

THE Oak Leaf

A PUBLICATION OF THE WHITE OAK LAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY

FALL 2016

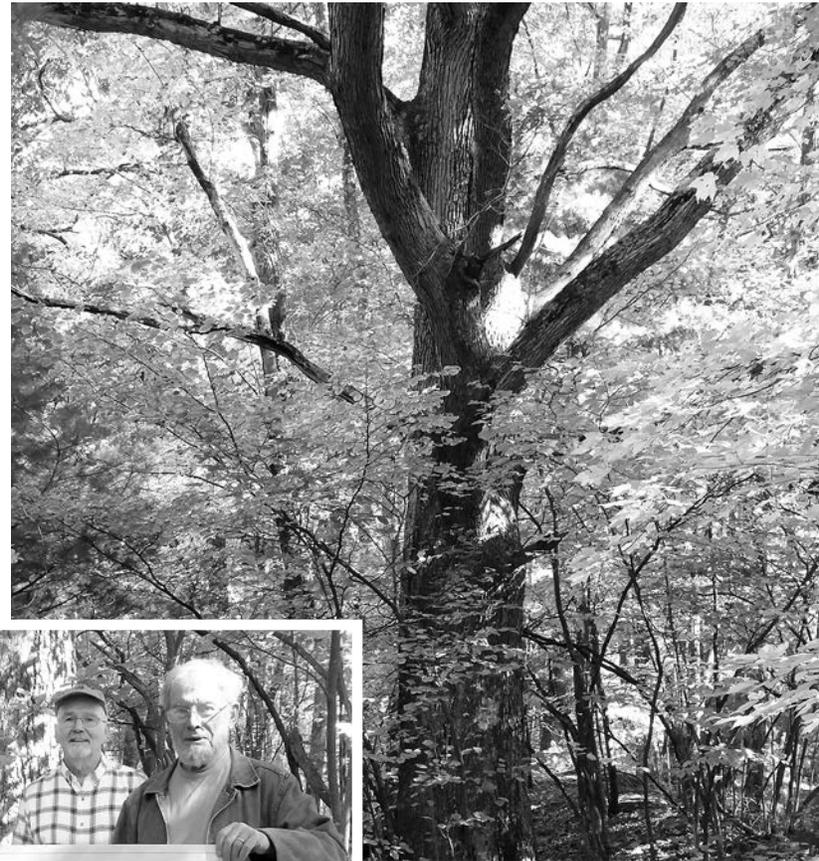
White Oak Dedication to Nancy Wilson

To fully acknowledge all that Nancy Wilson has done for White Oak Land Conservation Society, we might need to dedicate the whole state's-worth of white oaks. Instead, we will dedicate the largest white oak tree found on any White Oak property in Nancy's name. This tree is located at the Waterman property, on Salisbury Street. It is over four feet wide at its base and is estimated to be 240 years old.

Despite its impressive size, the tree hardly compares to Nancy's hard work on behalf of White Oak. For well over thirty years, Nancy served on White Oak's board, offering guidance, reflection, and inspiration for all of those who served with her.

With Nancy on the board, White Oak's holdings grew from one property (18 acres) and one Conservation Restriction (24 acres) to 20 properties (380 acres) and 8 CRs (248 acres). We were awarded professional accreditation by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. We held numerous events, like Wild Saturdays education programs, guided hikes, and a candlelight networking dinner. We applied for and were awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars to fund our land conservation projects. And, most importantly, we continued serving the conservation needs of Holden and surrounding towns.

We hope White Oak's Nancy Wilson white oak will stand as a tribute to Nancy and will remind all of those who see it how big things can grow from a small start. 🌿



Above: This white oak is estimated by be 240 years old. Photo by Anthony Costello.

Left: White Oak board members expressing their gratitude in front of the newly-dedicated tree.

“Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.”

— Albert Camus

Grin and BEAR it!

Seen any bears lately? A recent estimate in the Boston Globe put the current bear population in Massachusetts at 4500. Sightings are becoming more and more common around the state, including here in Holden.

White Oak's board member Anthony Costello caught a nighttime visitor on camera, pictured below.

Do you have any wildlife sightings around Holden? We would love you to share them to White Oak's Facebook page. 🐾

BEFORE



AFTER



Before bear and after bear: literally like day and night.
Photos by Anthony Costello.

SHOP TALBOTS and Support White Oak

Looking for that special holiday outfit? Look no further than Talbots of Holden. On Friday, November 18, from 5-7, please shop Talbots at 1063 Main Street. A portion of the sales from that evening will support White Oak's conservation efforts.

We are extremely grateful to Talbots for their generosity.



WHITE OAK

LAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY

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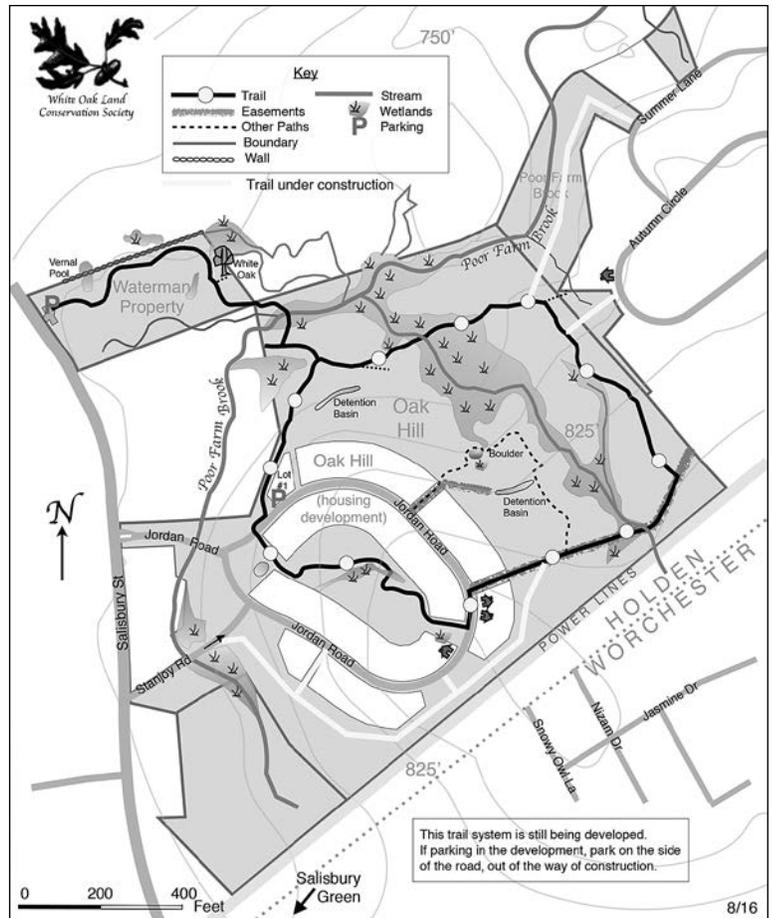
White Oak is a member of the
Land Trust Alliance and the
Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition.



Oak Hill's Happy Trails to You

White Oak is busy building trails on our land at the Oak Hill subdivision as construction on houses there continues. We are pleased to be a part of this conservation-conscious development, which is planned in a way to balance the good-sized private lots with maximizing the open space around the homes.

Our new sign is already ordered, and will be installed soon, to make the trailhead easier to find. We have 4 trails so far, totaling 1.5 miles, with another 3 planned. Like other White Oak properties, these trails are dog-friendly, open to the public, and closed to motorized recreation. We are hoping to have the trails ready in time for the new residents of the neighborhood to enjoy when they move in. 🌿



GUIDED HIKE at Porcupine Hill/Potter Sanctuary

Wendy Hughes of the Ware River Nature Club and Anthony Costello of White Oak's board led a hike on Sunday, October 16 at Porcupine Hill/Potter Sanctuary. Those who joined the hike came out on a beautiful day at a beautiful property, featuring the best colors of fall.

Due to popular demand, White Oak is now planning future hikes, which may be held at North Street or Holbrook Forest.

Extra! Extra! Annual Meeting Features Rattlesnakes

Our annual meeting will be held on Thursday, November 10 at 7 p.m. at the Holden

Senior Center. Speaker Anne Stengle will present a talk about rattlesnakes.

Anne is a PhD candidate at UMass, Amherst, in the Organismic and Evolutionary Biology Program. Since 2007, she has studied endangered snakes in Massachusetts, and timber rattlesnakes since 2009. Her research involves radiotelemetry, population genetics, habitat use, and movement patterns. She also coordinates a grant for the U.S. Fish



and Wildlife Service and consults with the State of Massachusetts on the current Quabbin rattlesnake introduction project.

Her talk will include discussion of the natural history and conservation threats to the timber rattlesnake, some of her past and current research, and the Quabbin Reservoir rattlesnake project, including the project's portrayal in the media.

A brief public business meeting will precede the presentation, with light refreshments to follow. Both members and non-members alike are welcome to attend this free presentation. 🌿



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LAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 346

HOLDEN, MA 01520



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White Oak's Annual Meeting

THURSDAY, November 10 @ 7 p.m.

Holden Senior Center

Free and open to the public



Rattlesnakes of Massachusetts

With Anne Stengle, Ph.D. candidate
from UMass, Amherst