprise roughly a third of the plant species in central Massachusetts. Of particular concern among these are species that thrive in natural communities. These species can alter the ecology of these communities and sometimes pose a threat to rare native species. Together with several students I have examined the abundance and distribution of introduced tree species in urban woodlands, with special emphasis on Norway maple. This shade-tolerant tree is commonly used for street and garden plantings and appears able to outcompete native species in some natural woodlands.*

Dr. Bertin's talk will be preceded by a brief presentation by the White Oak board, highlighting major accomplishments this year and the organization's financial report.

Light refreshments will follow the meeting. This event is free and open to all! 🌿



Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*)



Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*)



Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)

“I cannot endure to waste anything so precious as autumnal sunshine by staying in the house.”

—Nathaniel Hawthorne

White Oak is all about...

STEWARDSHIP...



Paul McManus

Eagle Lake dam, cleared of brush.

VOLUNTEERING...



Karen Eisenhauer

Board Member Anthony Costello, clearing a trail at Porcupine Hill.

EDUCATION...



Paul McManus

Peter Mirick, introducing snakes to local kid.

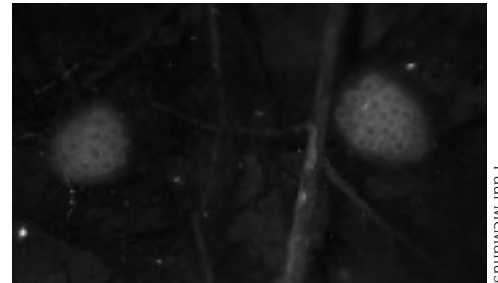
CONSERVATION...



Paul McManus

Board Member Scott Morrison with a large white oak he discovered at the Waterman property.

ENVIRONMENT...



Paul McManus

Spotted salamander eggs in a vernal pool at Porcupine Hill.

WILDLIFE...



Anthony Costello

An emerging ermine.

& RECREATION!



Greater Worcester Land Trust

Hikers along the Asnebumskit Trail, which begins at White Oak's White lot on South Road, Holden.



WHITE OAK
LAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY

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Board of Directors

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