



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

We invite you to visit us.
The Thoreau 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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— Ralph Waldo Emerson

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

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Notes from

Walden Woods

THE ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WALDEN WOODS PROJECT & THE THOREAU INSTITUTE AT WALDEN WOODS 2006-2007

Thoreau's Path on Brister's Hill

Celebrating Thoreau's Legacy

By Matthew Burne, Land Conservation Coordinator

In the late 1980's, a large-scale commercial development was planned for Brister's Hill in Concord at the intersection of Route 2 and Walden Street. The proposal was to develop a 147,000 square-foot office building with parking for over 500 cars in the heart of Walden Woods, a mere half-mile from the shores of Walden Pond. Alerted by a report on CNN about the development threat, Don Henley felt compelled to help save the landscape around Walden Pond that had such a profound influence on Henry David Thoreau nearly 150 years before. Shortly thereafter, the Walden Woods Project was founded for the purpose of preserving the land that was under such an intense and immediate assault. One of the Project's first goals was to save Brister's Hill.

In May 2006, the Walden Woods Project celebrated the permanent protection of Brister's Hill by dedicating a new, innovative interpretive trail (see pages 4-5 for a full account of the dedication). Thoreau's Path on Brister's Hill was funded by a generous gift from Time Warner Inc.

The Path was designed to create an environment of discovery and exploration. Interpretation is limited to quotations by Thoreau and other important



Entrance gate to Thoreau's Path on Brister's Hill

figures in the environmental and social reform movements, that present the many facets of Thoreau and his influence.

Brister's Hill is significant not only for its role in the founding of the Walden Woods Project, but also in the development of Thoreau's philosophies on social reform and conscience, and his scientific theories on the succession of forest trees and regeneration of plant communities. The area was long ago named for Brister Freeman, a freed slave who lived with his family nearby. Little is known of Brister Freeman beyond a short passage in *Walden* and a few brief anecdotes and records. The memory of Brister Freeman and the lives of other "marginalized" people was always a part of Thoreau's philosophies on social conscience and reform. Once degraded by sand and gravel mining in the mid-twentieth century, this land is slowly regenerating, offering an excellent opportunity to observe forest succession first hand at the very place where Thoreau formulated his theories of succession and seed dispersion.

Thoreau's Path on Brister's Hill is free and open to the public year round during daylight hours. Parking is available at the Walden Pond State Reservation. You can download the brochure for Thoreau's Path on Brister's Hill and get more information about the Path at www.walden.org.



Granite markers point the way around Thoreau's Path

"Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads." — Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*



s and mosses on Brister's Hill

photo by Matt Burne

This past year, the Walden Woods Project reached an important milestone – the completion of Thoreau's Path, a unique interpretive trail on Brister's Hill. An impressive assembly of speakers and special guests joined nearly 100 elementary and middle school children and over 150 invited guests in a celebration of Thoreau's life and philosophy with the opening of Thoreau's Path.

The Path honors the many contributions of Henry David Thoreau, and is located on an 18-acre site that had faced large-scale commercial development in the late 1980s. It was the impending threat to Brister's Hill, coupled with another proposed development nearby, that led to the founding of the Walden Woods Project, and launched our organization's long-term efforts to preserve the land that inspired Thoreau.

This issue of our annual newsletter features the dedication ceremony and information about Thoreau's Path. We are very proud of this project and the enduring lessons of hope and stewardship that it conveys. We thank all of you who helped make it possible. We encourage you to visit Brister's Hill and experience for yourself this fitting testament to the legacy of Henry David Thoreau.

While the formal dedication of Thoreau's Path is a momentous achievement, the Walden Woods Project has been hard at work on a number of other important initiatives. Of particular note is the tenth anniversary of the *Approaching Walden* seminars for high school teachers held at the Walden Woods Project's Thoreau Institute near Walden Pond. Each summer since 1996, teachers from Massachusetts and from other states have participated in our 2-week program on Thoreau's literature/landscape and its relevance to contemporary issues and challenges. This has been an extremely valuable experience for teachers. While energizing and increasing the depth and breadth of their understanding of Thoreau's contributions to literature and science, the seminars provide teachers with the tools they need to develop their own place-based curriculum. In the coming year, our education department will offer one-day workshops for high school and middle school teachers, bringing a condensed *Approaching Walden* to a significantly larger audience of teachers in the region.

The education department is also progressing on the development of *World Wide Waldens* (see page 6). This Internet-based, pilot program will launch in January 2007. Student groups from around the world will engage in place-based learning that will culminate in the design and implementation of local environmental stewardship projects. They will share their experiences with other students in participant groups from different countries and cultures.

The Walden Woods Project's popular *Stewardship Lecture Series* presented an interesting group of speakers/topics in 2006 (see Noteworthy Section). We will offer the *Stewardship Lecture Series* again in 2007 along with several educational excursions in Walden Woods. Next year, we will begin publishing the lectures and will make audio and video segments available on our web site at www.walden.org.

In 2006, the Walden Woods Project's research collections, housed at the Thoreau Institute, continued to grow with two generous gifts from environmental author Richard Fleck and Thoreau scholar/ecologist Edmund A. Schofield.

The coming year promises to be full of challenges and opportunities. The Walden Woods Project hopes to acquire two key sites in Walden Woods that face development threats. At the same time, we are implementing management strategies to preserve the ecological integrity and educational value of the nearly 150 acres currently under our stewardship. Meanwhile, the important task of historic restoration of the Higginson House – a National Register property and the headquarters of the Walden Woods Project – has begun. This project is expected to take several years and will require a significant amount of financial support. We are confident that these critically important objectives will be achieved through your continued generosity.

Wishing you all the best during the holiday season and peace in the New Year,

Don Henley
Founder/President

Kathi Anderson
Executive Director

Noteworthy...

NEW CD TO BENEFIT THE WWP

92.9 WBOS, a Boston radio station, will be donating proceeds from the sale of its "WBOS Studio 7 Live From The Archives; Volume IV" CD to the Walden Woods Project. Starting with the first annual compilation album of live in-studio performances in 2003, the station has raised thousands of dollars for worthy causes. This year's release features a variety of artists - Sonya Kitchell, The Fray, KT Tunstall, Greg Johnson, Rocco DeLuca, Donavan Frankenreiter, Mieka Pauley, Sister Hazel, Shawn Mullins and more. Jennifer Carr, Director of Marketing & Promotions for WBOS said, "It's a wonderful feeling to be able to support a group that is dedicated to the conservation of endangered lands, and strives to educate the public on the importance of environmentalism." The CD costs \$9.99 and is carried exclusively at all Newbury Comics retailers. It is also available online at www.wbos.com. The Walden Woods Project is very grateful to WBOS for its support over the past sixteen years.

WISH LIST

The Walden Woods Project, a 501(c)(3) organization, is in need of:

Golf cart
Dehumidifiers
Electric typewriter
Bluebird box(es)
Bird feeder(s)
Picnic table
19 inch flat screen computer monitors
Software licenses:
FrontPage (2 or 3)
PhotoShop (2)
MS Office (1)
HP Color LaserJet 4650
Digital camera (Kodak Easy Share V610 or equivalent)
Color copier

Donations are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. Please contact us at wwproject@walden.org or 781-259-4700 if you would like to make a donation of an item on the wish list.

ART IN THE WOODS



Artist Prescott Gibbons donated his forest scene image for the Walden Woods Project's official t-shirt. He has extended his generosity by loaning us the original painting, as well as two others for display at the Thoreau Institute in the Fall of 2006. These lovely oil paintings in gilded frames grace the walls of the Institute's living room, the site of most of our lectures. They are for sale for \$2,200 each, 50% of which will be donated to the Walden Woods Project. Prescott, who is based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, says, "I like Thoreau's idea of observing nature as a way of raising human consciousness." Please come by to see this artwork for yourself!

OVERPASS UPDATE

In 2004, the Walden Woods Project successfully advocated for funding from the Federal Highway Administration through the Transportation and Community and System Preservation Pilot Program (TCSP) to study the feasibility of a combined wildlife/pedestrian overpass in Walden Woods. The University of Massachusetts Amherst Landscape Architecture Department, under Department Chair Dr. Jack Ahern, is leading the study with an expected completion date of August 2007. The feasibility study will evaluate the Route 2 corridor through Walden Woods from Crosby's Corner to the Sudbury River. It will evaluate pedestrian use across Route 2, the potential to restore wildlife habitat corridors severed by Route 2, and state of the art structures that could serve as models for an eventual overpass. Significant stakeholder and public input will be sought during the feasibility study, including public charrettes held in the Concord/Lincoln area, and active participation by an advisory board with representatives from Concord, Lincoln, MassHighway, the Walden Woods Project, and other stakeholders. The feasibility study will include conceptual designs and siting alternatives for an overpass that will be an iconic gateway to Walden Woods.

THE 2006 STEWARDSHIP LECTURE SERIES FEATURED A VARIETY OF TOPICS AND SPEAKERS:

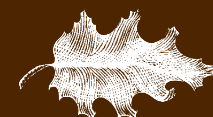
Owls – Biologists Mark and Marcia Wilson have enchanted a full house at the Thoreau Institute on a number of occasions with "Eyes on Owls," their live owl education program. Ranging from screech owls no larger than a soda can to a snowy owl with a 4 -5 foot wing span, the six permanently-disabled birds "hoot" with the all-ages audience. Mark is a wildlife photographer whose images often appear in *The Boston Globe* and Marcia is a second generation "owl lady." To learn more, visit www.eyesonowls.com.

Noel Snyder – Dr. Snyder is a field biologist who works with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and conducts extensive research on North America's most endangered birds, particularly the California Condor, the Puerto Rican Parrot and the Thick-Billed Parrot. His slide presentation addressed causes of extinction. He is also the author of numerous books.

Richard Fleck – Dr. Fleck made a rare East Coast appearance to discuss his recent book, *Breaking Through the Clouds*, and the art of ascent. This compilation of climbing essays includes his forays up several well-known peaks and into the Maine Woods where he, like Henry David Thoreau, trekked Mount Katahdin. Dr. Fleck has also written extensively about Native American culture and John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club. The Thoreau Institute's Collections contain the Richard F. Fleck Papers (visit www.walden.org/institute for a full listing of the Collections).

Brock Evans – is an author and an environmental advocate with four decades of service with the Sierra Club, National Audubon Society, and the Endangered Species Coalition. He discussed the history of the Endangered Species Act from its enactment in 1973 to its current endangered status. He also set the context of the ESA in Thoreau's time, painting Thoreau as a conservation trend-setter for future generations.

Discovering Walden – In conjunction with The SuAsCo River Watershed Association's annual Riverfest, the Walden Woods Project sponsored a vernal pool exploration at the Walden Pond State Reservation in June. WWP Land Conservation Coordinator, Matt Burne, along with fellow vernal pool experts Leo Kenney of the Vernal Pool Association and Mark Maguire of Epsilon Associates, took 8 adults and 10 children to vernal pool habitats located within a stone's throw of Thoreau's cabin site on the north side of Walden Pond. Despite heavy rain most of the day, participants enjoyed the chance to see and learn about the amphibians and invertebrates that make vernal pools special.



The Walden Seminars: Celebrating 10 Years of Innovative Educational Programming

erly Madison, Administrative Coordinator

Standing on the edge of a vernal pool in Walden Woods, a group of high school teacherly crowd around a clear plastic container with water. After minutes of examining what y looks just murky, the container slowly rms into a jungle of aquatic life - the group nded. To the surprise of many, the program er tells of the availability of such wonder: reat thing is that you can find this sort of detention ponds or puddles right outside hool!”

watershed moments are what make the expe- of the *Approaching Walden* seminar so com- Since 1997, hundreds of middle and high teachers from Massachusetts and all over the have come to the Thoreau Institute for two n the summer to immerse themselves in the re, history and ecology of the landscape David Thoreau loved so much. Participants aily mix of readings, lectures, discussions, ps, and reflective journaling, with each

activity focusing on one of a variety of fields such as ecology, history, writing, literary analysis, art, and environmental protection. Interdisciplinary in structure as well as content, the seminars are personally and professionally invigorating. As one participant powerfully stated, “The course changed the way I teach.”

This comprehensive framework provides participants with the tools to discover what makes up a “sense of place,” in much the same way Thoreau did throughout his life. But what has made the seminar content truly come alive are the skilled presenters. Each speaker, an expert in their field, imparts an infectious enthusiasm for the knowledge they share. Some recent notables include: Brian Donahue, an environmental historian who focuses on Concord land-use history; Jeannie Abbott who led the group in nature journaling; and Nancy Bryant, an environmental advocate for local watershed protection.



Discovering wonders in the muck

The Walden Woods Project

But, of course, the teachers are at the heart of the seminar’s success. Fueled by a desire to enrich themselves as educators, participants are highly motivated, enthusiastic, and collaborative. As a result of their work at the Institute, they have written creative and inspiring curriculum units to share with other educators (you can find them posted on the WWP’s website, www.walden.org).

The Walden Woods Project is currently accepting applications from high school teachers and graduate students of education for the 2007 *Approaching Walden* seminar. Registration is FREE, although space is limited. Go to www.walden.org/Education for details. Please encourage educators you know to apply!

orld Wide Waldens: Putting Thoreau’s Words into Action

n H. Frey, Director of Education

For over 150 years, Thoreau has inspired people to live the life they imagined. Today, young people face a world threatened by global warming and other environmental concerns. The Walden Woods Project is creating a new educational program called *World Wide Waldens* that will offer high school a way to take classroom knowledge into the community and let them tackle ld problems to make a positive difference.

I was in high school and college, the writings of Thoreau and Emerson had e influence on my life. I’m confident that this program will have a similar on a new generation,” said Don Henley, founder and President of the Walden Project.

Wide Waldens will offer youth around the globe an opportunity to put Henry horeau’s words into action. The web-based program will guide high school hrough the process of completing an environmental stewardship project. readings, and journal prompts will be drawn from *Walden* and other writings eau, along with writings by other leading thinkers in the conservation field. *Wide Waldens* will empower young people to discover their own “Waldens” communities and will teach them to be environmental stewards. Participants ate a website featuring their stewardship project, which can then serve as a f inspiration and information for others from the U.S. and beyond. Upon

completing their projects, students will be invited to participate in a video conference airing in Spring 2007.

World Wide Waldens is a flexible program. It can fit into an English, history, AP environmental science or geography class, as well as a home schooling network or environmental club. The Walden Woods Project is recruiting a small group of teachers from the Middle East, Europe, South and North America, and other countries, to pilot the program. These teachers will help fine tune the program before its international launch next year. Pilot site teacher Joyce Bailey, who teaches at the Global Ecology Magnet Program in Montgomery County, MD, said, “*World Wide Waldens* is just what I was looking for to showcase my students’ ecology projects, as well as to reinforce Thoreau’s environmental ethic.”

To learn more about *World Wide Waldens*, go to www.walden.org/education and click on *World Wide Waldens*. This project has received generous funding from the Skoll Foundation and the Omidyar Foundation.

Susan Frey is the Walden Woods Project’s new Director of Education. Drawing on her service-learning expertise as the former Director of Education at the Jane Goodall Institute’s Roots & Shoots Program, Frey is taking the lead in developing this hands-on, web-based program.

Creative Collaboration

By Katbi Anderson, Executive Director

The Walden Woods Project and American Forests (our nation’s oldest, nonprofit citizens’ conservation organization) have partnered with two of the world’s most prestigious companies – Steinway and Sons, and Faber-Castell – on the creation of the Steinway Walden Woods Art-Case Piano and the Graf-von-Faber-Castell Limited Edition Walden Woods Pen. A portion of the sales proceeds from the one-of-a-kind piano and the pen will be donated to the Walden Woods Project and American Forests. Much of the wood used in these unique creations came from descendents of trees that shaded the trails where Thoreau once walked. No trees were cut down or otherwise damaged to obtain the wood, which was salvaged from naturally fallen trees and from prunings.

The Steinway Walden Woods Art-Case Piano

The Walden Woods art-case, concert grand piano is a one-of-a-kind collector’s item, a museum quality work of art and, most importantly, a superior musical instrument. Created by Steinway and Sons, the piano features the work of Silas Kopf, one of the world’s finest marquetry artists. Marquetry is the traditional craft of piecing together different species of wood to form pictures or graphic designs. The marquetry on the Walden Woods piano showcases the natural beauty and the rich flora and fauna found in the Massachusetts woods and ponds that inspired the writings of Henry David Thoreau. The design of the piano honors Thoreau’s legacy as the father of the American conservation movement. A significant portion of the proceeds from the public auction of the piano will support the conservation of historic Walden Woods. Auction proceeds will also support the work of American Forests.

“The design of the piano alters nothing in the basic architecture of the instrument,” said Silas Kopf. “For instance, the legs are all in the same places as they are in other pianos. The ‘box’ of the piano is exactly the same and hasn’t been changed. All the decoration is

on the surface. This insures that the piano will sound as good as other Model D Steinways.”

Kopf describes the design as “... a series of plaques spaced around the rim. These pictures depict trees and shrubs in Walden Woods that Thoreau wrote about. The legs of the piano are inverted arches that have a connecting waterline as if one is able to look into a pond. Three different species that live in Walden Woods are featured; a turtle, a frog, and a small fish.”

The Walden Woods Piano honors Thoreau’s contributions as one of the most important writers in American history by featuring, in marquetry, one of his best known quotations: “I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived.”

According to Silas Kopf, “The marquetry attempts to feature the little ‘defects’ in the wood, such as pin knots and sapwood, as a way of drawing attention to these special timbers. The primary wood used for the piano is American black walnut, which grows throughout the



Intricate marquetry of a Walden scene

Appalachian region and into Massachusetts. There are nineteen different species used in the design (six of them from Walden Woods). All the wood is either native to New England or can grow in the region.”

As this newsletter goes to print, the auction date/location has not been set. If you are interested in receiving an advance notification of the auction, please call or e-mail us at: 781-259-4700 or wwproject@walden.org

A photograph of the Walden Woods piano is available on our web site at www.walden.org. Further information on Steinway art-case pianos can be found at www.steinway.com/steinway/artcase_collection.shtml

Information on Silas Kopf’s woodworking/artistry can be found at www.silaskopf.com

The Graf-von-Faber-Castell Walden Woods Pen

We are proud to announce the availability of the limited edition Graf-von-Faber-Castell Walden Woods roller-ball pen.



Concord Free Public Library

A generous percentage of sales proceeds from this exquisite collector’s item will be donated by Faber-Castell to the Walden Woods Project and will also enable American Forests to

The Graf-von-Faber-Castell Limited Edition Walden Woods Pen and Presentation Case

plant a tree for each pen sold.

The Walden Woods pen is limited to a quantity of 2006 and retails for \$600. Each pen, meticulously crafted in wood and platinum, is individually numbered and features one of Thoreau’s most popular quotations replicated on the barrel of the pen in Thoreau’s handwriting style. The barrel is made from historic ash wood that was salvaged from naturally fallen trees in Walden Woods.

The Walden Woods pen honors the legacy of Thoreau, one of America’s greatest writers and thinkers while helping to support the conservation of the land that inspired him. There is an interesting connection between Thoreau and writing instruments. The Thoreau

family operated a highly successful pencil business in downtown Concord for which their son, Henry, helped develop a new, non-smearing, graphite pencil. The Walden Woods Project has a well-preserved set of Thoreau pencils in its Collections on display at the Thoreau Institute.

You will further support the Walden Woods Project by purchasing the Walden Woods pen directly from our organization by calling 781-259-4700 or e-mailing us at wwproject@walden.org. Please go to our website at www.walden.org for additional information and photographs of the pen. For further information on Faber-Castell, please consult their web site at www.Graf-von-Faber-Castell.com.

Dedication of Thoreau's Path on Brister's Hill



exhibit along Thoreau's Path

Highlights of Thoreau's Path

Thoreau's Path on Brister's Hill honors Thoreau as a social reformer, scientist, philosopher, observationist, and writer. Designed to invite close observation, the Path interprets the ecological and social stories of Thoreau's landscape. As you walk Thoreau's Path on Brister's Hill, look for words you will find incised in granite and cast in bronze from Thoreau's journals, letters, and essays. He recognized that social responsibility and environmental stewardship are inseparable, just as people are linked to each other and to nature. At the center of the Path is a Reflection Circle where the words of other influential leaders and thinkers echo and extend Thoreau's message, encouraging you to ponder both the nature of Brister's Hill, and your own place in nature.

The Path highlights five important contributions made by Thoreau and his writings:

TRY MEADOW – Conservation

WATER'S ORCHARD – Social Reform and Commentary

WATER PLAIN – Teaching and Observing

WATER SUCCESSION – Science

REFLECTION CIRCLE – Thoreau's Philosophy, including its spiritual dimensions, and his influence on others.

Gravel mining on the site that occurred in the mid-1950s through 1960s resulted in much topsoil being stripped of vegetation and left bare. As a result, the natural process of succession is occurring here. This involves the gradual replacement of one type of vegetation by increasingly robust forms as soil nutrients are built up through time. The ecological restoration on the site during the creation of the Path provides visitors the opportunity to observe the stages of forest regeneration first hand. A great diversity of low-growing, encrusting lichens

can be seen in places where sand and gravel remain exposed. These areas give way to expanses of native grasses, pioneer shrub and forest species, and ultimately the mature oak/pine forest that was present on the site prior to its alteration. In time, if the land is not managed to retain these successional stages, the entire site will revert to the natural mature oak/pine forest.



Thoreau's words in the Reflection Circle

The Dedication of Thoreau's Path was held on May 15, 2006, amid some of the most intense rain storms that southern New England has experienced in recent history. Thoreau's spirit couldn't be dampened by the rain, however. As Don Henley said in his remarks during the dedication:

"Henry David Thoreau loved the rain. On May 17, 1858 he wrote in his journal, 'This rain is good for thought, it is especially agreeable to me as I enter the woods and hear the soothing dripping on the leaves.'"

Fourteen speakers and special guests, over 150 invited guests and nearly 100 elementary school children from the Thoreau School in Concord and the Edward Everett School in Dorchester, braved the elements to attend the dedication that officially opened Thoreau's Path to the public.

The protection of Brister's Hill was the result of a successful grassroots effort to generate support for preserving an important part of this internationally significant literary landscape. A major contribu-

tion came from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (formerly the Department of Environmental Management). A generous grant from Time Warner Inc., coupled with support from the National Park Service, enabled the creation of Thoreau's Path on Brister's Hill.

Access to Thoreau's Path is by foot, a short walk from the Walden Pond State Reservation parking lot. To walk the 1-mile Path from the entrance gate on Walden Street in Concord, a minimum of one hour's time is suggested. Full accreditation for all of the quotations found along the Path – and at the Reflection Circle can be found on www.walden.org



Don Henley welcomes guests to the Dedication

Mike Otis

Speakers and Special Guests at the Dedication

The Walden Woods Project was honored to have a prestigious group of speakers and special guests representing the many facets of Thoreau's thought, influence, and legacy. Among the speakers, some of whom are descendants of individuals quoted in the Reflection Circle, were Don Henley, Founder and President of the Walden Woods Project; Senator Edward M. Kennedy; Dr. Edward O. Wilson, Pellegrino University Research Professor, Harvard, Emeritus; Congressmen Marty Meehan and John Lewis; Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi; Stephen Burrington, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation; and Virginia McIntyre, Chair of the Concord Board of Selectmen.

Rebecca Harvey



Senator Kennedy speaks about the importance of preserving Walden Woods

Several descendants of other individuals quoted in the Reflection Circle were also present, including Calvin Standing Bear, grandson of Chief Luther Standing Bear; Margaret (Bay) Emerson Bancroft, great-great-granddaughter of Ralph Waldo Emerson; Roger Christie, nephew of Rachel Carson; and Michael Muir, great-grandson of John Muir.

Transcripts and video clips of the speeches delivered at the dedication ceremony will be available on www.walden.org in the coming year.

Rebecca Harvey



Whoopi Goldberg planted a tree at the ceremony with the help of a very excited Concord student



Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, is the founder of the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence

Passing on Thoreau's Legacy

Thoreau's Path on Brister's Hill is designed to engage students and life-long learners in the varied topics that Thoreau, himself, studied. As part of a pilot educational initiative for the Brister's Hill site, grade school and high school students from across Massachusetts produced poster projects demonstrating some of the ways in which Thoreau's Path on Brister's Hill can be used to connect students to the natural history of their home place, to teach them about Thoreau, and to stimulate thought on conscience and social reform. Schools that participated in the education project were the Doyon Elementary School in Ipswich, the Edward Everett School in Dorchester, the Forest Avenue School in Hudson, Reading Memorial High School, the South Lawrence East Elementary School, and the Thoreau School in Concord. Nearly 300 students were involved in the projects that were displayed at the dedication.

Mike Otis



Tree planting ceremony with Senator Kennedy and Congressman Meehan

Grade school students explored natural history themes in their own neighborhoods. Each class produced a poster that combines interpretive writing and illustration based upon close observation of nature in their own home place. High school students, after becoming familiar with Thoreau's writings, explored the themes of social justice and conscience that the interpretive trail brings into focus, and took a variety of approaches to interpreting their understanding of Thoreau and Transcendental thought. Presented at the opening ceremony were essays and graphic interpretations of passages from Thoreau's writings, along with students' interpretations of these passages.

Students from the Thoreau School in Concord participated in a tree planting ceremony with the speakers and special guests to kick off the dedication.



Example of work by students of the Thoreau School