

Notes from

Walden Woods

THE ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WALDEN WOODS PROJECT & THE THOREAU INSTITUTE AT WALDEN WOODS 2005-2006

Another 11 Acres Protected in Walden Woods

Previews of two new places to explore and study

Lush green fields, meadows speckled with Queen Anne's Lace, a small, secluded pond, a wetland alive with calls and songs – you'll discover these on the two new properties acquired by the Walden Woods Project (WWP) during our 15th anniversary year. These landscapes, earlier jeopardized by development, will now serve as on-the-ground examples of the WWP's three-part mission – land conservation, education, and research. As we work toward completion of this \$4 million fundraising challenge (we have raised over \$2 million to date), we have already learned a great deal about the properties' ecological characteristics, environmental history, and links to Henry David Thoreau and others. With this information in hand, we will develop educational programming that capitalizes on the unique values of each.

As with Thoreau's Path on Brister's Hill and the five other properties we protect, our objective for our newly protected landscapes is to develop a variety of multi-disciplinary educational programs for students, teachers, and life-long learners.

Bilodeau Land, Concord, Massachusetts

With its rich soils, the Bilodeau land at the intersection of Route 2 and Sudbury Road has long been used for agriculture. This 8-acre parcel (six of which the Walden Woods Project acquired with the right of first refusal on the remaining two) adds to a large contiguous protected natural landscape. This parcel adjoins our Bear Garden Hill and Boiling Spring properties, and is an important component in the conservation of the north-west portion of historic Walden Woods. This forms a large block of protected land, which is connected by walking trails to the Walden Pond State Reservation to the east.



Photo by Matt Burne

A rich mixture of vegetation on the Bilodeau land.

The Bilodeau property is dominated by agricultural fields, contains interesting wetland habitats, and borders mature upland deciduous forests, a small red pine plantation, and a farm. A rich diversity of wildlife has been recorded by neighbors, including large mammals such as Fisher, Coyote, and White-tailed Deer, as well as an impressive collection of birds (with a nesting pair of Red-tailed Hawks and courting Wild Turkey), small mammals, amphibians, and insects.

The WWP is developing educational programming that embraces the agricultural history of the Bilodeau parcel, and that focuses on

(continued on page 3)

"The landscape lies far and fair within, and the deepest thinker is the farthest traveled." – Henry David Thoreau, A Walk to Wachusett

Dear Friends of Walden Woods,

This past year has been a time of challenge and opportunity for the Walden Woods Project. We have directed considerable energy and fundraising effort toward protecting two properties of great importance to the ecological and historic integrity of Walden Woods. To date, we have raised approximately \$2 million of the \$4 million needed to reach our fundraising goal for these acquisitions.

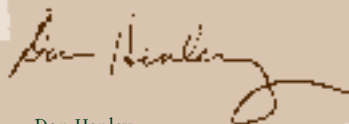
What are the qualities that make a place so rare and internationally significant that an organization will commit itself to this challenge during difficult times and in the midst of a notoriously high real estate market? More to the point, what makes these two places special enough to convince you, our supporters, that the challenge is justified?

In this issue of our annual newsletter, you'll learn why we consider these Walden Woods properties to merit protection and why we believe you will agree. While we have already compiled information about the relationship of these lands to Thoreau, our staff has begun additional research on the Adams and Bilodeau sites to learn more about their ecological, historic, and literary significance. With that information, the Walden Woods Project will develop educational programs in the field – whether a Sunday afternoon tracking session for families in deep winter, a “ponding” foray for students in spring, or an exploration of Thoreau's references to these areas by high school teachers in summer. The potential for multi-disciplinary educational programming on these and our other properties is enormous.

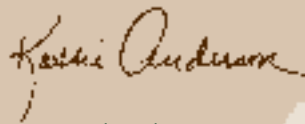
While we've directed much of our resources to land protection, we haven't overlooked the critical need for quality educational programming and research services to meet the growing interests of the public. Our conservation, education and research departments continue to coordinate closely. Each invigorates and strengthens the others; together they bring our mission to life. In the following pages you will read about the newly restored 1849 petition (housed in our archives), which was signed by over 400 Concord residents, including Thoreau, to protest the execution of a black seaman. Check out pictures of this past summer's group of teachers-turned-students, and take special note of the success of a remarkable Fall River, Massachusetts teacher whose time with us resulted in a project engaging not only his students, but an entire community in the stewardship of a neglected island with historic value. These and other education and research activities can continue only as a result of your ongoing support.

Thanks to the enormous generosity of the public, we are on the home stretch for fundraising for the Adams and Bilodeau properties. While we've been fortunate to receive several grants from foundations and numerous major gifts from individuals, smaller contributions toward our land acquisition campaign and annual operating expenses are also vital. They add up, not only in helping us reach our financial goals, but in affirming that the goals of our mission – land conservation, education, and research – are worthy of your support. We hope you will consider making a gift to the Walden Woods Project at this critical time. Once again, we send you our deepest thanks for your past generosity, and look forward to your continued support.

Wishing you all the best for the Holidays and peace in the New Year,



Don Henley
Founder/President



Kathi Anderson
Executive Director

Another 11 Acres Protected

(continued from page 1)

the wildlife attracted to this type of land and the “edges” that exist at the boundary of different types of habitat. Invasive, exotic plant species present a minor management concern on this property, and we are actively working on solutions. The WWP wishes to acknowledge the support from numerous donors that has made this acquisition possible. We also wish to thank Mr. Bilodeau for his generosity and commitment to conservation.

Adams Property, Lincoln, Massachusetts

The Adams land is a mix of woods and fields surrounding an historic brick home (converted from a turn-of-the-century stable), gardens and a beautiful impounded pond in the heart of Walden Woods. Due to the generosity and conservation commitment of the Adams family, in partnership with the WWP, this land will now be protected in perpetuity.

The property adjoins the WWP's headquarters at the Thoreau Institute and will provide an outdoor classroom for teachers and students participating in the programs offered by the Institute. The Adams land is adjacent to a nearby trail system that links to other protected lands in Walden Woods and to the Walden Pond State Reservation. The network of surrounding trails is ideal for hiking and cross-country skiing, and offers opportunities for wildlife viewing, art and nature photography, while connecting to the woods and paths that Thoreau walked throughout his lifelong explorations of Walden Woods.

Photo by: Matt Burne



The fields of the Adams Property

The wetland drainage leading toward the property is also protected by the Walden Woods Project and comes alive with spectacular blooming hydrangea in the summer. A beautiful and rare beech tree grove borders the site, and a wide array of wildlife, including a repeat nesting Northern Goshawk, frequent the area.

As we complete fundraising for the Bilodeau parcel and enter the final phase of fund raising for the Adams land, we remain clear in our dual long-term goal: to protect the historic landscape of Walden Woods for the health of the plants and animals who live there, and for people of all ages to use as outdoor classrooms and as places for recreation and aesthetic enjoyment. The peace and quiet in such short supply today you will find there, too.

WWP Headquarters Listed on National Register of Historic Places

By Dan Schmid, Director of Facilities

The Walden Woods Project is pleased to announce that the house on its Thoreau Institute campus in Walden Woods has been named to the National Register of Historic Places by the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the National Park Service. The Register is the nation's official list of sites, structures, or objects which retain their historical character and are important to local, state, or national history. This is a fitting honor for an estate built by Henry Lee Higginson, the founder of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, later home to Ernest Henderson, the founder of the Sheraton Hotel chain, and more recently, descendants of Presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams. It is now the WWP headquarters. The house is built of stucco and brick. The 12,000 square-foot manor comfortably houses the WWP offices, conference, and seminar rooms on the first and second floors, as well as bedrooms on the upper floors. This building supports the programmatic mission of the WWP by providing space for education programs and accommodations for scholars, teachers, and students.

The 18-acre property on which the Walden Woods Project's Thoreau Institute is situated was once one of Thoreau's prime berrying grounds. During Thoreau's lifetime, Jacob Baker, who lived at the entrance to the road now called Baker Farm, owned the land. As a youngster, Thoreau came each year to pick the huckleberries and blueberries, which, to this day, are the prevailing under-shrub in the surrounding woodlands. He continued to visit the area throughout his lifetime, sometimes to take in the view from Pine Hill (toward Flint's Pond to the east and Walden Pond to the west), other times to gather berries or nuts, or to study the flora and fauna.

Around 1900, Major Henry Lee Higginson purchased this large tract of land for his son, Alexander Henry Higginson, with the intention of constructing a hunt club. Major Higginson was a relative of Thomas Wentworth Higginson, an abolitionist pastor and friend of Thoreau. Architect Julian Ingersoll Chamberlain was hired to design and construct the club. Designed in the Tudor-style of an old manor in Norfolk, England, the hunt club was known as Middlesex Meadows, later to become Higginson's residence. It was also a 400-acre dairy farm with prize-winning cattle. Our recent acquisition of the Adams property which adjoins the Institute (see story on page 1), reunites the original Middlesex Meadows stable with the Higginson House.

Plans are underway to renovate and restore both buildings. This costly undertaking will require an ambitious capital campaign. The restoration will enable us to serve more teachers and students seeking to participate in our programs.



The Higginson House

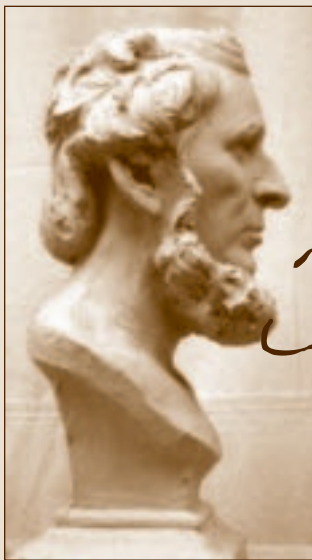
Photo by: Dan Schmid

Preserving Thoreau's

Research

By Jeffrey Cramer, Curator of Collections

Photo courtesy of the artist



This Thoreau bust, created in 2005 by Daniel Altshuler from the 1856 Maxham daguerreo-type, was generously donated by the artist to the Walden Woods Project.

The Walden Woods Project owns and manages the Thoreau Institute at Walden Woods. The Institute's library holds 8,000 volumes and upwards of 60,000 items. Manuscripts, correspondence, periodicals, pamphlets, music, graphic arts, maps, and personal histories, including the collections of the Thoreau Society, provide the most comprehensive body of Thoreau-related material available in one place. It is the mission of the WWP to collect, preserve, and make available research materials relating to Thoreau, his historical context, and his contemporary relevance to environmental and human-rights issues. The Institute's library comes as close as possible to fulfilling Thoreau's own vision: "I have sometimes imagined a library, i.e. a collection of the works of true poets philosophers naturalists &c deposited not in a . . . marble edifice in a crowded & dusty city . . . but rather far away in the depths of a primitive forest." A library is not only a place for books and reading. It is collective memory; it is memory collected. The materials that comprise the collections document and preserve what has come before us. By viewing the past we can see the present and envision the future.

To stay up-to-date on additions to the collections, new displays, special programs and initiatives, please sign up for our quarterly electronic newsletter by sending an e-mail to curator@walden.org with "Subscribe Thoreau Update" in the subject line.

To visit the library, schedule a research visit, or arrange a small group tour which includes an informal talk and discussion with our curator, please call 781-259-4730 or e-mail Jeff.Cramer@walden.org.

"Protest of 400" Document Conservation

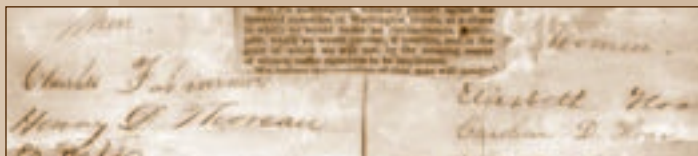
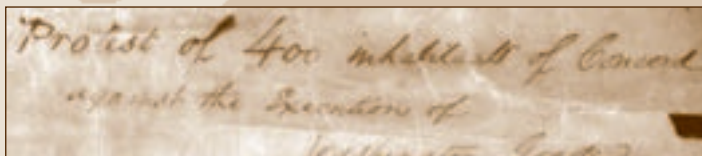
In the WWP's continuing efforts to conserve and preserve the materials held at the Thoreau Institute at Walden Woods, the "Protest of 400 inhabitants of Concord against the execution of Washington Goode" from the Thoreau Society Archives was recently identified as a priority piece for restoration and preservation. The "Protest of 400" is a document of vital historical interest in the history of human rights. Washington Goode was a black seaman accused of murdering another black seaman, and sentenced to death based upon circumstantial evidence. Though ultimately unsuccessful, in an effort to save Washington Goode from execution, 400 citizens of Concord, Massachusetts, of which Thoreau was one of the first, signed this petition.

The "Protest of 400" dating from 1849 consists of eight sheets of paper pasted together at the top and bottom margins, creating a document approximately 10 inches wide and 90 inches long, with several additional pieces of paper attached to it. Each sheet overlapped the one below it. The sheets were mottled and had breaks, tears, and loss from insect damage. There were numerous tears on the edges and top, and a strip of adhesive

tape on the back. By the nature of its condition, it could no longer be used or examined without causing considerable damage to the document.

With a generous grant from The Bay Foundation, the New England Document Conservation Center was commissioned to review and treat the document, which included reducing surface soil and dirt, removing adhesive tape, cleaning the paper and reducing acidity, mending tears and breaks, and flattening. The document was placed in a polyester film folder welded (at the top only) to reinforce and protect against dirt and handling; then rolled and secured with a cloth tape, and is now stored in our secure, climate controlled vault where it will be made available for viewing upon request.

This is just one of the many historical documents and artifacts which can be viewed by visitors. Participants in our educational programs and library tours have the opportunity to view dozens of items on display in our Reading Room which are the conduits to discussion on topics of Thoreau's life, work and writings. We welcome and encourage you to explore our resources.



Literature and Legacy

Education

By Luba Zbaurova, Education Coordinator

"We are all schoolmasters, and our schoolhouse is the universe. To attend chiefly to the desk or schoolhouse while we neglect the scenery in which it is placed is absurd." — Henry David Thoreau, *Journal*

The Walden Woods Project maintains an important focus on our education mission, embodied in our Education Department's varied program offerings throughout the year. We use Thoreau's life, literature, and legacy to foster the environmental literacy and social responsibility which were at the root of his philosophy, and to explore the themes of conservation and conscience. A core guiding principle behind our educational programming is that every community has its own Walden, and that focusing close attention on one's home place, as Thoreau did, fosters the stewardship ethic and, ultimately, drives conservation.

The Walden Woods Project hosts a rich variety of lectures, seminars, and outings throughout the year for students, educators, and life-long learners. The Stewardship Lecture Series in 2005 presented such speakers as Bill McKibben on a post-globalized world, John Hanson Mitchell on themes of social justice, Jacob Park on green business and consumption practices, and, as part of the Concord Festival of Authors, Philip Cafaro on Thoreau's living philosophy. The Stewardship Lecture Series is complemented by our Discovering Walden Woods outings, where participants explore topics of natural history with

preeminent naturalists and scientists on the landscape Thoreau once walked. The centerpiece of our education programs is the *Approaching Walden* teacher seminar, a 10-day, intensive workshop for high school educators.

At this year's *Approaching Walden* seminar, teachers representing a variety of disciplines and school systems came to the Thoreau Institute to become immersed in the literature of Thoreau and to focus on place-based, interdisciplinary education. The impact of this workshop cannot be overestimated: the experience provides teachers with fresh ideas and renewed energy to bring the writings and lessons of Thoreau's life into their classroom. In turn, they reach hundreds of students annually with innovative curriculum built on the philosophy of Henry David Thoreau. Read below about one teacher's project that grew out of his experience at the 2004 *Approaching Walden* seminar.

To read more about our education programs and for the updated schedule of our free events, check our web site regularly at www.walden.org, or e-mail education@walden.org

Photo by Kimberly Madison



Teachers sharing ideas on place-based, interdisciplinary curriculum units on the grounds of the Boston Nature Center.

Forgotten Places: an *Approaching Walden* alumnus finds hidden treasure

Bill Goncalo, an American Literature and Creative Writing teacher at Fall River, Massachusetts' Bishop Connolly High School, is an alumnus of the 2004 *Approaching Walden* seminar. In September, 2004, he returned to the classroom inspired to craft a place-based project for his sophomore students. The unit, called "*Forbidden Places and Forgotten Spaces - Exploring Interlachen Watershed Area*," involved his students in an exploration of Interlachen Island (which is officially closed to the public as part of the Fall River municipal water supply) and an abandoned 19th century ice-house located on the island.

The seminar's message of finding and studying your own Walden led Bill to focus on the forgotten and marginalized Interlachen Island. Bill wanted his students to think about and answer the following questions: How do we find value in our own communities and home towns? How do we communicate this value? How do we educate the community about the value of its history and its natural resources?

The students made several trips to the Interlachen property, exploring its rich natural and cultural history, videotaping and mapping it, writing papers, and making

presentations. This work led to a culminating activity — leading tours of Interlachen for the people of Fall River. On a Saturday in early June, more than 200 residents participated in tours of the property to learn about its storied past. Eight groups of enthusiastic high school students led tours and taught their neighbors about the property, the former ice house and horse stable, and about some of the 19th century industry that was a part of their community's past.

Bill's curriculum unit culminated in an event that was real and relevant to the students and to the people of Fall River. Their reactions were best summed up by student Samantha Rabbitt who remarked, "After Project Interlachen, I felt good about bringing an all-but-lost piece of history to my community. The whole project taught us the importance of keeping local history, culture, and treasures alive... I now see Interlachen as Fall River's Walden. My Walden."

To find Bill's curriculum unit that evolved from the *Approaching Walden* seminar, along with the other teachers' curriculum units, and to learn more about our summer teacher seminar, visit us on the web at www.walden.org/education.

my own thoughts." Henry David Thoreau, *Journal*



Sauntering

By Matt Burne, Land Conservation Coordinator

"My vicinity affords many good walks; and though for so many years I have walked almost every day, and sometimes for several days together, I have not yet exhausted them."

- Henry David Thoreau, *Walking*

A primary mission of the Walden Woods Project is to help preserve the "tonic of wildness," as Thoreau wrote in *Walden*.

By protecting land in its natural state and making it available to the public for passive recreation, we are helping to perpetuate the legacy of Thoreau's environmental stewardship ethic, in addition to preserving the land over which he sauntered. Walden Pond itself and the Walden Pond State Reservation may be the most well-known destinations in Walden Woods, but miles of trails that are open to the public exist throughout the landscape that Henry David Thoreau made famous.

One of the most special aspects of Walden Woods is the chance it affords visitors to explore and enjoy Thoreau's landscape. The WWP's Bear Garden Hill property is a 25-acre parcel situated in the western

portion of Walden Woods. It is adjacent to two other WWP properties, the 25-acre Boiling Spring parcel to its east, and the 6-acre Bilodeau parcel to its north, one of our most recent purchases (see article on page 1). Bear Garden Hill and the Boiling Spring figure prominently in Thoreau's journals and in the text of *Walden*, and are a worthwhile destination for a short- or medium-length walk.

Bear Garden Hill experienced a significant fire several years ago which cleared much of the understory of the forest and has allowed a rejuvenation of the dense blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*) and huckleberry (*Gaylussacia baccata*) that cover the hill. The forest toward the top of Bear Garden Hill, as it slopes toward wetlands on the northeast part of the property, is dominated by pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*), where evidence of the fire is still quite obvious. In addition to numerous song birds that might be encountered on walks around Bear Garden Hill, keep a sharp eye out for Barred owls (*Strix varia*) that have been seen there in late summer. Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculata*) and some small patches of Glossy Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), both inva-



sive, exotic species found on Bear Garden Hill, present important management challenges for the future.

Bear Garden Hill and the other WWP properties that abut it can be accessed in a number of ways. For a short loop, access the property from the Concord Water Department driveway on Sudbury Road. Bear Garden Hill can be part of a medium-sized loop walking the trails maintained by the Concord Land Conservation Trust around Fairhaven Hill. For an ambitious saunterer, visit Bear Garden Hill as part of a long hike starting from the state reservation parking lot at Walden Pond, and incorporating a loop around Fairhaven Hill and Bear Garden Hill.

Walden Exhibit Begins Journey

By Juliet Trofi, Assistant to the Executive Director

On June 7th, 2005, *Thoreau's Walden: A Journey in Photographs* by Scot Miller debuted at the Harvard Museum of Natural History (HMNH) in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The exhibit was inspired by *Walden: 150th Anniversary Illustrated Edition of the American Classic* published by Houghton Mifflin in 2004 and combines 29 of Scot Miller's breathtaking color images with coordinating educational materials and interpretive information. Developed in collaboration with Scot Miller and the WWP, it will travel to museums across the country over the next several years.

Scot Miller states, "I am very excited about sharing *Thoreau's Walden*, especially the educational materials which the Walden Woods Project has developed to accompany the exhibit. I love the idea that many children will be introduced to Thoreau's message in a very positive way. The blending of fine art with natural and social communities has long been a goal of mine and it is a wonderful thing to see in action."

Professor Larry Buell delivered the opening lecture "Spreading the Gospel of Henry Thoreau." He is the Powell M. Cabot Professor of American Literature at Harvard and explored a diversity of testimony from Thoreau's lifetime through today, about the profound impact of Thoreau upon writers, artists, thinkers, and activists. Chris Froh of San Francisco was commissioned to create an original piece of soft percussion music which accompanied the display. Further enriching the experience is

Beyond Walden, an educational DVD, along with an interactive nature table with magnifiers and a reflective "talk-back" station where visitors write or draw about their own personal Waldens.

The Harvard exhibit was generously sponsored by the Houghton Mifflin Company, with additional support from Classical 102.5 WCRB FM. It ran until October 2nd during which time at least 30,000 people took in the timeless messages and beautiful color images of contemporary Walden. Its next stop is the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History & Science in Cincinnati, Ohio, where it will be on display from February 4 - May 7, 2006. For more information, visit www.cincymuseum.org. To order the illustrated edition of *Walden*, and other items featuring Scot Miller's Walden photography, call 1-800-554-3569 x731 or x703.



Photos by Luba Zharova

Note-worthy...

NEW PUBLICATIONS BY OUR CURATOR OF COLLECTIONS



Jeffrey Cramer, Curator of Collections at the Walden Woods Project's Thoreau Institute, has been busy! In 2004, Jeff's book entitled *Walden: A Fully Annotated Edition* was released by Yale University Press to celebrate the 150th anniversary of *Walden's* publication. It was

named best "Outdoor Classic" by the National Outdoor Book Awards and was a co-winner of the Boston Authors Club's 2005 Julia Ward Howe Special Award. The Association of American University Presses placed it on the short-list of "The Best of the Best of the University Presses: Books You Should Know About." To order this annotated edition of *Walden*, with explanatory notes and critical comments, call 1-800-554-3569 x731 or x703.

Next in Jeff's series of annotated texts is "What I Lived For: An Annotated Selection from Thoreau's Journals" to be published by Yale University Press in September, 2006. It will offer the largest selection of journal passages ever published along with explanatory notes on the biographical, historical, and geographical contexts of Thoreau's life and writings. Jeff stated that "the purpose is to present all aspects of Thoreau: writer, natural scientist, Transcendentalist, social reformer, and most importantly, the man."

Jeff will be a featured speaker at the 2006 Nature and Environmental Writers – College and University Educators Writers' Conference and Workshop honoring Rachel Carson and exploring the theme of wilderness/wildness found in Thoreau's writings. It takes place from June 13-15 in Boothbay Harbor, Maine. For more information, please visit <http://www.new-cue.org>.

BRISTER'S HILL UPDATE

Thoreau's Path on Brister's Hill is nearing completion, with all granite quotation strips and the granite reflection circle now in place, and a small amount of bronze work required to complete the installation. The one mile loop path introduces Thoreau's life, writings, and legacy through his own words and through quotations from those influenced by him. In memory of Brister Freeman, the freed slave who lived in the area, heirloom apple trees have been planted. Thoreau, active in the anti-slavery movement, refers to Brister and his apple trees in *Walden*. The non-traditional

path includes Thoreau's words on the subjects of prejudice, social injustice, and the spiritual life, along with more predictable references to the environment. An objective of the path is to bring together Thoreau's dual concerns of respect for all people regardless of race or class and respect and stewardship for the natural world.

ALUMNI OF WWP TEACHER PROGRAMS WIN AWARDS



Photo by Luba Zhaurova

The Walden Woods Project proudly nominated **Stephanie Garrett** and **Chris Rogers**, both alumni of the 2004 *Finding Walden* seminar for middle school teachers, for the Annual River Stewardship Award sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Acton, Billerica, Concord, Carlisle, Wayland, and Sudbury, Massachusetts. Stephanie, who teaches Language Arts and Math, and Chris, who teaches Science, have developed an interdisciplinary, place-based program that includes weekly trips to the Assabet River, literally flowing through the backyard of the Mill Pond School in Westborough where they teach. The message of connecting children to their own landscapes that Stephanie and Chris took from the seminar led to the development of this award-winning program.

Suzanne Wintle, who was both a coordinator and a participant in the Walden Woods Project's first program for middle school teachers in 1998, has been named 2006 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year by the Commonwealth's Department of Education. Helen Bowdoin, the Walden Woods Project's Education Program Director at the time, stated "From the first, we saw that Suzanne was an outstanding teacher: dedicated, competent, imaginative, and fun. She helped us develop our middle school program and worked closely with us in its first year. We're not one bit surprised she was awarded this prize." Suzanne currently teaches third grade at the Florence Sawyer School in Bolton, Massachusetts and facilitates a program in which she trains veteran teachers to be mentors to new teachers. She said the Walden program was a true model for the middle school program now in place at her school and it "created cohesive integrated programs across all disciplines and gave real life learning situations to kids."

GOINGS AND COMINGS

By Kimberly Madison, Administrative Coordinator

At the end of 2005, the Walden Woods Project will say goodbye to a very dear and valuable member of our staff. Helen Bowdoin is retiring after nine years with the WWP. Helen has filled many important roles with the WWP, first as the Education Program Director, and later as the Land Conservation Coordinator.



Helen has made great strides for the protection and preservation of Walden Woods with the WWP, as well as through her earlier work as executive director of the Thoreau Country Conservation Alliance. She was instrumental in pushing the initiative to close the

former Concord landfill and restore it to native grassland habitat. She has also coordinated a major, multiyear grant from Time Warner to restore and interpret the once-degraded landscape of our Brister's Hill site.

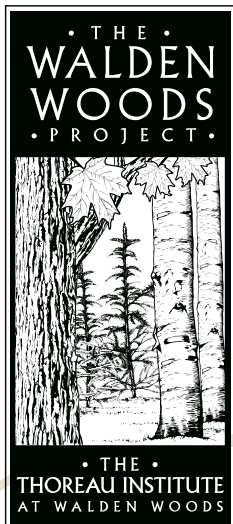
Of all of her work with the WWP, the most personally rewarding has been the summer programs for teachers that she developed as our Education Program Director. She designed and implemented these seminars for teachers who wish to incorporate Thoreau's literary work and philosophy into interdisciplinary, place-based educational experiences.

Helen was also the editor of our annual newsletter, "Notes from Walden Woods," and is the author of several essays (published in Mass Audubon's *Sanctuary* magazine, *The Christian Science Monitor*, and *Pilgrimage*).

Taking Helen's place as Land Conservation Coordinator and newsletter editor is biologist Matthew Burne (you may remember him from last year's newsletter!). Matt has a Master's Degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation and is an expert on wetland ecology, with a focus on vernal pool habitats. He worked for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife for many years, has several fine publications to his credit, and comes to us fresh from a teaching position at Reading Memorial High School, where he taught biology for a year. The Walden Woods Project is excited to have him onboard!

What awaits Helen after life at the WWP? Pursuing her numerous interests, of course! Among them: spending time with family and friends, writing, jogging, and just being outdoors. The most notable, though — "Piano lessons!" she exclaims. Bored, she will not be; but missed — absolutely.





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

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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.*

Our newsletters and quarterly departmental e-newsletters are posted on our web site.

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.

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— Ralph Waldo Emerson

*"In the woods, we return
to reason and faith."*

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