

HAMILTON-WENHAM OPEN LAND TRUST

Newsletter
Winter 2003



Virginia Mann pictured at Tamarack Farm

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I am pleased to report that 2003 was another busy and productive year for the Hamilton-Wenham Open Land Trust. Culminating years of efforts, we acquired our first conservation restriction, for which we hope to have final state approval by the end of the year. In addition to maintaining our existing properties, our officers, directors and members supported a number of local conservation projects including National Trails Day (Hamilton Conservation Commission), the development of the Hamilton Master Plan (Hamilton Planning Board), and various activities pertaining to Chebacco Woods (Chebacco Woods Land Management Committee).

In September we co-sponsored a successful information meeting for local landowners on land protection strategies. We have also had productive, continuing discussions with several landowners interested in donating land and/or conservation easements to the Land Trust. We hope that these discussions will result in additions to our holdings by the end of this year or early in 2004. We would be pleased to talk with any landowners regarding permanent protection of their land.

Thanks to the generous support of our members and friends, the Land Trust is celebrating its 19th year of land preservation efforts, is in sound financial condition, and we look forward to the future with great anticipation.

Working together in 2004 we can preserve more of the forests, wildlife habitat, watershed, agricultural lands and other natural features that make Hamilton and Wenham the special places they are. To help us continue our land acquisition program and maintain the properties and trails we now own, we welcome new members and urge existing members to renew their memberships now. We are always interested in acquiring and conserving additional land, and ask that you contact a Land Trust officer or director or call our office at 978-468-7747 to discuss possible acquisitions or conservation easements.

A Regular membership is only ten dollars; and larger amounts or negotiable securities are always welcome. Contributions are tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.

Our best wishes to all in 2004,
Christopher P. Davis, President

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to serve as monitors for the Land Trust's various properties. The duties of a monitor would include inspecting the reservation periodically and reporting any maintenance or improvement issues to the Land Trust. If you are interested in being a reservation monitor, please contact Betsy Hopkins at (978) 468-7747.

Upcoming Reservations Walks - 2004

Sunday, February 16 and Sunday, May 10.

Meeting place: Hamilton Town Hall at 1:00 p.m.

For further information call Betsy Hopkins at (978) 468-7747

OUR LATEST ACQUISITION

We are pleased to announce the donation to the Land Trust of a conservation restriction on most of the former Mann property (Tamarack Farm) in Hamilton. This nine acre restriction consists of open fields, seasonal streams, forested wetlands and upland trails. The property is unique in that it has over 350 feet of frontage on Essex Street with an unusually attractive vista of a paddock, out buildings and the historic main house. This is the only view of what East Hamilton was like prior to intense development on Essex Street between the Hamilton-Wenham town line and the Hamilton-Essex town line.



We wish to thank Kevin Donovan and Michele Stecyk for the gift of the conservation restriction, and we are grateful to Virginia Mann, the prior owner for fifty years, for her vision of the property's future. The conservation restriction awaits the approval of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Secretary of Environmental Affairs.

New Clerk/Treasurer

After nineteen years as Clerk/Treasurer, Dana Hansen will be assuming a still active, but reduced role with the Land Trust. The Officers and Directors have elected Betsy Hopkins as the new Clerk/Treasurer beginning January, 2004.

Betsy has been with the Land Trust since 2000, first as a director and recently as Vice President. She has an A.B. from Harvard College, and S.M. from MIT's Sloan School of Management and an M.A. from the Conway School of Landscape Design. Her professional experience and interest lie in the areas of land restoration, wetlands protection, native plants, and landscape history. Betsy has been working with Dana for several months to assure an orderly transition. Dana will remain closely involved with the Land Trust as Special Projects Manager.



Hamilton-Wenham Open Land Trust, Inc.

Officers

Christopher P. Davis, Esq, Hamilton *President*
Robert Shaw, Wenham *Vice President
& Maintenance Manager*
Betsy Hopkins *Clerk/Treasurer*
Dana L. Hansen *Special Projects*

Directors

Carol Decker
A. Winslow Dodge
Timothy Everitt
Frederick S. Moseley, IV
Martin Pomeroy, Esq.
Lisa Press
Binkley C. Shorts
Arthur D. Weekes, III

Reservations

Pondview

2 acres on Boardman Lane, Hamilton
Gift of Ephron and Priscilla S. Catlin

Nickerson Knoll

11.7 acres on Cedar Street, Wenham
Gift of Pauline M. Nickerson

Helen Warren Richardson

2 acres on Woodbury Street, Hamilton
Gift of Frederick L. W. Richardson, III

Marshview

9.7 acres off Sagamore Street, Ipswich
Gift of New England Biolabs Corporation

Riverside

9 acres off Gardner Street, Hamilton
Gift of Tom and Tim Ford

Whipple

2 acres on Candlewood Island, Hamilton
Gift of Linda Greeley and Paula Minichiello

Taft Woods

4.4 acres off Taft Woods Row, Hamilton
Gift of the Warren 5 Cents Savings Bank

Ted & Ella Johnson

7 acres on Candlewood Island, Hamilton
Gift of Theodore E. Johnson

Chute/Tarr Farm

8.6 acres off Bridge Street, Hamilton
Gift of George E. Tarr and Mary Ann Chute

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Preserving Our Natural Heritage Since 1985

