

THE Oak Leaf

A PUBLICATION OF THE WHITE OAK LAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY

FALL 2018

Wadsworth Brook Conservation

by
ANTHONY COSTELLO

Bill Carrick, an enthusiastic supporter of White Oak, lived on South Road from 1991 until his death in 2016. Bill was a hiker, and the terrain near his home was among his favorite places to explore. He was intimately familiar with the many trails winding through adjacent properties, and loved to show friends how to use these trails to reach the top of Asnebumskit Hill. He frequently spoke in favor of preserving his own land and as much surrounding land as possible, but never got around to doing it. He did, however, establish a trust to hold his property, with the wish that part of it could be conserved.

After Bill's death in 2016, his 22-acre lot was subdivided into two parcels: one that contained his house and 5 acres of surrounding land, and a second of 16.6 acres, with a narrow frontage on the road and a strip running back to an extensive woodland. Worcester's Water Division was anxious to conserve this larger parcel and the rest of the woodland, as Wadsworth Brook runs through it to Holden Reservoir 1 (it runs into a pond on the north side of Reservoir St, as it passes the reservoir).

With generous help from

Continued on Page 3



Map of Wadsworth Brook Conservation Area

“I’m so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers.”

—L. M. Montgomery

Wildlife Encounters Once Again a Wild Success

Over 200 attendees came to Mayo Elementary School in April to enjoy our second annual visit from Wildlife Encounters Ecology Center. Children and adults alike were treated to a truly special program. Educators from Wildlife Encounters brought seven animal ambassadors with them to delight their audience: a Burmese python, and American alligator, a parrot, a Cayman lizard, a skunk, an African pygmy hedgehog, and a chinchilla! After delivering a fascinating presentation, the educators invited everyone to a hands-on meet-and-greet with several friendly animals. Educational events like these are central to White Oak's outreach to children of all ages, and we're delighted that they continue to be so popular! 🌿



(Clockwise from top left) Wildlife Encounters educators teach the audience about their chinchilla, Burmese python, Cayman lizard and alligator, amongst other species they shared during their visit.

Photos by Tracy Barry



WHITE OAK

LAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Address

P.O. Box 346, Holden, MA 01520

Telephone

774-345-9658

Email

info@whiteoaktrust.org

Website

www.whiteoaktrust.org

Board of Directors

Ralph Peck, *President*

Scott Morrison, *Vice President*

Ken Strom, *Secretary/Clerk*

Anthony Costello, *Treasurer*

Dick Callahan

Craig McColl

Duncan Leith

Paul McManus

Jennifer Leith

Annual Dues

Please send in your annual membership dues!

A reminder letter was sent recently.



Keeping Track with Susan Morse

In February, Holden residents and 7th graders at Mountview Middle School were treated to delightful presentations by naturalist and photographer Susan Morse (keepingtrack.org). Ms. Morse shared her original photography and related vivid stories of first-hand wildlife encounters, which enlightened as well as entertained all those present.

Holden residents who attended Ms. Morse's evening program, "The Cougar Returns to the East," learned about cougar ecology and biology, as well as recent signs that these magnificent animals are moving into their former habitats in the East. The next day, students at Mountview received engaging, hands-on training in tracking wildlife and gained a deeper understanding of the importance of protecting wildlife habitats.

Environmental education is a crucial piece of White Oak's mission, and we are grateful that Ms. Morse could share her expertise and thrilling adventures with our community! 🌿



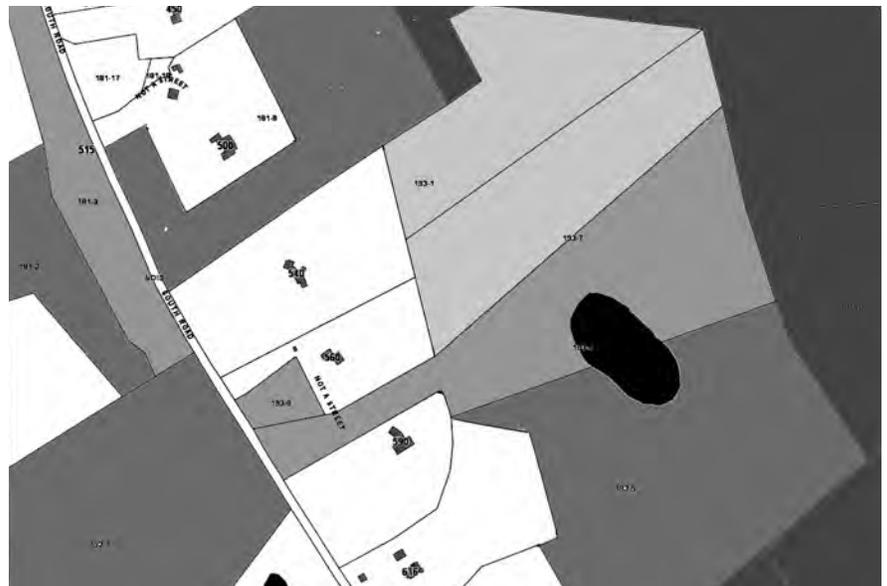
Photo by Susan Morse

Wadsworth Brook Conservation

Continued from front page

Massachusetts's Conservation Partnership grant, the City of Worcester, Stoddard Charitable Foundation, Fields Pond Foundation, and you, our members, White Oak was able to buy the 16-acre parcel, and to persuade two very helpful neighbors on South Road to give conservation restrictions on their segments of the woodland. Wadsworth Brook is now permanently protected.

For now, no trail leads to the woodland, but in the fall we hope to construct a trail down the steep and overgrown hillside at the back of our new property, which will join an old established cart track through the woods. When the trail is open, details will be posted in a kiosk at the parking lot for the Asnebumskit Ridge Trail, which lies a little further up the road. 🌿





WHITE OAK

LAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 346

HOLDEN, MA 01520



Printed on recycled paper

THURSDAY

November 8, 2018

6:30pm @ Holden Town Hall (1204 Main St.)
White Oak's Annual Meeting

Please join us on Thursday, November 8th at 6:30pm at Holden Town Hall (1204 Main Street) for White Oak's Annual Meeting! Our keynote speaker will be Ken Warchol (pictured to right), a veteran beekeeper who will offer his presentation, "The Role of the Honeybee in Our Environment." We hope to see you there.

Warchol will take you inside a beehive to better understand the mysterious social insect and the role that it plays in humanity's survival on Earth. Learn about the challenges honeybees face in our environment and find out how we can help this insect that is essential to our own survival--and then taste samples of a variety of honey.

Ken Warchol became involved with the Massachusetts Federation of Beekeepers in the 1970s. Because of his unique talent with bees he is considered by many as the bee whisperer. A 6th-generation caretaker of bees, Warchol has spoken to a wide variety of interest groups and beekeeping associations throughout New England and has published several articles in the American Bee Journal.

