

Pine Tree Farm: Sowing the Seeds of Conservation

By Matthew Burne, Conservation Director

The loss of small farms and subsequent loss of valuable agricultural land to development is a major problem all across America, especially in the northeastern US. According to some estimates, Massachusetts lost 7 acres of agricultural land per day between 1985 and 1999. The Walden Woods Project is, therefore, very excited about our most recent successful conservation acquisition, the purchase of 8.9 acres of the historic Pine Tree Farm, an icon of the agricultural history of Concord. As motorists driving toward Boston along the Route 2 highway enter the Walden Woods ecosystem, Pine Tree Farm is there at the gateway. The farm is one of the most highly visible agricultural landscapes in Concord. As such, it has tremendous local value, not just for the preservation of open space and productive farm land, but also for its impact on the culture and character of the town.

In February 2007, the Walden Woods Project closed on the purchase of Pine Tree Farm. The land was under considerable threat of development due to its location on Route 2 and the flat and very well-drained soils that have made it such good farm land. As part of the deal, the former owners retained both existing farm houses and a total of about 3 acres of land around them. The Walden Woods Project has retained the right of first refusal on both parcels, and has also negotiated perpetual deed restrictions that will prevent redevelopment from single-family homes to higher-density uses.

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Sunflowers grace Pine Tree Farm in late summer

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Entertainment included performances by Billy Joel and Don Henley, and by classical pianist Barbara Nissman.

Walden in New York Fundraiser is a Resounding Success

By Kathi Anderson, Executive Director

On October 4th, the Walden Woods Project hosted *Walden in New York*, a sell-out fundraiser at one of New York City's premier venues – the spectacular Allen Room (home of *Jazz at Lincoln Center*) with a floor to ceiling glass backdrop overlooking Central Park and Columbus Circle. Merrill Lynch was the presenting sponsor for the event that was attended by some 400 supporters including Bette Midler, Val Kilmer, Harvey Weinstein, Rebecca DeMornay, Brian Williams, Ed Begley, Jr., Bob Woodruff, Phoebe Cates, Tom Freston and Mary Kay Place.

Guests enjoyed a cocktail reception followed by a sumptuous gourmet dinner prepared by *Great Performances*, one of New York's finest caterers. Arnold Worldwide generously contributed consultation on event planning. The Walden Woods Project is deeply concerned with environmental issues on a global scale and is committed to doing its part to stem the threat of global warming. This event reflected our commitment. We reduced the carbon footprint of *Walden in New York* by using a "100 mile Radius Menu." Minimizing the distance that food travels greatly reduces its carbon footprint, supports local agriculture, and boosts the local economy. Other measures that were undertaken included reducing waste by aggressive recycling, using recycled paper products, and purchasing

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Dear Friends,

Matt Burne

As the Walden Woods Project reflects on the accomplishments of the past year, we want to take this opportunity to thank our supporters. Your generosity has enabled our organization to reach important milestones in the areas of conservation, education and research, some of which are highlighted in this issue of our annual newsletter.

Our priority conservation initiative in 2007 was the acquisition of the 9-acre Pine Tree Farm at the northwest boundary of Walden Woods. The farm had been in continuous operation since 1928 and, like so many family farms, it faced the prospect of being sold to developers. Fortunately, in February of 2007, the Walden Woods Project succeeded in purchasing Pine Tree Farm. Nearly \$2.2 million of the \$2.7 million purchase price was covered by an interest-free loan, provided by the sellers and secured by the farm. The loan must be retired by the end of 2008 or we risk losing Pine Tree Farm. We are more than halfway toward our goal of raising the \$2.2 million and hope that we can count on your support to help us cross the finish line. Once this debt is retired, our plans call for the farm to remain in active agriculture. It will also be incorporated into the Walden Woods Project's educational programming. In addition, there will be a public trail through Pine Tree Farm connecting to surrounding conservation land.

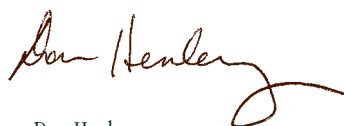
In late winter of 2007, the Walden Woods Project expanded its Thoreau Institute campus with the acquisition of the adjacent Adams property. This parcel is comprised of a residential structure and an additional three acres of open space. In September, we learned that the Walden Woods Project had been chosen to receive a prestigious Cultural Facilities Fund Feasibility and Technical Assistance Grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The \$31,875 grant (plus \$42,500 in matching funds) will enable the Walden Woods to retain architectural experts specializing in historic preservation and sustainable building practices to assist in preparing a master plan for our entire campus that will support our strategic programmatic objectives.

The past year has also been a very successful one for the Walden Woods Project's education department. In the spring, the pilot phase of our web-based international initiative for high school students (*World Wide Waldens*) was completed. Students from participating schools in the United States, Pakistan and Chile undertook a number of compelling environmental stewardship projects and gained a better understanding of their own environmental ethic. In 2008, *World Wide Waldens* will expand to include more schools in the United States and other countries.

Two collaborative projects were initiated this year in the Thoreau Institute Library: a partnership with the Walter Harding Family and the Thoreau Society to use royalties from the published works of Walter Harding, supplemented by an anonymous donation of \$10,000, to support our on-going work on a guide to the Harding Collection, and a multi-year collaboration with Worcester Polytechnic Institute to preserve the audio-visual materials in all our collections. We've also completed the first of many digitization projects: the complete 20-volume edition of Thoreau's works published by Houghton-Mifflin in 1906.

Once again, we thank you for your friendship and support through the years.

Sincerely,



Don Henley
Founder/President



Kathi Anderson
Executive Director



Walden in New York Fundraiser is a Resounding Success

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carbon offsets to match our carbon footprint from total energy used for the event. We worked with *Native Energy* to estimate the amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced as a result of this event, and we purchased high quality, carbon offsets from the Owl Feather War Bonnet Wind Farm, a wind energy project in South Dakota, owned by the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. This investment displaced “dirty” energy and made *Walden in New York* a carbon neutral event.

The highlight of the evening was a series of memorable performances by Billy Joel, Don Henley and classical pianist Barbara Nissman who opened with her compelling piano presentation of Prokofiev’s *Suggestion Diabolique*, Op. 4; Rachmaninoff’s Prelude, Op. 23, No. 10; and Ginastera’s *Two Danzas Argentinas*, Op. 2.

Don Henley sang the soulful *Come Rain or Come Shine* followed by the popular Muppets tune *Bein’ Green*. Billy Joel opened with *Summer*, *Highland Falls* followed by his classic *Piano Man*. Don and Billy closed the show with a duet of *Walden on My Mind* (sung to the tune of *Georgia on My Mind*).

Billy Joel and Barbara Nissman played the magnificent Walden Woods Steinway Concert Grand piano. Designed by renowned marquetry artist Silas Kopf and manufactured by Steinway and Sons, the piano features panels of inlaid wood depicting flora and fauna found in Thoreau’s Walden Woods. Surrounding the rim is one of Thoreau’s most famous 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.” The piano is crafted primarily from American black walnut but also includes six species from the historic woods surrounding Walden Pond. No trees in Walden Woods were felled to manufacture the piano.

Over the past several months, a number of prominent popular and classical artists had played and signed the piano — Elton John, Billy Joel, Bruce Hornsby, Barbara Nissman, Herbie Hancock, Dave Brubeck, Evgeny Kissin and Emanuel Ax.

The evening concluded with an auction of several unique offerings including first class trips to London on Eos airlines, private tennis lessons with Andre Agassi and John McEnroe, a day on the set of *Desperate Housewives* with Eva Longoria Parker, front row seats and backstage passes to an *Eagles/Dixie Chicks* concert, a private movie screening in New York and a guitar signed by the *Eagles*.

Walden in New York raised nearly \$1 million for the Walden Woods Project. We thank everyone who helped make this such an enjoyable and successful event!

Step-It-Up!

Event Calls for Reductions in Greenhouse Gas Emissions

By Mark Harrison Foster, Jr., Education Intern

On April 14th, close to one year after the dedication of Thoreau’s Path on Brister’s Hill, and in the same spirit that led to the founding of the Walden Woods Project, citizens gathered to advocate for a better environmental future. Brister’s Hill offered the perfect backdrop for a Step-It-Up event (<http://stepitup2007.org/>) promoting environmental stewardship that garnered national media attention.

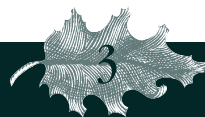
Step-It-Up, a call for local, state and federal officials to act on climate change and cut carbon by 80 percent by the year 2050, is the brain-child of accomplished writer, environmentalist, and Walden Woods Project Advisory Board Member, Bill McKibben. In addition to the Walden Woods event, similar events took place across the country in all fifty states and in various locations around the globe.

In the intimate setting of Concord, as a rain storm was brewing, the weather lifted for the event and the sun poked through the clouds. The crowd hiked through Walden Woods guided by Concord Academy students, arriving at the Reflection Circle on Brister’s Hill. Soon a group of over 170 convened at the circle to hear the call to action.

After an introduction by Walden Woods Project Executive Director Kathi Anderson, keynote speaker Peter Frumhoff, the Director of Science and Policy and Chief Scientist of the Union of Concerned Scientists, addressed the crowd. In addition to highlighting the larger threats of global warming, Dr. Frumhoff brought the issue of the day close to home, saying that if the status quo remains, “by the end of the century . . . the average summer day in Boston will feel as it does today in South Carolina.” Frumhoff went on to cite the devastating effects such a temperature change would have for the area, including drastic impacts on the New England fisheries. Frumhoff was realistic about the world we are all living in, as he told the crowd “We can’t turn the spigot off of our emissions today . . . We need to wean ourselves off fossil fuels.”

Prior to Dr. Frumhoff’s address, speakers read passages by Thoreau. After a brief introduction from Susan Frey, Director of Education, Olivia Solperto, a Lincoln-Sudbury High School student, opened the event by invoking the spirit of Thoreau: “I wish to speak a word for nature, for absolute freedom and wildness . . .”. After Ms. Solperto, Concord’s Thoreau Elementary School 4th grade students Ian Reid-McGaffin, Joey Spada, and Johnny Kilcoyne each read a passage. Following suit were representatives from organizations co-sponsoring the event including: Michael Kellett of RESTORE: The North Woods, Anna Winter Rasmussen of Save Our Heritage, Mike Frederick of the Thoreau Society, and Cherrie Cory of Musketaquid Arts and Environment. Concord Academy student Eliza Perlmutter and Walden Woods Project Intern Bess Sturges read from Thoreau’s *Walden*, choosing his closing words to call people to action: “If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them.”

The event concluded with Matt Burne, Conservation Director, speaking on the ecological history of Brister’s Hill and encouraging those present to walk Thoreau’s Path and discover its many lessons. The attendees signed a petition calling for federal action to cut carbon emissions, which was sent to congressional and state legislators. The petitions from the participants at Brister’s Hill joined thousands more from across the country.



Evicting Alien Species

By Matthew Burne, Conservation Director

Much of Walden Woods enjoys extensive protection from the development threats pervasive throughout eastern Massachusetts. It is not, however, so fortunate when it comes to many of the ecological threats facing the area. Chief among them: exotic, invasive species. The Walden Woods Project is working to clear a 1.5-acre infestation of an exotic invasive shrub, Glossy Buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*), on Bear Garden Hill, which abuts the Pine Tree Farm parcel. We hope that this project will provide an effective model for small-scale cooperative efforts between land owners and neighbors or small citizen groups.

Glossy Buckthorn is a very common shrub in eastern Massachusetts, introduced from Europe as an ornamental plant. It forms extremely dense thickets and displaces native forest understory plants and wildlife. Individual shrubs produce hundreds of berries each summer, each bearing 2-3 seeds that are spread widely by birds. A dense thicket of the shrub can easily produce tens of thousands of seeds each year, and rapidly cause major ecological changes that are difficult to reverse.

On the Walden Woods Project's Bear Garden Hill property, there is a stand of Glossy Buckthorn that a neighbor proposed to help us eradicate. Successful control of the infestation would allow the native plants and animals, displaced by the buckthorn, to come back, and it would also reduce a significant (though not the only) source of seeds in this part of Walden Woods.

A variety of methods are available for the control of Glossy Buckthorn, but we have designed the project to rely on physically pulling shrubs out of the ground using an interesting lever-type device called a Weed-Wrench. The shrubs in this particular stand have never been cut, and therefore even quite large plants, up to 1.5 inch-diameter stems, can be effectively pulled out using this tool. We are able to avoid the use of herbicides by treating the infestation this way.



A thick tangle of invasive plants chokes the forest understory in the project area

The project, to date, has been very successful and has resulted in a remarkable reduction in the buckthorn stand. We are going to continue removing buckthorn through next summer and will be watching closely to evaluate re-sprouting of removed plants from remnant root fragments and existing seeds and of re-colonization by bird-dispersed seeds. We are encouraged by the effectiveness of the removal and by the relative speed with which a single volunteer can make a significant difference.

We expect to complete the eradication project during the summer of 2008, and will turn our attention to monitoring the treatment area. This project has the strong potential to serve as a model of citizen participation in land management efforts that address a significant threat to the ecological integrity of many landscapes, including Walden Woods.



A local artist captures brilliant fall colors at the Pine Tree Farm.

Pine Tree Farm: Sowing the Seeds of Conservation

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In addition to the crop land, the Pine Tree Farm acquisition protects 3 acres of shrub and forested wetland along Hubbard Brook. The brook traces the southern border of the property, feeds the small farm pond used for irrigation, and continues on its way toward the Sudbury River. The brook represents an important link between the Pine Tree Farm parcel and a large agricultural landscape that the town of Concord is actively attempting to conserve. The farm also abuts an additional 50+ acres of land owned by the Walden Woods Project — the Bear Garden Hill and Boiling Spring properties. Deer, coyotes, fox, fisher cats, and a wide variety of other wildlife are regular visitors to these properties.

While protecting Walden Woods with an important buffer at its western gateway, we are also eager to preserve the agricultural legacy of Concord. The Walden Woods Project is working with the former owner on plans to keep Pine Tree Farm in active agricultural production. Along with an additional 6 acres of farm land that the Walden Woods Project owns adjacent to Pine Tree Farm, we will be continuing the proud tradition of farming that has been a part of the area's cultural history since colonization.

Pine Tree Farm was established in 1928, prior to the existence of the Route 2 highway and has been in continuous production through 3 generations of the Ammendolia family. During the 1940s and '50s, a wide variety of produce and live stock was raised, but most recently, the land has been producing excellent, pesticide- and herbicide-free corn, pumpkins, and other vegetables for the local restaurant market and for sale at the farm stand that was a fixture along Route 2 until it was closed a couple of years ago. A real visual treat has been the 1.5-acres of 6- and 10-foot high sunflowers that mature in late-summer.

The acquisition of Pine Tree Farm is a tremendous conservation success, but also presents a significant challenge to the Walden Woods Project. Over the coming year, we have a great deal of fund-raising to do to complete the acquisition and ensure that Pine Tree Farm is preserved in perpetuity. Your support has always been important, but it is of critical importance now to complete this conservation initiative.

State Grant Awarded to WWP

to Undertake Feasibility Study of Headquarters Campus in Historic Walden Woods

By Kathi Anderson, Executive Director

In September 2007, the Walden Woods Project received exciting news from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and MassDevelopment. Our organization was selected to receive a \$31,875 Cultural Facilities Fund (CFF) grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to undertake a Feasibility and Technical Assistance Assessment of the 25-acre Walden Woods Project/Thoreau Institute campus in Lincoln, MA, located in the heart of Walden Woods. The study will focus on three structures — the historic Higginson House, the former Higginson stable and the contemporary library/archives building. The CFF grant was generously matched by a \$42,500 gift from a local foundation.

The public and private support enabled the WWP to hire a highly qualified team of architects who, under the supervision of the Walden Woods Project, will undertake a facilities evaluation. The assessment will guide our organization in developing a plan for our infrastructure that will support our immediate operational needs and long-term programmatic objectives. The plan will include a conditions review of our campus, a conceptual use proposal and a cyclical maintenance schedule. It will be based on the Walden Woods Project's commitment to "green building" practices and will place a high priority on historic preservation, sustainability, health and safety, and functionality.

Specifically, the assessment will recommend measures to (a) create a "green" campus compatible with the organization's environmental mission that will include the utilization of highly efficient energy systems and/or sustainable sources of power; (b) improve office space for staff and volunteers; (c) enhance utilization of existing infrastructure for groups of teachers and students, and as a venue for public programs (including a larger meeting space for proposed seminars); (d) provide essential health and safety improvements at the two older buildings; (e) create additional overnight accommodations for scholars in residence and residential program participants (teachers and students); (f) expand archival storage capacity in the library; (g) undertake historic preservation and stabilization measures; and (h) improve accessibility.

The historic Higginson House and surrounding 18 acres in Walden Woods were acquired by the Walden Woods Project in 1994. Some years later, the WWP nominated the building for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. It was designated a National Register property in 2005. The Higginson estate, constructed in 1905, served as the residence of Lincoln's socially prominent huntsman and author, Alexander Henry Higginson. Its grounds, the former Jacob Baker Farm of Thoreau's time, were purchased for Alexander Higginson by his father, Major Henry Lee Higginson, banker, founder of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and a relative of Thomas Wentworth Higginson, abolitionist pastor and friend of Thoreau.

Currently located in the Higginson House are the administrative offices of the WWP, as well as conference and seminar space for the organization's education programs. The building also affords limited, temporary residential facilities for visiting scholars and teachers. Like any edifice constructed over 100 years ago, the Higginson House requires extensive restoration, health and safety upgrades, and energy efficiency improvements to ensure its longevity and to maximize its potential to serve as a venue for public programs and administrative functions. The same holds true for the former Higginson stable.

In 2005 and 2007, the Walden Woods Project acquired two adjacent parcels of approximately 7 acres in total. Both sites had once been part of the original Higginson estate and are situated along an important trail corridor through historic Walden Woods.

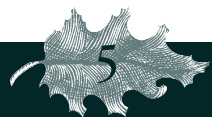


Former Higginson Stable

The first of these acquisitions included the former Higginson stable that had been converted to a residence in 1946 and for nearly 60 years had been owned/occupied by the descendents of Presidents John and John Quincy Adams. In purchasing the former stable, the WWP sought to increase its infrastructure assets and thereby expand its programs to reach a larger audience of students, teachers and the general public. The former Higginson stable and the Higginson House will also provide a unique space for meetings focusing on specific elements of the environmental challenges of the 21st century, such as biodiversity, environmental justice, sustainability and environmental economics — topics that would be appropriately explored at the cradle of the environmental movement — Walden Woods.

The WWP campus lies at the confluence of Thoreau's land, literature and legacy. Located less than a mile from Walden Pond, the WWP/Thoreau Institute and surrounding conservation land are an integral part of Walden Woods' extensive network of trails that afford the visitor an easy walk through the woods from Walden Pond to the Thoreau Institute. Throughout his life Thoreau came back to the area now occupied by the WWP/Thoreau Institute, sometimes to take in the majestic view from Pine Hill to Walden Pond, and other times to gather huckleberries and blueberries (still abundant today) or to study the flora and fauna, which he wrote about in his Journal. He often visited the beech tree grove, which occupies a part of today's WWP grounds, and the nearby Beech Spring, which still flows freely to this day.

The students, teachers, scholars and life long learners who visit the WWP or the Thoreau Institute library, or who participate in our education programs are offered a rare opportunity to immerse themselves in Thoreau's philosophy in the very place that inspired him. Thoreau's urgent concerns are ours. He speaks to us with principle and clarity about the critical issues we struggle with today. As this new and challenging century unfolds, the WWP/Thoreau Institute is prepared to carry his words, ideas and enduring example to a widening audience of global citizens.



World Wide Waldens

By Susan Frey, Director of Education

In the spring of 2007, high school groups from three continents joined the Walden Woods Project's new education initiative, *World Wide Waldens: Putting Thoreau's Words into Action*. *World Wide Waldens*, a web-based environmental stewardship program, empowers youth around the globe to find their Walden — a place needing attention, care and protection — in their own community. At a time when global warming, threats to biodiversity, sustainability, pollution and other urgent environmental issues weigh heavily on the minds of young people, *World Wide Waldens* invites them to reflect on their environmental ethic, make a positive difference in the world, and connect to other youth who share the same concerns and convictions. The inspiration for *World Wide Waldens* comes from Thoreau's nature writings. Many people consider Walden Pond the birth place of the American conservation movement.

In the pilot phase of the program, students tackled projects ranging from purifying water in a school in Pakistan (see sidebar) to rebuilding a bike trail in the outskirts of Washington, DC.

The first collection of student projects is on display in the *World Wide Waldens* Project Gallery (<http://www.worldwidewaldens.org/gallery.aspx>). In much the same way that Thoreau's *Walden* inspires people around the world, these projects also have a global influence inspiring and informing young people to protect the natural resources in their local communities. In addition to the gallery, the program offers activities that walk aspiring environmental leaders through the process of designing, implementing and sharing environmental stewardship projects. *World Wide Waldens* also provides a sampling of Thoreau's writings on nature along with a set of questions that encourage students to reflect on their own connection to nature and society.

Since one of the goals of *World Wide Waldens* is to help young people reflect on their own environmental ethic, the Walden Woods Project staff thought it would be inspiring to introduce students to famous people who live a green lifestyle. Students emailed questions to the greenest guy in Hollywood, Ed Begley, Jr; environmental writer and activist Bill McKibben; and founder of Sustainable South Bronx, Majora Carter. In addition, students who had questions about Henry David Thoreau had an opportunity to ask Thoreau Institute Curator, Jeff Cramer. To view students' questions and the experts' responses, go to Ask an Expert at the *World Wide Waldens* site.

To celebrate the hard work of the participants, the Walden Woods Project invited students from Concepción, Chile; Lahore, Pakistan; and Poolesville, Maryland to join in the live 45-minute web conference called the Walden Web Summit. This virtual summit, which linked students via web cams and Internet connections, allowed students to have a face-to-face exchange sharing projects and asking each other questions about environmental challenges. Students came away from the webcast feeling proud of their accomplishments and with a greater understanding of environmental issues in other parts of the world. A Maryland student commented, "I took drinking a clean, cool glass of water for granted before, but not anymore after hearing from those kids in Pakistan."

In the next few months, the program will expand as more classes and after school environmental clubs participate. It will also give more students an opportunity to explore local and global environmental issues and their own environmental ethic. If you know of a teacher, or other youth leader who may be interested, help us spread the word. To sign up for this year's program, go to www.walden.org/education and click on *World Wide Waldens*.

SAVING THE CHESAPEAKE BAY ONE GRASS AT A TIME



For students at Poolesville High School in Maryland, the Chesapeake Bay watershed is the "Walden" of their community — a place of environmental and cultural significance. But challenges such as habitat loss and nitrogen from lawn and agriculture fertilizer runoff threaten the Chesapeake Bay and the numerous wildlife species that depend on it. To help bring the Bay back to health, Poolesville students grew native redhead bay grasses in their classroom. They donated the grasses they grew to a non-profit organization that planted them in the rivers and streams that feed into the Chesapeake. The students also met fishermen who rely on the Bay as a nursery for commercial species like oysters and blue crabs. By working with the *World Wide Waldens* program during their senior year, these students learned how to put Thoreau's words into action by completing an environmental stewardship project and sharing their story with people around the globe.

GREENING A PAKISTANI SCHOOL YARD



Pakistan seems a world away from Walden Woods. However, the *World Wide Waldens* program transcends geographic boundaries and cultural differences. Students at the Resource Academia High School partnered with students at an underfunded public school to help their peers clean up the school grounds and install a clean drinking water filter. For many people, it's easy to take for granted basic services such as trash collection and sanitation. But the Model High School for Girls had no trash collection service. And because the water filtration and cooling system were both broken, the girls didn't have access to safe drinking water either. These Pakistani students had found their "Walden Project." They raised funds to purchase and install a new water filter and cooler as well as trash bins on the school grounds. To learn more about this or other projects, visit the project gallery at the *World Wide Waldens* web site.

Noteworthy...

Thoreau's Path on Brister's Hill Honored

The Walden Woods Project is pleased to announce two forms of recognition earned by Thoreau's Path on Brister's Hill in 2007:

Yankee Magazine, the premier New England travel publication, selected Thoreau's Path as an Editor's Choice destination.

For its exemplary design of Thoreau's Path, Sasaki Associates was awarded the American Society of Landscape Architects' (ASLA) Landscape Architecture Firm Award, the highest honor that the ASLA bestows. Congratulations to David Hirzel and his team at Sasaki for this well-deserved recognition by their peers.

We hope you will visit Brister's Hill to enjoy its many recreational and educational opportunities. For more information and directions, go to www.walden.org/conservation.

Neiman Marcus opening supports WWP

In September 2007, Neiman Marcus, the Dallas-based luxury retailer, opened a new store at the Natick Collection in Natick, Massachusetts, not far from Lincoln and Concord. The grand opening gala celebration raised funds for four local non-profit organizations, the Walden Woods Project among them. The special black-tie event featured live music, dancing and a cocktail buffet. In deference to the Red Sox/Yankees game that evening, large screen TVs were set up in the men's department, and "haute dogs" and "glam chowder" were added to the menu. We were honored to be selected by Neiman Marcus and are grateful for its generous support.

Walden Wildlife/Pedestrian Passage

In 2004, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) awarded a Transportation, Community and System Preservation Program (TCSP) grant to fund a feasibility study of a highway overpass for pedestrians and wildlife crossing Route 2 in the vicinity of Walden Woods. The project was initially proposed by the Walden Woods Project and is managed by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), the Regional Planning Council for the Boston Metropolitan region. The MAPC

contracted with an interdisciplinary team of UMass Amherst faculty and graduate research assistants to examine the feasibility of establishing a wildlife and recreation overpass. The report is available at <http://www.umass.edu/waldenpassage/>.

The Walden Woods Project strongly advocates for a beautiful and iconic structure that will establish a renewed link across Route 2 in the heart of Walden Woods that will accommodate both wildlife and pedestrians.

Illustrated Edition of *Cape Cod* to benefit Walden Woods Project

The Walden Woods Project is once again collaborating with the talented photographer, Scot Miller, and the Boston-based publisher, Houghton Mifflin, on a beautifully illustrated edition of Henry David Thoreau's *Cape Cod*. In 2004, Miller, Houghton Mifflin, and the Walden Woods Project partnered on the highly successful publication of *WALDEN: 150th Anniversary Edition*.

CAPE COD: Illustrated Edition of the American Classic features the complete 1906 Houghton Mifflin edition text of Thoreau's classic work, the stunning photography of Scot Miller that includes 62 timeless and breathtaking images of Cape Cod, and a foreword from preeminent Thoreau biographer Robert Richardson.

A percentage of sales proceeds will be donated to the Walden Woods Project by Houghton Mifflin and by Scot Miller. The book retails for \$35.00 and will be published in April 2008. To order the book, call 1-800-554-3569.

The 2007 Stewardship Lecture Series

The Walden Woods Project's annual Stewardship Lecture Series continues to grow in popularity. Our 2007 lecturers featured a number of prominent authors including Dale Peterson who read from his bestselling biography, *Jane Goodall: The Woman Who Redefined Man*. Peterson discussed how Jane Goodall challenged the definition of what it means to be human through her close observations of wild chimpanzees in Africa.

Richard Primack, PhD and Abe Miller-Rushing, PhD gave a presentation on how they used Thoreau's detailed journal as a tool to monitor

the effects of global warming in New England. Based on their research they documented that plants today bloom on average 3 weeks earlier than in the mid-1800s. In addition to the lecture, the scientists led a wildflower walk in Walden Woods.

Mimi Killinger read from her new biography, *The Good Life of Helen K. Nearing*. Killinger shared the life story of Helen Nearing, together with partner Scott Nearing, who pioneered the Back-to-the-Land Movement in the 1930s.

Jeff Cramer, Curator of Collections at the Thoreau Institute, read from his recently published collection of Thoreau's journals entitled *I to Myself: An Annotated Selection from the Journal of Henry D. Thoreau*. Drawing from his annotated collections of journal passages, Cramer presented many aspects of Thoreau: writer, thinker, naturalist, social reformer, neighbor, and friend.

Susan Freinkel, author of *American Chestnut: The Life, Death, and Rebirth of a Perfect Tree*, discussed her new book and traced the history of the Chestnut tree. She addressed the blight that nearly destroyed the once prevalent tree and discussed efforts of today's scientists and naturalists to bring this fallen fixture of the Eastern forests back to its ecological glory.

Danny Sagan, practicing green architectural designer and professor of architectural design, traced the trajectory of the Design/Build movement in Northern New England. Beginning with Thoreau's small house in the 1840s, Sagan discussed how this movement evolved over time to become a premier sustainable building technique.

In conjunction with the SuAsCo (Sudbury, Assabet, Concord) River Watershed Association's annual Riverfest, the Walden Woods Project sponsored a vernal pool exploration at the Walden Pond State Reservation. WWP Conservation Director, Matt Burne, and Leo Kenney of the Vernal Pool Association, guided a group to a vernal pool near Thoreau's house site by Walden Pond.

Wireless available in the Library

Wireless Internet access is now available in the Thoreau Institute Library and at other locations on the Institute campus. Wireless allows you to bring your own computer to the Thoreau Institute for Internet access. We invite visitors to explore our high speed Internet access to our catalog, finding aids, and Thoreau resources, using their own wireless-enabled laptop or pda.

In order to connect, computers must have a WiFi-compatible network card installed. Free access is provided in all main public areas.

