

THE

# Oak Leaf

A PUBLICATION OF THE WHITE OAK LAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY

SUMMER 2016

## New + Old = Expanded Open Space

**W**hite Oak is delighted by the generous donation of land from Len Anderson along Chapin Road. This land, which White Oak acquired in late 2015, adding to the existing land that was donated by Harold Henrickson in 2004. This property now totals about 17 acres, and is a lovely place for a short stroll in warmer months and cross-country skiing in

colder times. We are currently working on getting a sign installed at the property.

But White Oak is always trying to be proactive in conserving open space and managing the land we already own. Another exciting project in the pipeline would preserve one of Holden's two bogs. And a new gravel parking lot is being built on Salisbury Street for access to the public open space at Oak Hill subdivision. 🌿



Above: Field at Henrickson Orchard.  
Photo by Stephanie Santoro.



Left: A fledgling Red-Tailed Hawk tries out its wings at Oak Hill Subdivision. Photo by Jackie Lynn.

**“ Oh, Sunlight! The most precious gold to be found on Earth.”**

— Roman Payne

# Welcome to White Oak's Newest Board Members

**D**uncan Leith, Ken Strom, and Dick Callahan are the newest members of White Oak's volunteer Board of Directors, and are already proving themselves to be strong teammates. In addition to their regular monthly meeting attendance, all three help with White Oak's Saturday work days, and contribute their own expertise to help our organization function.

Outside of his White Oak work, Duncan is Owner and President of L&J of New England, a Worcester company that does electrocoating, powder coating, and screen printing. Along with his wife, Jennifer (a retired Mayo School teacher and fellow White Oak Board Member), he has lived in Holden for 40 years. Duncan has long appreciated the outdoors and open space.



**New White Oak Board Member Duncan Leith. Photo by Jennifer Leith.**

Ken is a born-and-raised Holden resident, and has spent the last 32 years working as a civil engineer and land surveyor. He serves on the town's Conservation Commission, but his lifelong interest in the environment started in his youth as a Boy Scout and has continued by spending time outside with his two sons.

Dick holds a Ph.D. in entomology from UMass. Inspired by Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, he has dedicated much of his life to conservation-related causes. For the past 15 years, he has kept honeybees and has been particularly interested in the possible causes of colony collapse disorder.

White Oak is glad to have the talents of these three newcomers, but there is always room for more. We are actively seeking new members. Contact [info@whiteoaktrust.org](mailto:info@whiteoaktrust.org) for more information about joining. 🌿

## Earth Day at Mayo School

**M**ayo Elementary School celebrated Earth Day on April 17th with songs, chants, photos, and a PowerPoint presentation. Although all of the kids took part, the main presentation and research was done by twelve students from the 5th grade.

These students focused on raising awareness of current problems and possible solutions, endangered species, and simple ways to help save the earth. This is an annual event organized by White Oak board member Jennifer

Leith, retired 4th grade teacher and environmentalist.

With ever-increasing development in Holden leading to forest deforestation and vernal pool invasion, the students noted that some of the problems are close to home. 🌿



**WHITE OAK**

LAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY

**Address**

P.O. Box 346, Holden, MA 01520

**Telephone**

774-345-9658

**Email**

[info@whiteoaktrust.org](mailto:info@whiteoaktrust.org)

**Website**

[www.whiteoaktrust.org](http://www.whiteoaktrust.org)

**Board of Directors**

Ralph Peck, *President*

Scott Morrison, *Vice President*

Jennifer Leith, *Secretary/Clerk*

Anthony Costello, *Treasurer*

Dick Callahan

Paul McManus

Karen Eisenhauer

Erich Mierzejewski

Duncan Leith

Ken Strom

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



# Wildlife Saturday: Eagle One

by  
JENNIFER LEITH

**O**n April 19th, White Oak celebrated their traditional Wildlife Saturday with environmentalist Dianne Benson Davis and an enthusiastic crowd of attendees.

Davis, the author of *Eagle One: Raising Bald Eagles, A Wildlife Memoir*, shared her experience of spending four months in 1985 raising eight baby eagles on the Quabbin Reservoir. This significant undertaking involved feeding, caring, and bonding with the eaglets, and played a major role in reinvesting the bald eagle, our great American symbol, back into our world. Nearly 30 years later there are over 30 pairs of nesting eagles in Massachusetts.

The presentation was followed by refreshments and good cheer. Plans are already underway for fall's annual meeting nature talk. 🌿



## Fundraising success

**T**he White Oak board has been working hard to raise funds to purchase additional acreage for our Holbrook Forest property. So far, thanks to the 88 generous individual donations and grants from the Stoddard and Fletcher Foundations we have received, we have brought in \$85,000 out of our \$125,000 goal. We are awaiting word regarding a grant application to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which is a federal grant program administered through the National Park Service. These fundraising efforts will allow White Oak to expand the Holbrook Forest property from 60 acres to a total of 81.

Holbrook Forest is known for its miles of quiet, wooded trails, which meander also into the adjacent Kinneywood property. Owned by Greater Worcester Land Trust, Kinneywood also has a Conservation



Restriction which is monitored by White Oak. Dogs are welcome to bring their well-behaved owners for a hike on these or any of White Oak's trails. 🌿

**A canine friend enjoys the trail.  
Photo by Stephanie Santoro.**



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P.O. BOX 346

HOLDEN, MA 01520



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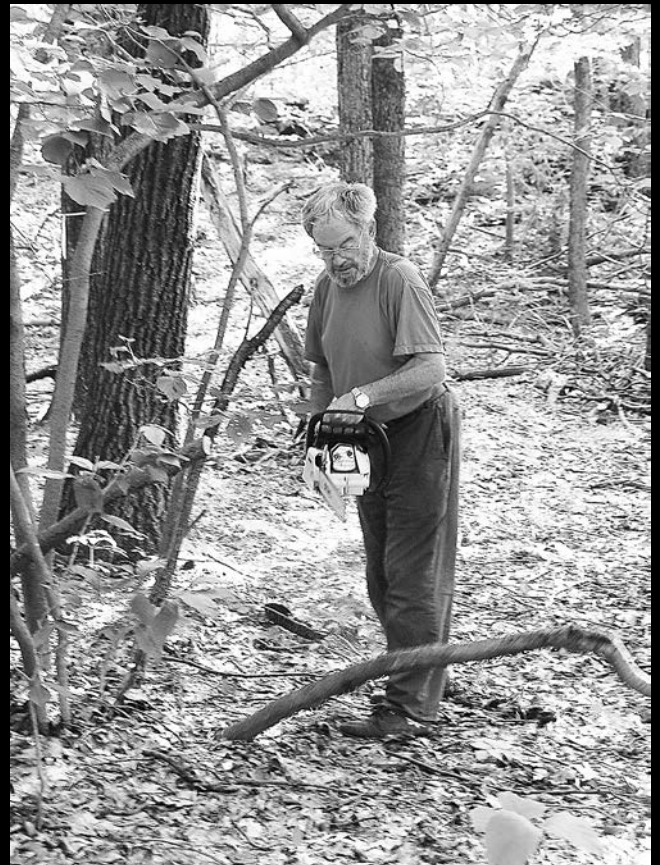
# WORK PARTIES!

Want to help White Oak conserve and protect open space, but don't know where to start?

We hold regular volunteer work parties at a variety of properties, usually on Saturday mornings. No experience or special equipment is necessary—though we wouldn't say no if you brought your own gloves and/or loppers—and there's no ongoing commitment.

Information about the work parties is typically announced on our Facebook page and via our e-newsletter, the Acorn.

To sign up for the Acorn, email [info@whiteoaktrust.org](mailto:info@whiteoaktrust.org) and we will be sure to add you to the list.



*Board Member Anthony Costello works with his chainsaw. Photo by Stephanie Santoro.*