

HAMILTON-WENHAM OPEN LAND TRUST

Winter 1999



Chebacco Woods Trail Walkers

1999 IN REVIEW

In 1999 we continued to focus on helping the towns of Hamilton and Manchester-by-the-Sea develop the essential elements of managing Chebacco Woods. Our thanks to Bob Shaw, our maintenance manager, who designed and built the kiosk at the main trails entrance on Chebacco Road in Hamilton, made several trail connector signs, and helped build the support beams for the main trails sign. Thanks also to Pierre Erhard, Wenham arborist, for the use of his crane to install the sign, and Ralph Smith and Filip Bortkiewicz for their sign work. Our members also prepared the main trails map accompanying this report and designated and marked Chebacco Woods' six main trails.

During this past summer and early fall we posted over 200 colored trail markers along the trails to make them user-friendly to those visitors unfamiliar with the trail system, and also to aid Hamilton emergency search and rescue personnel. Thanks to Dane Cronin, Chris Davis, Pierre Erhard, and Lise Hansen for helping out with the trail marking and mapping. Additional copies of the trails map are available from the Hamilton Conservation Commission office (468-5583).

In addition to trail marking, mapping, and signage Land Trust volunteers helped replace more than 50 Manchester water supply land signs around Round Pond and Gravelly Pond with signage detailing new regulations, including those for Round Pond. We are pleased that the Town of Manchester-by-the-Sea has opened Round Pond for fishing and nonpowered watercraft. See the trails map for more details on this development. The Land Trust also played a major role in preparation and acceptance by the Towns of Hamilton and Manchester-by-the-Sea of the Chebacco Woods land management plan, which was initially prepared by Lisa Press, one of our directors and was a year-long effort. Land Trust member, Virginia Cookson, developed and managed the contest to give the property a permanent name. Several hundred students in grades K-12 submitted entries and "Chebacco Woods" proposed by second grader, Andy Weld, and third grader, Haley Pratt, was the winning entry. Chebacco is a centuries-old Indian term meaning "place of quiet waters."

Activities unrelated to Chebacco Woods in 1999 revolved around maintaining our seven reservations in Hamilton and Wenham and included routine mowing, trail trimming, and minor repairs to signs and bridges. Our properties are in excellent condition and we look forward to adding to them next year. We urge anyone who would like to know more about the Hamilton-Wenham Open Land Trust and land preservation options to call one of our officers or directors, or write the Land Trust at 74 Blueberry Lane, South Hamilton, MA 01982.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

As you can see, our participation in the Chebacco Woods project has been very successful. In order for us to assist in other large projects, continue our land acquisition program, and maintain our properties we need your support. An annual membership in the Hamilton-Wenham Open Land Trust is only ten dollars and larger amounts are welcome. Contributions are tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.

Our best wishes to you in the year 2000 .

Leeli Bonney, *President*



View Across the Ipswich River from the Whipple Reservation

