



BIODIVERSITY DAY II: Experts Celebrate E.O. Wilson's Birthday with Walden Woods BioBlitz

This past July 4th, the 164th anniversary of Henry Thoreau's move to the shores of Walden Pond, the Walden Woods Project hosted "Walden Biodiversity Day II." The event drew nearly 100 plant and wildlife experts from around the northeastern U.S. to Walden Woods to celebrate the 80th birthday of Dr. E.O. Wilson. Participants fanned out in and around Walden Woods to identify as many species as possible in one day.

Dr. Wilson, the esteemed Professor Emeritus and Honorary Curator in Entomology at Harvard, has won two Pulitzer Prizes and has spent his life focused on the world of ants. His contributions to the science of ant biology, evolution, and ecological theory have earned him worldwide recognition. Dr. Wilson has attended several important Walden Woods Project events since its founding in 1990, including the Grand Opening of the Thoreau Institute in Lincoln and the dedication of Thoreau's Path on Brister's Hill in Concord.

Walden Woods, the site of Henry Thoreau's biological observations and the inspiration for the modern environmental movement, is the perfect backdrop to inspire what has become a worldwide phenomenon of natural history inventories. The world's first Biodiversity Day was held in and around Walden Woods in 1998, and resulted from a collaboration between Dr. Wilson and local naturalist/author Peter Alden. Over 1,900 species were identified in one day. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has sponsored Biodiversity Day events every year since, and "BioBlitzes" have been taking place the world over as an outgrowth of that initial collaboration.



Matthew Burne

Dr. E.O. Wilson discussing biodiversity in Estabrook Woods

Biodiversity Day II was co-sponsored by the National Park Service and Minute Man National Historical Park, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2009.

At a kick-off event on July 3rd, many of the participating biologists gathered at the Park's Concord headquarters for an evening walk to the Old North Bridge. The fields surrounding the bridge were alight with fireflies after dusk. White sheets were hung under mercury vapor lights to attract insects late into the night.

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Major Milestone Reached in the *Harding Collection*

The Walden Woods Project conserves the most complete research collection of Thoreau and Thoreau-related literature in the world, including expansive collections owned by The Thoreau Society. A primary focus of our mission is to improve access to the many thousands of documents, publications, images, and artifacts that comprise the collections housed at the Walden Woods Project's Thoreau Institute. Annually we invest many hundreds of hours of curatorial work in accomplishing that goal, and have reached a major milestone with one of the most important collections that we maintain.

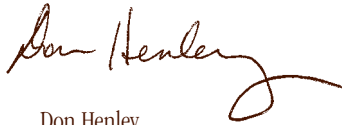
(continued on page 3)

Dear Friends,

On August 25, 2009, the Walden Woods Project lost a dear friend — Senator Edward M. Kennedy. For nearly 20 years since its inception, the Walden Woods Project worked closely with Senator Kennedy on a number of important objectives to further our organization's mission. He was an honorary member of The Walden Woods Project Advisory Board, and despite the many demands placed on his time, he never missed an important Walden Woods Project event, among them the Thoreau Institute Groundbreaking, the Thoreau Institute Grand Opening Ceremony, and the dedication of Thoreau's Path at Brister's Hill.

Senator Kennedy held the writings of Thoreau in high regard, a result of childhood trips to Walden with his siblings that were led by his mother, Rose Kennedy. He continued that family tradition by bringing his own children to Walden Pond to learn about the rich environmental and social reform legacy that took root in this historic region. His effective leadership on a broad range of environmental and conservation initiatives, coupled with his efforts to preserve the literary and cultural history of our nation, are well known. Perhaps less known is his lifelong connection to Walden that is reflected in the following chapter he wrote for *Heaven Is Under Our Feet: A Book For Walden Woods*.

I will miss him, as will countless millions whose lives were touched by his compassion and commitment to public service.



Don Henley

Courtney Bent



Senator Kennedy speaking at the Grand Opening of the Thoreau Institute, 1998.

Remembering Thoreau and Preserving Walden Pond *Senator Edward M. Kennedy*

from *Heaven is Under Our Feet* edited by Don Henley and Dave Marsh
(Stamford, CT: Longmeadow Press, c. 1991)

My warm and vivid memories of Walden Pond and Walden Woods date back to early childhood. On occasional summer Sunday mornings in the 1930s, my mother would bundle as many young Kennedys and Fitzgeralds as she could find into the family station wagon for an excursion from Hyannis Port to the pond. Even today, when I hear of crowds from Boston descending on the pond on weekend afternoons, I cannot help but recall the crowds of Kennedy children erupting from the station wagon and racing toward the pond.

On our visits, we would enjoy a swim, then gather on the steep woodland bank by the shore for picnic sandwiches while Mother told us a little about Thoreau and his times. At day's end, we would regroup at the dinner table on the Cape and relive the outing. Mother is the best teacher that any of us ever had, and she would gently draw us out about the day. She would drive the lesson home by asking us to recall an event from Thoreau's life or a passage from his writing.

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WilmerHale's Generosity Benefits *Walden Woods Project*



For nearly twenty years, the Walden Woods Project has been a pro bono client of the venerable law firm Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP, formerly Hale and Dorr LLP. Dating back to its founding in the early 20th century, the firm has had a long and proud tradition of providing pro bono (donated) representation and community service to deserving nonprofit, institutional and governmental organizations and initiatives. This tradition was recently recognized when *The American Lawyer* named WilmerHale's pro bono program as one of the top programs in the country. The

Walden Woods Project is one of many fortunate beneficiaries of WilmerHale's generosity.

The enduring support of WilmerHale's Boston office, primarily the real estate practice, has made a lasting contribution to the preservation of Henry David Thoreau's Walden Woods in Concord and Lincoln, MA, one of our country's most revered historic sites. WilmerHale (under the leadership of Keith Barnett, a partner in the firm — and

before him under the leadership of many lawyers at the firm, including John Hamilton, Katharine Bachman and Susan Kincaid) has provided pro bono legal services with a value in excess of \$1 million for no less than fourteen real estate transactions involving the Walden Woods Project, many of them challenging and complex, and requiring extensive legal work.

The benevolence of WilmerHale has helped the Walden Woods Project preserve nearly 160 acres of culturally and ecologically significant land in Henry David Thoreau's Walden Woods. Much of this land had been threatened with commercial development, but is now permanently protected for future generations.

Mr. Barnett recently offered his congratulations to The Walden Woods Project, saying, "It is truly unbelievable what a dedicated band of people committed to the public good have been able to accomplish. The Walden Woods Project is a shining example of making positive change through charitable efforts, raising (and wisely spending) funds to preserve one of our nation's true heirlooms, the land that Henry David Thoreau made famous. I am grateful to have had the opportunity, with the support of my partners, to help the Walden Woods Project with its mission, and I look forward to collaborating with the Project as it continues to do its important work."

The Walden Woods Project is deeply grateful to WilmerHale, a long term partner in our effort to preserve historic Walden Woods.

Harding Collection (continued from page 1)

The Thoreau Society's Walter Harding Collection consists of more than 75 linear feet of documents and three-thousand books encompassing Harding's incomparable collecting efforts from the 1930s through 1996. Widely acknowledged during his lifetime as the leading authority on Thoreau, the late Professor Harding's collection of Thoreauviana consists of first editions and manuscripts, thousands of articles and pamphlets, art, records, microfilm and extensive correspondence from leading Thoreau scholars. It is recognized as the world's most comprehensive research collection on Henry D. Thoreau and is the anchor collection here at the Thoreau Institute. Our deepest gratitude goes to the Harding family for their generosity that enabled the Harding Collection to be used for education and research.

Since 2002, we have welcomed dozens of volunteers to the Thoreau Institute Library. Many have donated their time and effort to organizing, re-boxing, photocopying, de-stapling, labeling, and other preliminary tasks necessary to creating a finding aid for this collection. From 2004 to 2009, interns from the Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science created finding aids for small portions of the Harding Collection and draft finding aids for larger sections. In 2007, the Harding Family generously donated royalties from Walter Harding's *The Days of Henry Thoreau* to establish a fund, managed by the Thoreau Society, to provide additional support of this work on the Harding Collection, to which an anonymous donation of \$10,000 was added.

All of these efforts combined have led to the creation of a three-part finding aid of over 600 pages for the Walter Harding Collection, giving researchers a detailed guide to individual items in this monumental collection. Available as PDF files on our website (www.walden.org/institute) for quick referencing and searching, or downloadable to your own computer, these guides, along with our on-line book catalog, are the gateways to the treasures which Harding collected during more than fifty years

devoted to Thoreau studies, a devotion that started in 1936 with the purchase, during his freshman year in college, of what he referred to as "the cheapest edition of Thoreau's *Walden* I could find —the typographical monstrosity in Burt's Home Library— for a dollar." That book, which began it all for him, was proudly marked as item #1 by Harding when he began numbering every item in his collection.

Not every collection at the Thoreau Institute, however, can or should be measured against the Harding Collection, which is, in every sense, the premier Thoreau research collection. Yet, every collection, regardless of size, holds unique and special items. In his lecture on "Huckleberries" Thoreau chastised those who measure greatness and importance merely according to physical bulk. "According to this rule," he said, "a small potatoe is a little thing, a big one a great thing."

Recently the Thoreau Institute Library was the recipient of two gifts. The Stephen F. Ells Collection is the research collection of the late Steve Ells. Following his retirement from the Environmental Protection Agency, Steve followed his passion for birding and land conservation, doing considerable work on Estabrook Woods in Concord/Carlisle, MA. His extensive collection of articles and newspaper clippings traces the local efforts to preserve and protect this land which Thoreau called a "paradise for walkers."

The Albert Bussewitz Collection is comprised of the Thoreau-related collection of the late Al "Buzz" Bussewitz, a former Thoreau Society President and a sanctuary director and educator for the Massachusetts Audubon Society. It contains many unique items, such as this mounted plant (*Cornus canadensis*) specimen collected by Horace Mann, Jr., who accompanied Thoreau to Minnesota in 1861.

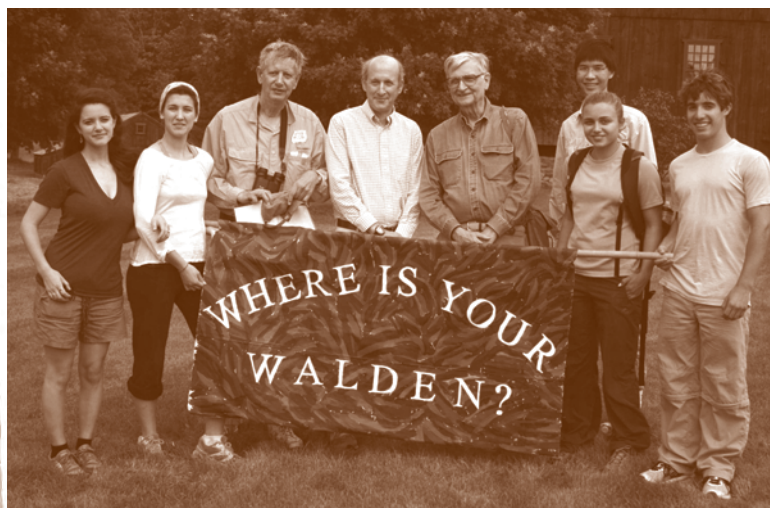
To explore the many treasures of the Thoreau Institute, please call our library at 781.259.4730, or e-mail: curator@walden.org.

Students Shadow Scientists at Walden Biodiversity Day II

Several high school students from the Greater Boston area with a keen interest in biology teamed up with field biologists for what the teens called “The BioBlitz,” aka Walden Biodiversity Day II, this past July 4th. The students helped out with a variety of tasks including spotting and recording species. Following the event, they posted a description of their BioBlitz efforts on the World Wide Waldens website, the Walden Woods Project’s web-based environmental education program.

For all the students, meeting Dr. Wilson was a special treat. Jay Po, who attends high school in Lincoln, MA, conversed with Dr. Wilson about his interest in biodiversity and described the experience as follows: “Gentle and full of energy, Dr. Wilson spoke words of wisdom to us, inspiring the next generation to continue the journey he had started. ‘Don’t give up!’ Dr. Wilson said, as he encouraged us to follow his path, to look closely at nature and see what we can do in the future to make this world a better place.”

The teens were struck by seeing how all the scientists were passionate about their work and shared an intense curiosity about what they found in the field. It was an eye-opening experience for the students to find that there are many others who share their excitement for nature and protecting the biodiversity of the planet.



Peter Alden, Richard Primack, and EO Wilson joined local high school students to celebrate the launch of the World Wide Waldens website at Biodiversity Day in July.

Po, who has had a life-long interest in snakes, joined a team of herpetologists searching around Hutchins Pond in Concord. On a beaver dam, the team found two Northern water snakes basking among the twigs and branches. “The amazing part was that the water snakes were not two random water snakes, but parent and offspring,” said Jay Po.

Matt Ricotta who spent his time exploring vernal pools said, “Finding the spotted turtle was such a great experience. It is a very distinct species and very beautiful, too. We didn’t expect to find one when we were searching in the vernal pools so it was an awesome surprise.” That evening, students attended Dr. Wilson’s birthday dinner. They took to heart the words they heard from Don Henley, Ed Begley, Jr., and Jane Goodall, who had sent video-taped birthday wishes. “It was incredible to see and hear these messages from environmental activists,” said Ricotta.

To read more about the participants’ experiences or other students’ stewardship projects, go to project showcase tab at www.worldwidewaldens.org.



The redesigned homepage of World Wide Waldens provides a stronger platform for engaging young environmental stewards.

Everyone has a Walden — Environmental Education Program Expands

In July 2009, the Walden Woods Project released a new version of its environmental education program and website *World Wide Waldens* (WWW). The goal of WWW is to encourage and recognize a new generation of environmental leaders. Participating students age 13-21 share the details of their environmental projects in the WWW showcase, enter an environmental stewardship essay contest, and take part in the Walden Youth Environmental Summit. To find out more about these activities, please visit www.worldwidewaldens.org and click on “Activity Guide.”

The Walden Woods Project education staff is collaborating with the National Geographic Society (NGS) to help us spread the word about World Wide Waldens. NGS values the connection that WWW makes between science, global geography and a greater awareness of environmental ethics on the part of students. In March 2009, Susan Frey, education director, and Polly Vanasse, a Nashoba Brooks School science teacher from Concord, MA (who helped design WWW and uses the program in her classroom) gave a joint presentation at National Geographic’s teacher institute at the National Science Teacher Association in New Orleans.

The education staff also continues to forge new partnerships outside the United States. While continuing our work with students at Pakistani and Chilean schools, we are expanding our reach to Costa Rica, Bosnia and China. We are also pursuing a partnership with Millennium Promise, an international anti-poverty campaign. Our hope is to offer the WWW program as part of Millennium Promise’s educational initiatives focusing on Africa.

During the 2009-10 school year, professors from colleges and universities have expressed an interest in WWW. A biology professor from George Washington University in Washington, DC is requiring his students to submit a project to the WWW showcase. A professor from the Earth University in Costa Rica is promoting the WWW essay contest. Students from Wellesley College’s environmental club will be helping organize the Walden Youth Environmental Summit.

Please contact Susan Frey at susan.frey@walden.org if you have questions about the program. We would welcome your suggestions of high school teachers or college students here or abroad who may be interested in participating.

WWW Program Calendar 2009-10

- Program runs year round to serve students in the northern and southern hemispheres
 - February 15, 2010: Essay contest deadline
 - May 20-21, 2010: Walden Youth Environmental Summit
- Visit www.worldwidewaldens.org for a complete listing of events.

Biodiversity Day II

(continued from page 1)

Hundreds of moth, butterfly, beetle, and fly species were catalogued during that first night's work.

The morning of the 4th started early with a breakfast at the home of Bill and Peggy Brace. Teams of biologists dispersed across Concord, Lincoln, and Carlisle in search of as many species as they were able to find. Several high school students involved in the World Wide Waldens program shadowed expert biologists to get a first-hand look at how field biologists practice their craft (see page 4 for a story about the student participants). Meanwhile, Dr. Wilson led a walk in historic Estabrook Woods, in the north of Concord, where several species of ants were encountered, along with a wide variety of birds, amphibians, insects, and plants.

After lunch at the historic Concord home of Anna Winter and Neil Rasmussen, a number of special field trips were organized, including trips to a recently-established Great Blue Heron rookery where as many as 60 active nests provided a wonderful

opportunity to see these magnificent birds up close. A wide variety of bird species were seen at the rookery, including nesting Pileated Woodpeckers, which was a real treat even for seasoned bird watchers.

The event culminated with a traditional 4th of July cookout at the Thoreau Institute in Lincoln – a birthday celebration for both Dr. Wilson and Peter Alden. Reports of interesting discoveries from the day preceded a short video tribute to Dr.



Mike Jones

Biologists searching for birds at the Great Blue Heron rookery in Concord

Wilson's lifetime of achievement that culminated with birthday greetings from Jane Goodall, Don Henley, and Ed Begley, Jr. The evening was capped off with a fabulous birthday cake celebrating the biodiversity of Walden Woods and a presentation to Dr. Wilson of a special birthday card signed by all of the participating biologists.

Biodiversity Day II resulted in the identification of nearly 2,000 species in one day! Quite an impressive accomplishment, and affirmation of the rich biological diversity in one of America's most historic ecosystems. The complete list of documented species can be downloaded or reviewed at www.walden.org/conservation. There are also photo galleries, a list of participants for both 1998 and 2009, and a variety of video clips related to the event.



Amazing Biodiversity Birthday Cake is the centerpiece of the evening celebration.

Detecting Threats to Biodiversity

One of the more important outcomes of a Biodiversity Day, or BioBlitz as they are known in some places, is the early detection of new populations of invasive species. Invasive species are plants and animals that are not native to an area, and which aggressively out-compete and displace native species. Invasive species are having dramatic impacts on ecosystems around the world, and certainly are a problem here in Walden Woods.

The Walden Woods Project is extremely concerned about the recent discovery of the Asian Longhorned Beetle in Worcester, MA and a few surrounding communities. The Asian Longhorned Beetle, or ALB, is a large and highly destructive beetle that has arrived in the United States from China. There is an extensive containment and eradication program underway in the Worcester area, but the threat of further infestation remains. ALB attacks and kills most of the hardwood tree species found in Walden Woods and the rest of northeastern North America.

The Walden Woods Project encourages everyone to become familiar with the Asian Longhorned Beetle, and to report any sighting or sign of infestation at www.beetlebusters.info.



David Lance, USDA APHIS

Asian Longhorned Beetle adults are 1.5 to 2 inches long with prominent white markings on the black body.

Successful 2009 Growing Season at the Farm at Walden Woods

This was a successful year for The Farm at Walden Woods, despite a tough beginning to the growing season. It was the wettest summer Massachusetts has seen in years, with both May and June tallying record rainfall. While the damp weather slowed down some crops and contributed to tomato blight (an airborne fungus that destroyed many tomato and potato crops throughout New England), other crops flourished. A variety of lettuce was highly productive throughout the early rainy months and was still yielding strong harvests well into the fall. Other bountiful summer crops included our own green beans and yellow wax beans, summer squash, zucchini, eggplant and onions. As the weather turned cool and the leaves began to turn, farm staff reaped a bounty of broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, Swiss chard, rutabaga, parsnips and much more. For the second year in a row, we worked with Sunny Crest Orchards in nearby Sterling, MA to bring fresh, locally grown apples and peaches to the farm stand. Throughout the summer and fall, we offered a farm-fresh Gift Basket for sale. These beautiful baskets have been very popular, and will be available again next year as our crops begin to come in.

The Farm at Walden Woods has been working to promote the benefits of locally grown food and has begun a collaboration with Helen's Restaurant in nearby Concord Center. Throughout the growing season, Helen's has featured our produce across their menu, including blueberry pancakes. Next year we hope to expand our network of restaurant partnerships and provide fresh,



Matthew Burne

A bounty of late-summer produce from the Farm

locally-grown produce to a greater range of eateries in the area. In early 2010, we will launch our "Friends of the Farm" giving program that will include a group of donors who pledge an established annual gift to support operations at the Farm at Walden Woods. We plan to recognize those supporters in our next newsletter, on signage at the farm stand, and at an annual farm event. More information on the "Friends of the Farm" program will be available soon.

All revenue generated through sales of produce is reinvested in the farm and help support the ongoing conservation efforts of the Walden Woods Project. We hope that you will consider a year-end gift in support of our important work and we look forward to seeing you next spring at the farm stand.



Arnold Worldwide Designs New WWP Web Site

A highly-successful, 18-month collaboration between the Walden Woods Project and Arnold Worldwide has produced a complete redesign of the Walden Woods Project's website — www.walden.org. As this newsletter goes to print, the launch date has not been set, but is likely to occur in early December.

The Arnold creative team designed innovative new features that were incorporated into the web site making it more inviting, data-rich, and user-friendly — including streamlined navigability, broader and varied search options, robust content coupled with stunning photos and video footage, on-line memberships, donations and merchandise sales.

Fran Kelly, CEO, Arnold US, stated, "Your website is quickly becoming any organization's most important marketing and communications tool. We wanted to make sure the Walden Woods Project had a site as rich and elegant as the organization itself, something that reflects the spirit of Walden Woods and the legacy of Henry David Thoreau."

Arnold is a creative communications agency focused on delivering strong business results for brands like Tyson Foods, Citizens, Hershey's, Ocean Spray,

Volvo, Fidelity Investments, Carnival Cruise Lines, and more. With a commitment to "Great Work that Works," the agency delivers services across all communication touch points under one-bottom-line, fueling holistic integrated programs. Arnold has full-service offices in Boston, DC, New York, London and Prague and has a longstanding commitment to providing pro bono services to a variety of charities, including City Year, Dana Farber, American Red Cross and American Heart Association.

Creative and design services for the Walden Woods Project were provided pro bono by the Boston office of Arnold Worldwide. This generous in-kind contribution resulted from a commitment on the part of the Arnold team under the leadership of Fran Kelly, CEO, Arnold US. Fran and Arnold were introduced to the Walden Woods Project by John Tyson of Tyson Foods, a Walden Woods Project board member, and a longtime and valued partner of Arnold Worldwide.

Kathi Anderson, Executive Director of the WWP, said, "I cannot overemphasize our gratitude to the Arnold team — particularly to Fran Kelly — for their generosity in leading the Walden Woods Project's web site redesign initiative. Their unparalleled creative talent, coupled with their strong sense of collaborative spirit and their commitment to our charity's mission, has yielded a highly functional, compelling and aesthetically superb website that will effectively communicate our mission, strengthen our brand, serve our supporters and enhance our fundraising."

Please visit us at www.walden.org.

Noteworthy...

WALDEN WOODS PROJECT SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

For the second year, the Walden Woods Project awarded its annual scholarships to two deserving high school students who attend schools in the Walden Woods communities of Concord and Lincoln, Massachusetts. The scholarship recipients will pursue environmental studies at the college level. Christine Chiao of Lincoln-Sudbury High School and Andrew Fahlender of Concord-Carlisle High School each received a \$2,500 Walden Woods Project Scholarship. Andrew stated that he is "proud to be supported by an organization like the Walden Woods Project." His interests lie in conservation and sustainability. Christine hopes to give back to the area, using what she has learned at Boston University, where she is now enrolled.

CURRENT RESEARCH ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Using Thoreau's observations of the natural world as a starting point, Concord has emerged as a popular location for the study of climate change. Dr. Richard Primack, Professor of Biology at Boston University, has demonstrated some dramatic changes in the flowering and leaf-out progression of many plants in Walden Woods, when compared to Thoreau's records of the 19th century. The Primack research group from Boston University plans to begin a new chapter in climate change research using Walden Woods as its living laboratory. For the next few years, the changes in leaf development each spring and fall will be monitored at several experimental plots in Walden Woods, including Thoreau's Path on Brister's Hill, a site stewarded by the Walden Woods Project. Dr. Primack and his associates are looking forward to sharing their findings with the Walden Woods Project and with others who are interested in how climate change is affecting the flora in our region.

NEW CONSERVATION RESTRICTION CREATES KEY TRAIL CONNECTION

In September, the Walden Woods Project concluded a joint effort with the Concord Land Conservation Trust (CLCT) to protect a nine-and-a-half acre site on Fairhaven Hill in Concord. A trail easement through the property will provide a route for walkers and equestrians that leads to the top of Fairhaven Hill, thereby adding to the extensive network of trails on adjacent lands owned by the Walden Woods Project and/or CLCT.

Fairhaven Hill was one of Henry Thoreau's favorite areas of Walden Woods. In his Journal he remarks, "In all my rambles I have seen no landscape which can make me forget Fair Haven." The permanent conservation of this key parcel will help to protect the top of Fairhaven Hill, and will also provide a trail connection over a part of Fairhaven that previously was not accessible to the public.

WALDEN WOODS MAPPING PROJECT

The Walden Woods Project is collaborating with Harvard Forest, Brian Donahue at Brandeis University, and historian Richard O'Connor by providing funding to bring a new GIS (Geographical Information Systems) map of Walden Woods (in Concord and Lincoln) to the Internet. The mapping project consists of a data-layer of historic land ownership in Walden Woods that was completed by Richard O'Connor, an independent scholar, and Brian Donahue, faculty member of Brandeis University and Fellow at the Harvard Forest.

The Walden Woods Project is proud to partner with Harvard Forest in order to help Brian Donahue and David Foster, Director of the Harvard Forest, make this data-layer available to a world-wide audience as an internet-based map, thereby providing an important tool for a wide range of ongoing research in this well-known and treasured landscape.

RECENTLY RELEASED ANNOTATED VERSION OF *THE MAINE WOODS*

The Walden Woods Project's Curator of Collections, Jeffrey S. Cramer, has just released his latest book on Thoreau, *The Maine Woods: A Fully Annotated Edition*, published by Yale University Press. Thoreau's three essays, which comprise the



book, outline a progression, not just from Massachusetts to Maine, but from the man who left Concord to the man who returned. Writing as both natural historian and social critic, and

invoking the landscape of Maine, Thoreau returned to the questions of balance between nature and society that underscore all of his writings.

Other books by Jeff Cramer include *Walden: A Fully Annotated Edition* and *I to Myself: An Annotated Selection from the Journal of Henry D. Thoreau*, both published by Yale University Press. Jeff is currently preparing *The Quotable Thoreau* for Princeton University Press. As with his previous editions of Thoreau's writings, Jeff's newly-edited text of *The Maine Woods* corrects errors and omissions and provides illuminating notes on the biographical, historical, and geographical contexts of Thoreau's life and work.

Scott Russell Sanders, author of *A Conservationist Manifesto*, recently wrote: "Those who have long relished this earthy, adventurous book, as well as those who are discovering it for the first time, have reason to rejoice over this new edition, which has been so meticulously annotated by Jeffrey Cramer."

To order any of these titles or other Walden Woods Project merchandise, please call 1-800-554-3569.



The Walden Woods Project

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

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

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

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

THE WALDEN WOODS PROJECT & THE THOREAU INSTITUTE AT WALDEN WOODS

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

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

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

We invite you to visit us.

The Thoreau Institute is open 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
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— Ralph Waldo Emerson

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

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Remembering Thoreau and Preserving Walden Pond

Senator Edward M. Kennedy

(continued from page 2)

I still remember that Thoreau was once Ralph Waldo Emerson's gardener. I still see Mother in my mind's eye, sitting by the pond, telling us about Thoreau. We laughed over lines from Walden, like, "Beware of all enterprises that require new clothes," and, "The man who goes alone can start today; but he who travels with another must wait till that other is ready." Waiting for Teddy was not uncommon in our family in those days.

We sat more quietly and tried not to squirm while Mother attempted to plant her lesson of the day in our young minds by quoting some of Thoreau's most famous lines. She loved epigrams on life, and found a rich lode in Thoreau:

"Any man more right than his neighbors constitutes a majority of one."

"It is never too late to give up our prejudices."

"In the long run men hit only what they aim at."

"It is life near the bone where it is sweetest."

"There are a thousand hacking at the branches of evil to one who is striking at the root."

"Under a government which imprisons any unjustly, the true place for a just man is also a prison."

"If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away."

Mother talked often of Thoreau's love of nature, explaining what he meant when he wrote that "heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads." She was the first environmentalist in our family. If my generation and my children's generation of Kennedys care deeply about environmental issues today, including the preservation of the pond, it is largely due to Mother's well-planted lessons nearly half a century ago.

As she wrote in her memoirs, *Times to Remember*, "the more experiences a child has and the more things he sees and hears the more interested in life he is likely to be, and the more interesting his own life is likely to be." Mother practiced what she preached. She was constantly organizing weekend outings while we were growing up, so that we could learn something of the beauty

and history of Massachusetts and its importance to the past and future. A Rose Kennedy field trip had the right blend of education and enjoyment to leave a warm and lasting memory of the thousand lessons she instilled. Because she herself loved history so much, she made it come alive for all her children.

In addition to his eloquent defense of peaceful protest against unjust laws, the most enduring aspect of Thoreau's writings is his respect for the environment, especially his plea for the preservation of our priceless natural resources.

Mother's appreciation for Thoreau began in her own childhood at the turn of the century. Between the ages of seven and thirteen, she lived in West Concord, only a few miles from Walden Woods. Church picnics at Walden Pond were frequent, as were impromptu swimming lessons organized for Rose and her brothers and sisters by her father, John Fitzgerald, who was then serving in the House of Representatives and was preparing to run for mayor of Boston.

Among Mother's other favorite activities were her almost daily trips to the Concord Library during summer

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Remembering Thoreau and Preserving Walden Pond

Senator Edward M. Kennedy

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vacations from school, where she would read and reread the works of her favorite authors—including her first exposure to the books of Thoreau and the other famous local authors.

In the spring of 1936, my oldest sister Kathleen was studying in France; her Easter vacation lasted for several weeks, and mother decided to visit her and take her to the Soviet Union. While there, they were escorted through one of the country's largest and most impressive libraries. What mother wanted to know most was whether the works of Thoreau, Emerson, and Hawthorne had escaped the Soviet censors. Believing that differences between nations should be bridged by cultural ties, she was heartened to learn that the books of these famous Massachusetts champions of individual liberty were still on the Soviet shelves, available for local citizens to read.

President Kennedy shared this love of history and admiration for Thoreau. In my brother's 1960 Presidential race, one of his favorite campaign phrases was from Thoreau's essay "Walking": "Eastward I go only by force; but westward I go free. . . . I must walk toward Oregon, and not toward Europe. And that way the nation is moving."

My brother often quoted those words when he was campaigning in the West. One of my most cherished gifts is a page containing that quotation in Jack's handwriting from his address to the Nevada legislature on January 31, 1960. Jackie framed the page for me as a Christmas gift in 1966, and it's been hanging on my wall at home for a quarter-century.

To President Kennedy, Thoreau's nineteenth-century words about the building of the old frontier came to symbolize his twentieth-century "New Frontier"—the expanding role of America in the world, and the enduring pursuit of the nation's best ideals, not only for our own citizens but also for those in many other lands.

Robert Kennedy, too, found inspiration and solace in Thoreau. During the difficult and trying times of recent decades, Thoreau's eloquent essay on "Civil Disobedience"—written as a protest against the Mexican War and the expansion of slavery—became the philosophical underpinning of both the civil rights movement

and the anti-Vietnam war movement. Millions of Americans, searching for more effective ways to change the policies of modern government, found help and justification in the century-old writings of Thoreau on peaceful protest and the power of individuals to make a difference in their communities, even if they are acting alone and against the odds. Robert Kennedy took those ideas to South Africa as well. As he told the students at Capetown in 1966: "Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance." In a sense, that day, the ripples from Walden Pond were washing ashore in South Africa, half a world away.

In addition to his eloquent defense of peaceful protest against unjust laws, the most enduring aspect of Thoreau's writings is his respect for the environment, especially his plea for the preservation of our priceless natural resources. One hundred fifty years ago, with breathtaking foresight, he saw the trend of the nation's increasingly industrialized society in his day, and spoke to it in terms that are equally relevant to our own age. He predicted the difficult choices that lay ahead, and understood that progress is not worthy of the name if it means ravaging the "heaven under our feet."

Today, as we face local, regional, national, and global environmental challenges of a magnitude imaginable only to Thoreau a few decades ago, we cannot help but marvel at the depth of his knowledge, the wisdom and eloquence of his words, the courage of his life, and the intensity and insight of his vision.

Thoreau belongs to our day and our generation too. In a sense, Walden Pond is where it all began. The pond is more than just an antiquated memory. It is a contemporary reality capable of inspiring future Americans, as it has inspired many in the past. The lessons of Thoreau will be passed more faithfully from generation to generation if the stewardship of Thoreau's beloved pond and woods is passed securely from one generation to the next. Walden Pond and Walden Woods must be preserved. If we fail, we have failed our heritage itself.