

## Let's Talk Thoreau

This past year, Jeff Cramer, our Curator, has extended the reach of the Thoreau Institute Library to students around the world. Through our new "Let's Talk Thoreau" program, we're able to access the "Skype in the Classroom" global community, enabling our Curator to talk with classes around the world, discuss Thoreau's life and writings, answer questions that come up from students reading a Thoreau work, and show some artifacts from our collections to those who would not otherwise be able to take advantage of the incomparable material housed at the Thoreau Institute. As one teacher wrote on the "Skype in the Classroom" website:

"Students came to the moment with prepared questions at hand, and spontaneous questions arose during the dialogue that Jeff [Cramer] fostered—questions about Thoreau's beard or teenage years or love life—questions that pulled God and politics and education to the table. . . . [Jeff] has a broad and deep knowledge of the individuals, the literature, the history and the region that contextualizes Thoreau. Talking with a personable scholar like Jeff was an invaluable life-shaping moment."

To learn more about our new "Let's Talk Thoreau" program, or to schedule a visit to our Thoreau Institute Library, please email [Jeff.Cramer@walden.org](mailto:Jeff.Cramer@walden.org) or call 781-259-4730.



## The Farm at Walden Woods

It was another successful growing season for The Farm at Walden Woods, located on Route 2 eastbound in Concord, just after the traffic light at Sudbury Road. Our decision to implement organic practices brought with it many challenges and rewards. Squash beetles, cabbage moths, tomato blight, aphids, and downy mildew, did their best to thwart our efforts. However by using row covers (a fine mesh material strung over metal hoops) and by planting a large variety of vegetables we had a bounty of crops for our farm stand. We grew most of the vegetables we sold and supplied produce for a couple of local restaurants.

We launched the season by growing vegetables for the Walden Woods Project's Environmental Awards dinner, which took place in Boston on July 25th. A greenhouse was constructed to grow micro greens for the event that also allowed us to start plants from seed for transplant, an advantage when growing organically. We are growing cover crops of buckwheat, clover, and winter rye, to improve the quality of the soil and to help control the weed population in the fields. We hope to see you at the farm stand during the 2013 growing season!

## 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](http://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:

Austin Anderson, Tyler Bembenek, Zöe Berkley-Cramer, Michael Bottari, Christine Conner, Samantha Corran, Lisa Dennehy, Julia Duggan, Bobby Friberg, Max Goldberg, Caitlin Greene, Beth Gula, Yunyan He, Tyrone Hooks, Gurudarshan Khalsa, Matt Lamkin, Adam Lashinsky, Sarah Lemay, Jason Leyk, Nancy Marzilli, Michelle Najarian, Jessica Nichols, Carole Perla, Jennifer Prentice, Jane Quinn, Eric Sciacca, Emily Somach, Alyssa Staples, Henderson Sykes, Carolyn Tobin, Matt Todd, Hilary Walker, and Mariel Wolfson.



## Walking the Walk

Lincoln resident and Bates college sophomore, Jessica Nichols was the education department intern this summer. Her interest in education was sparked by a trip she took to Naivasha, Kenya in 2010. Jess, along with two friends, raises money to pay school fees for children living in Kenya. Last summer, she organized bake sales in front of the local grocery store for this effort.

Notes from

# Walden Woods

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WALDEN WOODS PROJECT & THE THOREAU INSTITUTE

2012



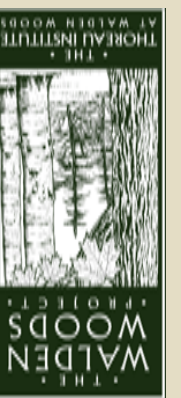
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*"In the woods, we return to reason and faith."*  
— Ralph Waldo Emerson

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## Preserving Thoreau's Legacy

As we approach the end of another successful year, the board and staff of the Walden Woods Project thank our friends and donors for their enduring support, which enabled our organization to continue its leadership role in the conservation of Thoreau's Walden Woods and to expand its educational initiatives.

This has been an exciting time for the Walden Woods Project with the 2012 launch of its Global Environmental Leadership Award and its Challenge Awards that are described in a subsequent article in this newsletter.

World Wide Waldens ([www.worldwidewaldens.org](http://www.worldwidewaldens.org)), our international, web-based education program, continues to bring youth from the United States together with their peers from other countries in wide-ranging discussions about the environment, while our Approaching Walden professional development seminar provides teachers from across the United States with the tools they need to develop their own place-based curriculum with an emphasis on history and ecology. Each of the Walden Woods Project's programs are built on the philosophy of Henry David Thoreau. Currently in development is an innovative program designed for elementary school children that will launch next year.

For those of you who live nearby or are planning a visit to the area, we hope you will have an opportunity to experience the Walden Woods Project's self-guided interpretive trail on Brister's Hill – a site that figured prominently in Thoreau's scientific research. It is an easy walk from the Walden Pond State Reservation or from the Town of Concord's Haggood Wright Town Forest. There's more information about Brister's Hill at [www.walden.org](http://www.walden.org).

The Walden Woods Project also offers a series of free, public lectures at its Thoreau Institute. If you wish to receive notification of the lectures, please e-mail us ([wwproject@walden.org](mailto:wwproject@walden.org)) or call us at 781-259-4700 with your e-mail or snail mail address.

The Walden Woods Project's library at the Thoreau Institute (44 Baker Farm Road; Lincoln, MA) is open most weekdays, Monday through Friday, 10-4. The library has limited staff: to be sure staff is on hand when you visit, we encourage you to call ahead at (781) 259-4730 or e-mail the library. Our curator, Jeff Cramer, would be happy to give you a tour.

Again, we thank you for your support and hope you will consider including the Walden Woods Project in your year-end charitable giving.

## Lincoln-Sudbury Seniors Help Protect Walden Woods



Susan Frey

As part of Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School's (LSHS) second annual Senior Service Day, eight graduating seniors, accompanied by math teacher, Mr. Stankek, volunteered their time to help remove non-native garlic mustard and glossy buckthorn growing in Walden Woods. Before the work began, Education Director Susan Frey gave students an overview of the history of conservation efforts in Walden Woods and then Conservation Director Matt Burne guided the students along Thoreau's Path on Brister's Hill pointing out the plants that Thoreau wrote about in his journals. Walden Woods Project summer interns Jessica Nichols, a recent graduate from LSHS, and Tyler Bembenek from Concord, helped coordinate the service day activities.

## Bear Garden Hill Improvements



Matt Burne

Bear Garden Hill, stewarded by the Walden Woods Project and located along Sudbury Road in Concord, MA, presents great opportunities for passive recreation and interpretation, but has some serious invasive species issues. Working with other local land trusts on a National Fish & Wildlife Foundation grant, we're restoring an old field at the site entrance providing open habitat to a wide variety of wildlife and rescuing some beautiful Black Walnut trees. Boston University's Community Service Center contributed 36 student-hours this summer to help remove bittersweet and buckthorn (the volunteer crew is pictured above), and we will be continuing this project over the next year. For more information, please check out our website.

## The Walden Woods Project

# GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Walden Woods Project Global Environmental Leadership Award recognizes significant achievement in the areas of climate stability, biodiversity, natural resource stewardship, human understanding, and global environmental policy. It draws its inspiration from the foundational thinking of Henry David Thoreau and builds upon his ageless principles of environmental stewardship, global interconnectedness, and personal responsibility.

The recipients of this prestigious award have demonstrated a singular ability to motivate the people and institutions necessary to effectively address the global environmental challenges of the 21st century. Their achievements serve as a powerful model for all who are concerned about the future of our planet and, ultimately, the earth we convey to future generations.

The Global Environmental Leadership Award is an iconic bronze sculpture created by renowned artist, Mark Hopkins. The award represents the older generation passing the care of the world along to the young.



Mike Otis/The Rendon Group

President Bill Clinton was honored as the recipient of the first Walden Woods Project Global Environmental Leadership Award. He delivered an inspiring acceptance speech at the award dinner, held in Boston, in July of this year.

## Walden Woods Project Scholarships

Since 2008, the Walden Woods Project has awarded a \$2,500 scholarship to one student from any Concord, MA secondary school and to one student from Lincoln-Sudbury MA Regional High School (LSHS). The WWP seeks to assist young people from the Walden communities who are planning a career in a field that supports environmental stewardship and social responsibility. The 2012 recipients are *Jeremy LeBlanc of LSHS* and *Alexander Doig from Concord Carlisle High School*. Both were involved in scouting and plan to pursue environmental studies in college.

For application information, Concord students should go to [www.ccscholarshipfund.org](http://www.ccscholarshipfund.org) and LSHS students should go to [www.lssf.org](http://www.lssf.org).

## CHALLENGE AWARDS

In 2012, the Walden Woods Project also recognized four individuals or organizations that have focused on unique environmental challenges at a local, regional or national level.

The *Challenge Awards* highlight efforts on the part of the recipients to create new opportunities for involvement in addressing global environmental challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Their commitment serves as a model for others who face similar challenges and who seek an effective, constructive and sustainable outcome. As such, they represent many individuals who could be similarly recognized.

The Challenge Award winners for this year were:

- Anthony Choquette, a senior at Lawrence High School in Massachusetts;
- Mariah Rendeiro, a senior at Granbury High School in Texas;
- The Black Mesa Water Coalition in Flagstaff, Arizona;
- The Athenian School in Danville, California.

More information about our awardees can be found at [walden.org](http://walden.org). If you wish to nominate an individual or organization for a 2013 Challenge Award, we encourage you to contact us at [wwproject@walden.org](mailto:wwproject@walden.org).

