

Notes from

Walden Woods



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WALDEN WOODS PROJECT & THE THOREAU INSTITUTE

2011



Matt Burne



The Walden Woods Project is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization.

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

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Preserving Thoreau's Legacy

In a recent article in *The Boston Globe*, entitled "Why Walden Matters Now," Wen Stephenson wrote: "Henry David Thoreau's great subject — in 'Walden' and 'Civil Disobedience' and just about everything he wrote — wasn't the environment (a term he wouldn't recognize) or even nature (though he was a first-rate naturalist)... It was our relationship, as human beings — physically, morally, spiritually, politically — to the world in which we live, which is to say, to everything, both human and wild."

We couldn't agree more! Thoreau's literature and legacy speak to us on a wide range of global issues from human rights to climate change. That is why it is so important for the Walden Woods Project to protect the place (Walden Woods) that shaped Thoreau's thinking. We do this by reaching a wide audience of teachers, youth and the general public through our programs based on Thoreau's philosophy — programs that foster a well-informed and engaged citizenry with strong environmental and social ethics. We also work to increase our holdings at our Thoreau Institute research library so that it continues to offer the public access to the world's finest collections related to Thoreau.

We invite you to visit the Thoreau Institute to use our collections or see our library/exhibits. For more information on the Institute, including hours of operation and directions, go to www.walden.org.

The Farm at Walden Woods Flourishes

This was our fourth year operating the Farm at Walden Woods and its associated farm stand on eastbound Route 2 just past the Sudbury Road intersection in Concord, MA. We continue to learn about the challenges and great satisfaction associated with growing fresh and healthy produce for our friends and neighbors, while protecting an important site at the edge of Walden Woods.

All proceeds from the farm stand were reinvested in the farm and support our nonprofit organization.

We'd like to thank everyone who shopped at the farm stand and who gave us valuable advice and encouragement. We look forward to seeing you next summer when the farm stand reopens!



Our next project at the Farm involves creating a walking trail through the fields that will help visitors (kids, in particular) better understand where their food comes from.

HELP US GO GREEN!

The Walden Woods Project is making a greener newsletter by using less paper! Please help us move away from a printed newsletter by signing up to receive it electronically. As a valued member of the WWP family, you will also receive e-mail updates with important news and information on upcoming events.

Sign up on-line by clicking Newsletter on the www.walden.org home page, or send us your e-mail address (and your tax-deductible donation, if you choose) in the enclosed reply envelope.

THANK YOU!

Our Thanks

We can't thank our volunteers and interns enough. They help us do great things. This past year, we've enjoyed working with the following people:

Paul Balik, Krista Benson, Amy Bishop, Sophy Bishop, Alyson Bowers, Janet Burne, Christine Conner, Samantha Corron, Amanda Duggan, Amanda Finizio, Hannah Gavalis, Jason Hellinger, Melody Kraus, Matt Lamkin, Rebecca Ludwig, Jacquelyn McCormack, Torrey McMillan, Kathryn Nichols, Jennifer Prentice, Jane Quinn, Corinne Smith, Jennifer Tosti, Dr. Robert Tucker, Sam Walker.



Walking the Walk

Samantha Corron, one of our former interns, takes Thoreau's ideals seriously. She was arrested along with dozens of like-minded activists, including author Bill McKibben, founder of 350.org, while protesting against decisions being made in Washington. Self-sacrifice for social justice is at the heart of Thoreau's legacy.



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Programs



We're Connecting Youth Around the World

During the 2nd Walden Youth Leadership Summit held in May, Denisse Torres from Lawrence High School, Francesca Gentile from Concord-Carlisle High School, and Anabel Reyes from Lawrence High School used Skype to speak with students from Veraguas Province in Panama. They shared ideas about environmental issues and solutions in both countries. Participants were also connected to student groups in China, Uganda, and Costa Rica. To learn more about our annual youth summit, click World Wide Waldens at www.walden.org/education.

Every year, we take hundreds of kids on field trips in Walden Woods. Last August, a group ranging in age from 5 to 13 years old visited from Rockland, MA and had a great time finding frogs and bugs while participating in a ponding program with our Conservation Director.

To arrange a program for your group, visit www.walden.org/explore/visiting_walden_woods.



Supporting Teachers with Innovative Workshops

Cris West, a pre-K teacher at Buckingham Browne & Nichols in Cambridge, MA participated in our workshop "Voices from the Land: Integrating Language and Landscape, Art and Culture" in Walden Woods this past fall. She's pictured here with her work of art made from materials found in Walden Woods. The workshop was a collaboration between the New Jersey-based Monarch Teacher Network and the Walden Woods Project. The Walden Woods Project regularly offers seasonal workshops in Walden Woods. For information, visit www.walden.org/education.

WWP Scholarships Awarded

Each year, two graduating seniors, one from the public or private Concord high schools, and one from Lincoln-Sudbury High School are chosen to receive a \$2,500 scholarship from the WWP. This year, they were awarded to Gregory Gazda from Lincoln-Sudbury and Victoria Vierstra of Concord-Carlisle High School.

For more information, Concord students should go to www.ccscholarshipfund.org and Lincoln students to www.lssf.org.

US-Ireland Alliance Scholars Visit Walden Woods

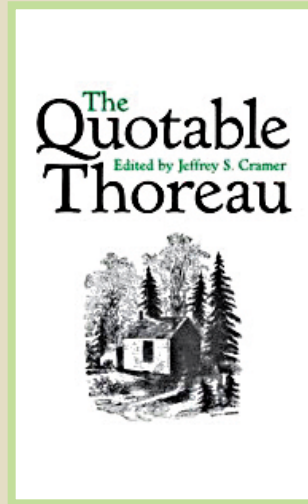
The Walden Woods Project welcomed Boston-area alums of the George J. Mitchell Scholarship program to Walden Woods. The Mitchell Scholarship program is one of the nation's most prestigious scholarships. There is a nationwide competition in the US to send 12 American post-graduate students to the island of Ireland for a year of study in any field. One Mitchell scholar who was part of the visit is now pursuing his Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences at Harvard.

The Mitchell Scholarship is a program of the US-Ireland Alliance (www.us-irelandalliance.org), a non-partisan, non-profit organization. During their tour of the area, the "Mitchells" learned that Thoreau's *Walden* influenced Irish poet W.B. Yeats' "The Lake Isle of Innisfree."

The Thoreau Institute

Walden Woods Project Curator Edits New Book

Our curator, Jeffrey S. Cramer, recently published *The Quotable Thoreau* with Princeton University Press. This is the most comprehensive and authoritative collection of Thoreau quotations ever assembled, gathering more than 2,000 memorable passages from this social reformer, environmentalist, self-reliant thinker and iconoclastic American author. *Choice* magazine recently called this a “beautifully compiled and impressively comprehensive volume.” Copies are available through our on-line shop and help support the mission of the Walden Woods Project.



New Emerson Collection Acquired

If you haven't visited the Thoreau Institute, or if it has been a while, we urge you to come by and see some of the new materials we've added to the collections!

Recently, the Thoreau Institute Library was able to acquire an extraordinary collection of Emerson material that had been assembled by book collector Mark Stirling. Mark had been putting this collection together for many years and we were fortunate to be able to add unique items to our holdings with this acquisition. In combination the Thoreau Society and Emerson Society collections at the Thoreau Institute, it adds a new layer to the Emerson-related collections here. When asked what he considered some of the highlights of his collection, Mark wrote that it was the “one-of-a-kind items that were most appealing; such as the letters and [copies owned by notable people.]”

One highlight is a fragment of a very personal letter by Emerson's aunt, Mary Moody Emerson, written shortly before Emerson's first wife, Ellen, died. In it she wrote: “Waldo has borne his personal trials — has done & labored so much for his family that it is grievous to find him so tired — he is discouraged about his lovely flower who has so captivated his affections.”

Wide-ranging Thoreau Collection Catalogued

This year saw the completion of a finding aid to the Edmund A. Schofield Collection. Cataloging of the Schofield Collection was headed by librarian and Thoreau-scholar, Corinne Smith, who gave order to the unstructured, enabling access to this collection which includes material on Thoreau and Darwin, John Muir and Thoreau, Thoreau's Worcester connections, Thoreau's “Dispersion of Seeds” project, the Walden Pond Ecosystem, weather during Thoreau's lifetime, and ecology. Ed's decades of research is available for the use of others thanks to his foresight and munificence. In addition, the Walden Woods Project is currently in the process of editing several of Ed's pieces to be published in early 2012 through the generosity of Fulcrum Publishing (www.fulcrum-books.com).

Improving Access in Walden Woods

This past fall, our Conservation Director assisted members of the Concord Natural Resources Commission's Trails Committee in establishing a new “Handicap Assessed” loop trail in Concord, MA. The trail starts at newly-created HP parking spaces on Walden Street, follows the Walden Woods Project's *Thoreau's Path on Brister's Hill* interpretive trail, and returns on Tuttle's Lane in the Concord Town Forest. The assessment characterizes potential obstacles to help people decide if they can manage the trail.

This is the first Handicap Assessed trail in the Town of Concord, and we hope it becomes a model for improving outdoor recreation opportunities for people of all abilities. For details, visit walden.org/explore.

