

**New Reservations**

The Land Trust acquired three new properties since the publication of our last newsletter.

**Michaela's Woods**

In December of 2004, the Land Trust received the generous donation of nearly 17 acres of land in Hamilton from Mark Arratoon and his family. The property is located at the end of Appleton Avenue and is adjacent to the Land Trust's existing reservation, Taft Woods. Together, these two properties comprise over 20 acres of protected open space. The Arratoons wish the reservation to be called Michaela's Woods, in honor of their daughter, Michaela, who spent many hours playing there. Possessing both upland and wetland areas, the property is in a natural, wooded condition.

**Baker Pasture**

In January of this year, the Land Trust was given nine acres of forested upland off Pine Swamp Road in Ipswich. The land contains beautiful stone walls and surrounds several acres to be developed into three residential lots. The majority of the land is to be left open and in its natural state. A portion of the open space, however, is intended to be leased to adjacent property owners for agricultural purposes. The Land Trust would like to thank Paul F. Wegzyn for this generous gift.

**Main Street Property**

At Wenham's Special Town Meeting in March, voters agreed to assign the Town's right of first refusal to

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**A magnificent canopy of pines and hemlocks at Nickerson Knoll**

Photo: B. Recio

## Reservations

### HAMILTON

#### Chute/Tarr Farm

8.6 acres off Bridge Street

Gift of George E. Tarr and Mary Ann Chute

#### Ted and Ella Johnson

7 acres on Candlewood Island

Gift of Theodore E. Johnson

#### Michaela's Woods

16.9 acres off Appleton Avenue

Gift of Mark S. and Andrea L. Arratoon

#### Pondview

2 acres on Boardman Lane

Gift of Ephron and Priscilla S. Catlin

#### Helen Warren Richardson

2 acres on Woodbury Street

Gift of Frederick L. W. Richardson, III

#### Riverside

9 acres off Gardner Street

Gift of Tom and Tim Ford

#### Taft Woods

4.4 acres off Taft Woods Row

Gift of Warren 5 Cents Savings Bank

#### Tamarack Farm (CR)

9 acres off Essex Street

Protected by Michele Stecyk and Kevin Donovan

#### Whipple

2 acres on Candlewood Island

Gift of Linda Greeley and Paula Minichiello

### WENHAM

#### Nickerson Knoll

11.7 acres on Cedar Street

Gift of Pauline M. Nickerson

#### Cherry Street (CR)

24 acres on Cherry and Pleasant Streets

Protected by Binkley and Paula Shorts

### IPSWICH

#### Baker Pasture

9 acres on Pine Swamp Road

Gift of Paul F. Wegzyn

#### Marshview

9.7 acres off Sagamore Street

Gift of New England Biolabs Corporation

## President's Letter

*2005 has been an exciting year for the Land Trust. We celebrated our 20th anniversary and brought our land holdings to over 100 acres in Hamilton, Wenham and Ipswich. We acquired two significant new reservations: Michaela's Woods (approximately 17 acres in Hamilton) and Baker Pasture (approximately 9 acres in Ipswich). We are grateful to the donors of these properties and their commitment to conservation. We are also delighted that last spring, both Hamilton and Wenham voted to adopt the Community Preservation Act, which the Land Trust actively supported as a means to fund open space preservation.*

*A significant ongoing project is the ten-acre Dodge Property in Wenham. Last spring, the Wenham Town Meeting and Selectmen assigned the Town's right of first refusal under Chapter 61A to the Land Trust to facilitate the protection of 50.1 percent of this centrally located property as open space. We are continuing to work with town officials, a prospective developer (Windover Development) and the Dodge family toward the final acquisition of approximately five acres. This open space will be preserved in conjunction with Windover's proposed development of an elder housing community on the remaining portion of the property.*

*There have been some important changes in the Land Trust's leadership. The officers and directors are excited to welcome Belinda Recio as our new Communications Manager and Peter Dana as a new director (see Departures and Arrivals). I wish to personally thank two retiring directors, Albie Dodge and Lisa Press, for their years of service. Also, after twenty years of dedication to the Land Trust, we thank Dana Hansen for his vision and leadership. Also, after six years, I will be stepping down as President in December and handing the gavel to Marty Pomeroy. I look forward to working with Marty and continuing to serve as a director.*

*We thank all of our land donors and members for your continued support of the Land Trust's local conservation mission. We urge you to renew your membership now. We are always interested in conserving additional land and we would be pleased to speak with any land owners potentially interested in the permanent preservation of their land.*



**(continued from page 1)**

ten-plus acres on Main Street (the Dodge Tree Farm) to the Land Trust. To fund the acquisition, the Land Trust has partnered with Windover Development with the understanding that, under the requirements of Massachusetts law, a majority of the land must remain open space in horticultural or agricultural use and whatever type of development occurs on the remaining portion of the site be at the discretion of the town. At the most recent Town Meeting in October, Wenham voters, with the Planning Board's recommendation, amended the zoning bylaw to allow the construction of elder housing on the site. The Land Trust will be seeking input from the community on the use of the open space.

## Departures and Arrivals

This past year has seen the departure of several individuals whose contribution of time and energy to the Land Trust will be missed. Dana Hansen, the founder of the Land Trust, has decided to leave his post as director of Special Projects. Two years ago, Dana

stepped down as Clerk/Treasurer, but remained to offer his wise counsel on special matters. Two directors have also decided step down this year—A. Winslow (Albie) Dodge from Wenham and Lisa Press from Hamilton. Peter Dana, a member of the Hamilton Conservation Committee, has been elected a new director.

Belinda Recio has joined the Land Trust as Communications Manager, a role to which she brings twenty years of experience in visual design, editorial direction, and content development. Belinda lives in Hamilton, with her husband, Ed. In addition to running her business, True North Productions—a creative services firm specializing in print and electronic communications—she is also a doctoral student in Environmental Studies at Antioch New England Graduate School. As Communications Manager, Belinda will work with the other officers and directors to implement a communications program that strengthens the Land Trust's visibility and identity.



**A concept for open space and elder housing in the former Dodge Tree Farm**

(Windover Development)

## Membership

The Land Trust is a charitable organization that conserves land in our communities for its natural, recreational, scenic, and wildlife values. Contributions are tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations. A regular membership is only ten dollars; and larger amounts or negotiable securities are always welcome.

## Land Gifts

The Land Trust can purchase land for permanent protection, or may use one of several other methods to protect open space. We can accept donations of land or the funds to purchase land, accept a bequest, or accept the donation of a conservation restriction, which permanently limits the development that can take place on the land. Please contact Chris Davis at 978-468-5258 with any inquiries.

## Website Update: [www.hwolt.net](http://www.hwolt.net)

The Land Trust continues to work on the development of its website, which will be up and running early in 2006. The website will contain general information about the Land Trust and each of its reservations, with property descriptions, directions and maps. If you would like to receive future newsletters via email, please email the Land Trust at [bhopkins@hwolt.net](mailto:bhopkins@hwolt.net)

## Reservation Walks

Reservation Walks are scheduled on Sunday, May 21, and Sunday, October 1, 2006, at 1:00 PM. Meet at Hamilton Town Hall. For further information, please call Betsy Hopkins at 978-468-7747.

## Directors and Officers

### Directors

Peter Dana  
Carol Decker  
Timothy Everitt  
Frederick S. Moseley, IV  
Martin Pomeroy, Esq.  
Binkley Shorts  
Arthur D. Weekes, III  
Ken Whittaker

### Officers

Christopher P. Davis, President  
Robert Shaw, Vice President and Reservations Manager  
Betsy Hopkins, Clerk/Treasurer  
Belinda Recio, Communications Manager



Photo: B. Recio



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