

THE ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WALDEN WOODS PROJECT & THE THOREAU INSTITUTE AT WALDEN WOODS 2004-2005

# Walden **Comes Home**

In Celebration of its 150th Year

learned this, at least, by my experiment; that if one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours," wrote Henry David Thoreau in Walden.

Could Thoreau have imagined the success his book would have, a work largely ignored and out of print before his death? The book he wanted "to wake my neighbors up" has woken millions around the world. In 2004 we celebrated the 150th anniversary of the publication of the American classic, Walden, and the man who wrote it.

To launch its commemorative events, the Walden Woods Project was honored to exhibit the final (extant) seventh manuscript draft of Walden. The manuscript was on loan this past summer to the Walden Woods Project's Thoreau Institute from the Huntington Library. During its eight week stay, visitors from around the world came to see Thoreau's handwritten draft only two miles from

Walden Pond. The generous and unprecedented loan by the Huntington Library in San Marino, California,

was funded in part by Infinity Sound Systems, the Presenting Sponsor of the exhibit, with support from Houghton Mifflin Company and other generous donors.

Complementing the manuscript exhibit was "Walden at 150," an exhibit of Scot Miller's photographs selected from Walden: 150th Anniversary Illustrated Edition of the American Classic, published this year by Houghton Mifflin Company in collaboration with the Walden Woods Project. Texas-based photographer Miller spent five years documenting Walden Pond and Woods through the seasons. His powerful color photographs succeed in connecting the book to the landscape as never before.

In his foreword to this edition, the distinguished



biologist, Edward O. Wilson writes, "In Walden, Thoreau gives us a sense of place. We see this particular place through his eyes, walk there in his footsteps. We can directly experience it as it was 150 years ago, trace the same pathways, and share an intellectual and aesthetic proprietorship. In Walden Woods the five-needled fascicle that defines a white pine and the swift patrolling flight of a territorial red admiral butterfly assume personal meaning. They and a thousand details endure. Nature keeps." Houghton Mifflin, the descendant of Ticknor and Fields, (the original publisher of Walden, or Life in the Woods), has priced the book at \$28.12, half a cent less than Thoreau spent building his Walden house. The publisher and Scot Miller are generously donating a

(continued on page 3)



of Walden Woods,

he past year has been a very successful one for the Walden Woods Project.

In recent weeks, we signed purchase and sale agreements for two important properties in Walden Woods, both under threat of development. The Adams property, adjacent to the Walden Woods Project's Thoreau Institute and next to Thoreau's Beech Spring, is comprised of fields and meadows and a historic house owned by the descendants of Presidents John and John Quincy Adams that will provide additional space for our educational programs. The Bilodeau property was formerly used for agriculture and is situated at the western gateway to Walden Woods adjacent to tracts of conservation land already protected by the Walden Woods Project.

We need to raise \$4 million to permanently preserve these two historic and ecologically significant sites. As we go to press with this newsletter, we have received \$1.8 million in donations to support these acquisitions. We're delighted with this early success, but there is much more to be done. We need your support to raise an additional \$2.2 million. Of course, while raising the funds for these important acquisitions, we must continue to support our annual operating costs and build an endowment.

Refer to the center of this newsletter to see photographs of these properties and those we now own. The list below provides an overview of our further accomplishments during 2004.

- "Walden Comes Home: The Sesquicentennial of an American Classic." An exhibit featuring the final manuscript draft of Thoreau's Walden, or Life in the Woods, courtesy of the Huntington Library.
- Walden: 150th Anniversary Illustrated Edition of the American Classic.
   A book published by Houghton Mifflin Company in collaboration with the Walden Woods Project, and featuring photographs by Scot Miller.
- Reception for the Walden manuscript, and the new illustrated edition
  of Walden, with readings from Walden by author Jane Langton, State
  Representative Marie St. Fleur, Don Henley, and Dr. Lawrence Buell and
  Dr. Edward O.Wilson, both of Harvard University.
- Unprecedented news media coverage of our organization in The New York
  Times, The Boston Globe, Christian Science Monitor, CBS Sunday Morning,
  Voice of America, MSNBC and public radio's nationally syndicated On Point.
- Publication of a fully annotated edition of Walden by Yale University Press
  edited by a member of our staff, Jeff Cramer, Curator of Collections at the
  Thoreau Institute.

- Banner year for educational programming with over 800 people in attendance at 24 events, including talks by ornithologist and artist David Sibley, environmental historian Donald Worster and a performance by Noel Paul Stookey of Peter, Paul and Mary.
- Two educational programs for middle and high school teachers; and development of "International Walden" for students, made possible by generous grants from the Skoll Foundation and The Pierre and Pamela Omidyar Fund.
- Nearly \$200,000 in funding from the Federal Highway Administration to study the feasibility of a wildlife-pedestrian overpass across a major state highway in Walden Woods.
- Fundraising event in Boston starring Bette Midler, who generously donated her time and talent.
- Film documentary of the Walden Woods Project in production, designed for public television in collaboration with American Forests and with support from The Sharper Image — to air in the spring of 2005.

We encourage you to take a few minutes to look over the articles in this newsletter highlighting our activities during the past year. We could not have reached this level of achievement without the support of so many friends. Only with your help can we build on our work to protect Walden Woods and provide top quality educational programming and research opportunities relating to Henry Thoreau and his legacy. **Given the financial challenges in the coming months, your continued support is especially important to us this year. We send our deepest thanks for your generosity.** 

Wishing you all the best for the Holidays and throughout the New Year,

Don Henley Founder/President

Don Henler

Kathi Anderson Executive Director

# Walden Comes Home

(continued from page 1)

portion of the proceeds from the sale of the book. *To order, call the Walden Woods Project at 1-800-554-3569 x 731.* 

Highlighting the exhibits' opening event were readings from *Walden* by the Walden Woods Project's founder Don Henley, author Jane Langton, State Representative Marie St. Clair and Harvard professors Lawrence Buell and Edward O. Wilson. On a summer evening outdoors at the Thoreau Institute, they brought Thoreau's wit, wisdom and vivid stories magically alive.

Walden's success, while undisputed, comes in different forms for different readers. Yet most will agree that few writers have succeeded so well in extracting universal meaning from a particular landscape. Down through the generations, whether seen as primer for the simple life, spiritual autobiography, experiment in American mythology or literary masterpiece that defies all categorization, the book, Walden, will remain deeply rooted within its place, Walden Woods.

# Walden Woods Project's Curator Edits New Walden

Without fanfare one morning last summer, our loyal UPS driver arrived at the doorstep with another ordinary package ... that turned out to be special. Inside was an advance copy of *Walden: A Fully Annotated Edition*, edited by Jeff Cramer, Curator of Collections at the Walden Woods Project's Thoreau Institute.

With its arrival, more than two years of careful research had come to fruition. During that time, Jeff utilized the resources of the Thoreau Institute's library. He tells us he could not have produced the book without these collections, acknowledged to be the most comprehensive materials available relating to Thoreau's life and writings.

The Boston Globe has called the book, published by Yale University Press, a "handsome, 'all-things-Walden' edition." The internationally-known Thoreau scholar, Joel Porte of Cornell University, recently said "There is nothing like this—within the covers of one book—in the world of Thoreau scholarship. The book is fascinating . . . accurate and minute in its scholarship. It amounts to a Thoreau encyclopedia in one volume."

In his preface, Jeff explained: "My main purpose has been twofold: to examine the text of *Walden* in light of the research and commentary that has been published in the last 150 years, and to present a reliable text with as comprehensive a series of annotations as possible. I have tried to correct errors and omissions of previous editions without creating new ones, but I feel like the traveler Thoreau wrote about in his 'Conclusion' to *Walden* who was told by a boy that the swamp before him had a hard bottom. On the traveler's horse sinking in up to the girth, he said, 'I thought you said that this bog had a hard bottom.' 'So it has,' answered the boy, 'but you have not got half way to it yet.' We may never get to the bottom of *Walden* but I hope we have gotten a lot closer."

Like many readers, Jeff took years to warm up to Thoreau. But there's no stopping him now. He's firmly launched on a second volume in a series of annotated Thoreau texts to be published by Yale University Press. All of us associated with the Walden Woods Project and Thoreau Institute take pride in Jeff's accomplishment and wish him all the best with his new book. *To order, call the Walden Woods Project at 1-800-554-3569 x 731.* 

# Safe Crossings for the Four-footed

WWP receives grant to study wildlife overpass

The Federal Highway Administration has awarded the Walden Woods Project nearly \$200,000 to undertake a feasibility study for a wildlife-pedestrian overpass across Route 2, the four lane state highway that cuts through Walden Woods just north of Walden Pond. Our partners for the study are Boston's Metropolitan Area Planning Council and Massachusetts Audubon's Ecological Extension Service. Representatives from the Massachusetts Highway Department, the towns of Concord and Lincoln, the state's Division of Conservation & Recreation and neighborhood communities will be important participants in a study process that includes all stakeholders.

Increasingly common in Europe and western Canada, the overpass would be a first for New England and one of only a handful in the United States. As with most new concepts, this one raises a multitude of questions.

# **Q.** What is the value of a wildlife overpass and why Walden Woods?

**A.** Like most major highways worldwide, Route 2 acts as a barrier to animal movement, fragmenting large areas of open space and impacting wildlife populations by limiting movement and causing roadway deaths. A wildlife overpass in Walden Woods would reconnect large wildlife habitat areas, benefiting many animal species, including less common mammals such as gray fox and fisher, both of which have been identified in this particular wildlife "corridor" in Walden Woods.

# **Q.** Why wouldn't an underpass serve the same purpose?

**A.** Studies show that large animals tend not to use them and that many species are more likely to use an overpass.

# **Q.** Why would wildlife cross a bridge if it is used by people?

**A.** Studies demonstrate that wildlife tend to use bridges at night, while people use them during the day. The feasibility study will include research into design options that accommodate both wildlife and pedestrians.

# Q. What does a wildlife overpass look like?

**A.** From the roadway, an overpass looks much like any bridge. But wildlife overpasses generally are designed to be wide and have gently sloping vegetated ramps on either side. The overpass surface is covered with a base of soil and planted with native grasses, shrubs and trees. Animals will use a wildlife overpass because it doesn't look like one; it feels safe.

## Q. How do people and communities benefit?

**A.** There are several pluses. First, Route 2 traffic volumes and the new concrete barriers and guardrails installed late in 2004 reduce crossing points and safety for the hundreds of people walking to Walden Woods and Pond as well as for animals trying to cross. An overpass on Route 2 would substantially increase public safety — for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists.

Second, it would reconnect Walden Woods to Concord Center for walkers and cyclists, allowing further connections with the extensive trail system between Concord and Lincoln. Thus, along with reconnecting a pre-existing wildlife corridor, it would create a recreation corridor. Nearby, the recently reclaimed Concord landfill with its beautiful open fields would become easily accessible. Finally, local residents, visitors and tourists would all gain from a green gateway to a historic region.

### Q. What will the study produce?

**A.** Working with our partners and a consulting team of wildlife biologists, ecologists and planners, we will coordinate wildlife study results with design and engineering information. The final outcome will propose a set of alternatives for an overpass based on analyses of wildlife data, aesthetics, function and cost.

# "Our village life would stagnate if it were not for the unexplored forests and meador

# Photo by Dan Schmid

Bilodeau Property - under agreement

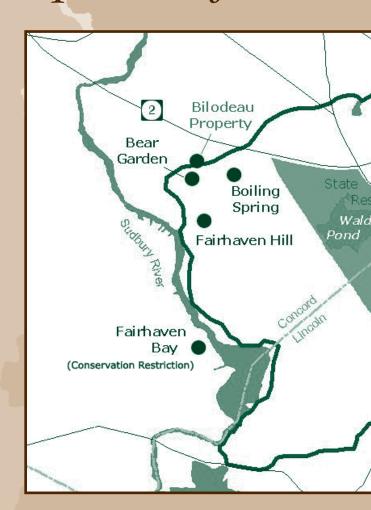
# Photo by Luba Zhaurova

Walden Woods Project's Thoreau Institute



**Brister's Hill Restoration Assistants** 

# The Tonic of Properties of the Wa



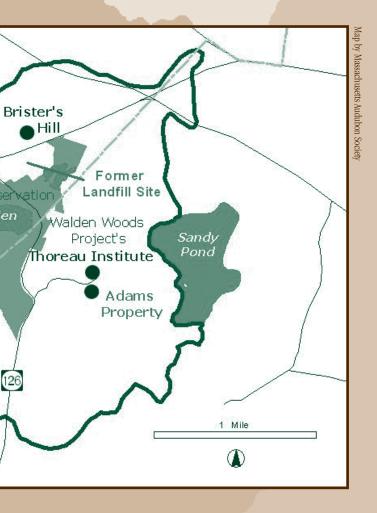
ocated in the Massachusetts towns of Concord and Lincoln, Walden Woods (outlined above in dark green) is a 2,680-acre ecological unit characterized by very dry, sandy, acidic soils unsuitable for agriculture. In the early 1800s, the Woods was on the ecological margin between town and country, field and forest. Within its borders lived a scattering of people on a second margin of another kind. These were the rural poor, marginalized by social prejudice as well as poverty. Among them were recent Irish immigrants and freed slaves such as Brister Freeman.

Thanks to a major grant from Time Warner, Inc., our 18-acre Brister's Hill property is being restored, and the opening of Thoreau's Path on Brister's Hill is now planned for late spring of 2005. Our interpretive path will be a peaceful contrast to the 147,000 square foot office building with parking for over 500 cars that had reached the final stage leading up to construction. This planned development was the impetus for our founding in 1990.



# vs which surround it. We need the tonic of wildness." – Henry David Thoreau, Walden

# of Wildness Alden Woods Project



Long an important source of fuel wood, Walden Woods has never been completely clear-cut or fully developed. Today, approximately 70% of the area is protected through state, town and private ownership.

Our immediate challenge is to acquire the Adams and Bilodeau properties, as described at the top of page two. Both are shown on this map. Funds are urgently needed so that we may protect these two sites of outstanding conservation value.

A second critical challenge is our continuing work with the town of Concord and the state to identify a suitable site for the relocation of the few remaining activities of the Concord Public Works Department still taking place at the former town landfill. Given a successful relocation, the door will be opened to secure full ecological restoration and permanent protection for this prominent gateway to Walden Pond and Woods.



Adams Property - under agreement



View from Fairhaven Hill



Bear Garden Hill and Boiling Spring



Photo by Dan Schmid

# All in the Family

# Mother & Son Teach Lessons of Walden Woods

by Kent Curtis

For the eighth summer in a row, the Walden Woods Project hosted its summer teachers' seminar, *Approaching Walden*. But for the first time ever, one of its participants was the son of an alumna, who also happened to teach in the same high school.

In the summer of 2000, Janet Burne, a veteran English teacher at Reading Memorial High School, in Reading, Massachusetts attended the Walden Woods Project's *Approaching Walden*. Last spring, she encouraged her son, Matthew Burne, a long time vernal pool expert with the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Wildlife and a brand new science teacher at the same school, to attend the seminar. "I don't think I have ever taken a course that had more impact on what I do in the classroom," Janet said of her two weeks at the Thoreau Institute in Lincoln. "I felt Matt could benefit from the same experience."

Janet had been teaching Henry David Thoreau's

Walden to sophomore level honors students for almost 20 years when she attended Approaching Walden in 2000, "and I always felt that they never quite got it," she remembers. After two weeks of intensive seminar, Janet was inspired to construct a series of lessons that prepare her students to confront the text and engage its multiple meanings. In a nutshell, Janet has her students begin journaling and reflecting on the world around them for two to three months before reading Thoreau. "When they get to Walden," Janet says, "They can identify with his ideas and prose. They say things like, 'Hey, I was thinking the same thing in my journal."

As a result of his summer experience in Walden Woods, Matt has integrated Thoreau into his honors level field biology course. He has created mapping exercises, outdoor fieldwork that brings students to natural sites around Reading, and a strong dose of Thoreau quotes. "The students were all a little taken



Teachers Janet & Matt Burne at Reading Memorial High School

aback when I began reading them quotes from 'Walking' and giving them journal-writing assignments," Matt says. But he believes that the science they learn over the upcoming school year will be richer and more personal as a result. While still getting his "sea legs" as a teacher, he feels confident, even inspired, by using the ideas he assembled during his participation in Approaching Walden 2004.

Kent Curtis, Ph.D. is Director of Education at the Walden Woods Project.

# In Thoreau's Footsteps...

naturalist rediscovers rare alpine plants

by Michael Jones



Mountain Sorrel on Mt. Washington

In July of 1858, Henry David Thoreau spent four nights camped on the sloping floor of Tuckerman's Ravine, the most clearly defined glacial ravine remaining in New England. Over 10,000 years ago, after the bulk of the great Laurentide ice sheet had begun to disintegrate, glacial ice formed upon the highest mountains and continued to wreak havoc there, forming a series of glacial ravines, or cirques, that ornament the imposing eastern slopes of New Hampshire's Presidential Range. The plants that colonized the vast expanses of glacial outwash and drift were arctic and subarctic species that had survived along the periphery. Today, many of those arctic species remain in New England only where the climate precludes all else: namely, atop the glacier-scarred summits of the Mount Washington, Katahdin and other northern peaks.

1858 marked Thoreau's second trip to Mount Washington. This time he climbed the half-finished auto road to the summit and descended to Tuckerman's cirque through fog and mist. Thoreau's account in his Journal of his second ascent focuses on the extremely unusual arctic-alpine flora of the cirque's headwall.

In places, Thoreau's descriptions are particular enough to lead a present-day naturalist to discover the very plants he describes. Over the past five years I have made a series of mid-July trips to Tuckerman's Ravine. With Thoreau's Journal in hand, I have been able to retrace

his route fairly precisely. Along an ankle-deep brook near Thoreau's campsite I found the kidney-leaved mountain sorrel and the citrus-scented arnica. *Phyllodoce* and *Cassiope*, related heaths native to the arctic tundra, still clasp the shattered stone near the lip of the ravine. By heeding Thoreau's written instructions, I found scraps of *Arctostaphylos alpina* (arctic bearberry) and *Salix herbacea* (arctic dwarf willow) clinging to the north-facing crags above his 1858 camp.

From an ecological standpoint, few natural places visited by Thoreau remain so pristine as Tuckerman's Ravine. Even by 1858, much of New England had been pastured or cleared; today, non-native plants have altered succession processes and become primary components of most plant communities in the region. The greatest disturbance to have come upon the flora of Tuckerman's Ravine in the millennia since the ice sheets was possibly Thoreau himself, who burned several acres of sub-alpine forest on the ravine headwall in an endeavor to light a campfire.

Michael Jones is a graduate student in Organismic and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Massachusetts in Amberst. To date, with two exceptions, he has succeeded in locating every rare plant in Tuckerman's Ravine mentioned by Thoreau. On completion of his research, Michael hopes to write a history of the botanists and botany of Tuckerman's Ravine.



# Noteworthy...

# PBS DOCUMENTARY ON WW UNDERWAY

The Walden Woods Project and American Forests are collaborating on the production of a 60 minute documentary featuring the life and legacy of Henry David Thoreau, the history of Walden Woods and the work of the Walden Woods Project. It will air on PBS stations in the spring of 2005. Look for more information about the program in our next newsletter.

The Walden Woods Project is very pleased to be associated with The Sharper Image, which has provided a generous gift to support the production of the documentary. Sharper Image founder and CEO, Richard Thalheimer, praised the initiative, saying "Don Henley, founder of the Walden Woods Project, is a good friend of The Sharper Image and our company is an enthusiastic supporter of the Project's efforts to preserve the historic natural forest that surrounds Walden Pond. Sharper Image is pleased to offer Walden Woods Project supporters a certificate for a \$50 discount on our most popular item, the Ionic Breeze Silent Air Purifier. While preserving the woods that inspired Thoreau will give us cleaner air and a quiet place for reflection, The Ionic Breeze brings quiet and cleaner air into homes. The enclosed certificate is our way of saying thank you to the thousands of people who have helped preserve a national treasure — Walden Woods."

# DON HENLEY AMONG "RESTORE AMERICA HEROES"

In June 2004, Don Henley was honored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) at a ceremony in Washington, DC for his work on behalf of the Walden Woods Project. The Trust selected him because of his "hands-on commitment and unwavering personal conviction that helped ensure this historic treasure (Walden Woods) will be saved so that future generations can experience it, learn from it and be inspired by it." The NTHP named Walden Woods to its annual list of "11 Most Endangered Historic Places" in 1990 and again in 1991.

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas presented the award to Don, whose recent efforts to restore the historic Cass County Courthouse in his hometown of Linden, Texas were also recognized by the NTHP. Other honorees included actress Diane Keaton, former Sara Lee Chairman and CEO John H. Bryan, U.S. Senator Mike DeWine of Ohio, Rep. John Lewis of Georgia, and the Travelers

Conservation Foundation. An interview with Don Henley appears in the September/October 2004 issue of *Preservation Magazine*. The interview can be found on our website at www.walden.org

# DIVINE EVENING BENEFITS WWP

On March 16, 2004, the Walden Woods Project held a fundraising gala at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel starring the Divine Miss M. herself, Bette Midler. Over 600 guests braved an unexpected blizzard and helped raise over \$200,000. Fresh from her "Kiss My Brass" tour, Ms. Midler performed songs from her Grammy®-nominated album "Bette Midler Sings The Rosemary Clooney Songbook" as well as signature hits, including "The Rose," "From a Distance" and "Wind Beneath My Wings."



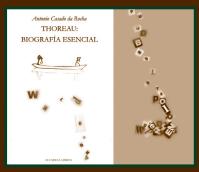
A live auction led by Ed Begley, Jr. featured one-of-a-kind items such as Christina Agulierra's leather miniskirt, a handmade canoe, Eagles ticket packages and the opportunity to be a character in a future Stephen King novel.

Special thanks to Platinum Sponsors who contributed \$10,000 or more: Mr. & Mrs. Edward P. Bass; the Nancy Z. Bender Insurance Agency, Inc.; Mr. & Mrs. Albert Huddleston; Ranpak Corporation; Save Our Heritage; Sony Music Entertainment; Toyota Motor Sales, USA; and Tyson Foods, Inc. Extra special thanks to Citizens Bank, its Chairman, Larry Fish, and the Citizens Bank Foundation for their generous support.

# THOREAU BIOGRAPHY IN SPANISH A FIRST

In 1999, Antonio Casado da Rocha spent three months studying at the Thoreau Institute. The fruits of his labors now appear in *Thoreau (biografia esencial)*, a Spanish

language book published in 2004 by Acuarela Libros (for online orders, go to http://acuareladiscos.com/-libros/pedidos.htm). Antonio describes it as "an essay -half academic, half literary" about the life and works of Henry David Thoreau. The preface is written by Joaquin Araujo, a naturalist who has directed several documentary



series for television, founded several Spanish environmental societies and served as President of the first State Centre for Environmental Education in Spain. As this publication is the first book-length Thoreau biography in Spanish, Antonio's aim was to introduce Thoreau to a general audience, describing his philosophy in simple terms. In order to serve as a starting point for Spanish-speaking students of Thoreau, both in Europe and the Americas, there are plenty of notes, a chronology and bibliographical references as well. Congratulations. Antonio!

## A TREE GROWS IN ATLANTA

In June 1998, the Walden Woods Project celebrated the grand opening of the Thoreau Institute at Walden Woods. American Forests donated a small Walden Woods Red Maple tree to each guest. Bob and Edith Fusillo returned



home to Georgia and planted one in their backyard. Six years later, Bob sent us this photo. Their tree is now over 18 feet tall. Susan Corbett of Famous & Historic Trees says it has obviously been well cared for from the very beginning and

that "the first years of a tree's life are like a child's — you get back what you invest in time and attention." What a wonderful growing legacy to Thoreau!





# The Walden Woods Project

preserves the land, literature and legacy of Henry David Thoreau to foster an ethic of environmental stewardship and social responsibility. The Project achieves this mission through the integration of conservation, education and research.

Conservation: Preserving and protecting the landscapes of Walden Woods and Thoreau Country in recognition of their worldwide literary, historical and environmental significance, and their capacity to motivate others to identify, study and protect the Waldens that exist in their own communities.

Education: Providing innovative programs built on the philosophy of Henry David Thoreau and grounded in the land and historic resources of Walden Woods and Thoreau Country; programs that foster environmental literacy and social responsibility among students, educators and lifelong learners in the United States and around the world.

Research: Maintaining the rich collections housed in the archives and library at the Walden Woods Project's Thoreau Institute for scholars, educators, students and life-long learners to advance their understanding of the literature and legacy of Henry David Thoreau.

### THE WALDEN WOODS PROJECT & THE THOREAU INSTITUTE AT WALDEN WOODS

We hope you will support The Walden Woods Project, a nonprofit organization. Look for the enclosed envelope to make a donation or to become a member.

You can help us prevent waste by passing this publication on to a friend, recycling it when you're finished or letting us know if you would prefer not to receive it. *Thank you.* 

### We invite you to visit us.

The Institute is open by appointment, Monday – Friday, 10 am -4 pm. To schedule a visit, please call Jeff Cramer, Curator of Collections: 781-259-4730.

For further information:

Phone: 781-259-4700 or 800-554-3569

Web site: www.walden.org E-mail: wwproject@walden.org



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