



WWP/Matt Burne

World Wide Waldens Youth Leadership Summit participants

Youth Leaders Convene in Walden Woods

In May, students from Concord and other New England communities gathered at the Walden Woods Project's headquarters for an Environmental Youth Leadership Summit as part of the *World Wide Waldens* program. The 24-hour summit, funded in part by a grant from the National Park Service, gave the students an opportunity to meet peers who are as committed to environmental action as they are and to learn about how young people elsewhere in the world are responding to environmental challenges.

Using Skype video calls to connect with students in four other countries, Summit participants learned about reforestation efforts in Haiti, a water conservation project in Kenya, a vegetable garden project for a food pantry in New Zealand and composting and recycling projects in Costa Rica. Seeing the faces of students in far-off places and hearing them talk "live" about how hard they work to help—and

sometimes save—the places in which they live left an enormous impression on the American students. In the words of one student, "It's so much easier for me to care knowing there are kids in Kenya, Haiti, New Zealand and Costa Rica who care."

During the Summit, students worked in teams to design a "Challenge" that would inspire others to identify, protect and spend time in "Waldens" in their own communities—the places that connect them to nature. The student teams brainstormed ways we can challenge more young people to live deliberately and live green. Students were told that their challenges needed to involve social networking, be internationally comprehensible, inspire action and, in true Thoreauvian style, be simple. Not surprisingly, the group of passionate young environmentalists had no shortage of ideas, which included launching a website where people can post and comment on their favorite places in nature, creating a video message challenging

(continued on page 5)

Dear Friends,

It hardly seems possible that twenty years have passed since my first visit to Walden Woods. That day, in March of 1990, I met with a group of dedicated, local preservationists and Thoreau scholars determined to protect two sites in Walden Woods that were threatened with commercial development. That initial discussion led to the formation of the Walden Woods Project, which, in turn, generated a highly successful, global campaign to preserve the land that inspired the philosophy and literature of Henry David Thoreau.

The 20th anniversary year of our organization is an appropriate occasion to reflect on the fundamental beliefs and values that inform our mission, and to present our vision for the future as we build upon our accomplishments in the fields of environmental preservation and education.

The Walden Woods Project has four primary areas of focus—conservation, education, research and advocacy. Each one stands alone as a compelling mission-driven objective, but in combination, every strategic component of our work reinforces the others.

Henry David Thoreau is one of the most significant, truly American voices. His insights and values apply to us as individuals, to the nation, and to the international community. His views on ecology and the environment along with his writings on passive resistance, social justice, lifestyle decisions and resource consumption are more pertinent today than ever before. The word “Walden” has come to represent a powerful way of thinking about these important topics.

Walden Woods is tightly woven together with Thoreau’s literature and thinking. Even those who never visit Walden sense the importance of protecting the place that gave birth to these ideas. The Walden Woods Project uses the unique setting and applicable philosophy of Thoreau to foster a new generation of young Americans who understand the environmental challenges of the 21st century and have the background to make informed choices. We accomplish this objective in four primary ways:

First, we employ the environmental and social reform philosophy of Thoreau, along with the actions and examples of those who are engaged in making positive change. We create a foundation for students from widely diverse backgrounds to discuss global environmental issues and stewardship activities. This approach has not only resulted in an international dialogue about environmental challenges, but has served to break down cultural, ethnic and socio-economic barriers.

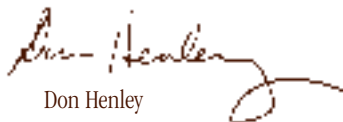
Second, we bring teachers to Walden Woods for a 6-day seminar that provides them with the skills they require to lead their students in a study of their home communities. Blending Thoreau’s writings and philosophy with the unique cultural and historic assets of Concord/Lincoln and Walden Woods assists educators in developing their own curriculum for their students. By exposing literally hundreds of students to the distinctive features of their home place, their teacher helps them to value and respect their community, and ultimately to become better stewards.

Third, we own and manage the Thoreau Institute near Walden Pond where most of our programs take place. The Thoreau Institute is the premier center for Thoreau studies, housing the world’s foremost collection of Thoreau-related research material. The public is welcome to visit the library to use this collection for research or to see the rare artifacts and manuscripts on display. We also welcome school groups for tours.

Fourth, the Walden Woods Project is the only organization solely devoted to protecting Thoreau’s Walden Woods. Our organization has acquired an ownership interest or conservation restriction for nearly 160 acres in Walden Woods—12 separate sites. Currently, the highest conservation priority of the Walden Woods Project is to secure permanent protection and restoration of a 35 acre site at the gateway to Walden Woods—the former Concord landfill.

Without your generosity, advocacy and involvement, these accomplishments would not have been possible. On behalf of our Board and staff, thank you for your friendship and support. We look forward to working with you on the many challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

I wish you and yours a happy and peaceful holiday season.


Don Henley



Mike Otis



The Walden Woods Project is deeply grateful to Gloria and Chuck Clough for their generosity and hospitality, and to all those who contributed to this successful event.

Mark enjoyed seeing the Thoreau Institute and the collections. “I can’t imagine better surroundings to do research into Thoreau. It was also great to hear of the fantastic work the Walden Woods Project is doing to protect the land. I am sure Henry would be proud of this.”

Live Deliberately Essay Contest

This year, the Walden Woods Project education department launched a *Live Deliberately* Essay Contest as part of the *World Wide Waldens* program. Teachers asked their students to respond to Thoreau's famous call to live deliberately. The best student essays were submitted online to our *Live Deliberately* Essay Contest. Students were prompted to consider what their own deliberate lives look and feel like. Essays were judged in two age categories: 13- 16 and 17-21.

The response to the essay contest was overwhelmingly positive from both teachers and students. An English teacher shared this response to the essay contest from one of her high school students:

"I have to admit, when I read the subject line I thought 'Ugh, this will be tough but I should do it anyways because it's good for me,' but everything changed when I saw the topic. Thoreau's statement about living deliberately has arguably had more effect on my life than any other quote I've ever heard. For some reason ever since I first read it, it stuck with me and I began to see its relevance in all aspects of my life. I've come to see 'deliberation' as a distinct virtue everyone should strive to possess. Anyways, what it all comes down to is that this essay contest is not a beneficial burden but a gift, a positive delight! It's just what I want and need at this stage in my intellectual and philosophical development."

We are pleased to announce this year's contest winners:

Elizabeth Hull, Age: 16, Washington Academy, East Machias, ME, Teacher: Donald R. Sprangers

Cameron Shorb, Age: 16, Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School, Lincoln, MA. Teacher: Susan Frommer

Rhea E. Fowler, Age: 21, The Boston Conservatory, Boston, MA., Teacher: Kate White

To view the winning essays, visit www.worldwidewaldens.org.

Choosing winners for this contest was challenging. We received hundreds of essay submissions and each of them expressed ideas and passion that we don't always hear from young people. Below is a sampling.

"In modern times, we are constantly bombarded with messages promoting materialism, greed, and empty beauty; living deliberately demands sifting through floods of images in order to identify and pursue gratifying intellectual and spiritual activities."

—Rhea F., Age: 21

"Gardening is my most deliberate act in life because nothing seems more deliberate than planting a garden, and see not only the plants, but my future growing as well."

—Elizabeth H., Age: 16

"So many people are discontent or unsatisfied with their lives not because they made bad choices but because they didn't make any choices at all, and acted solely according to custom and convenience."

—Cameron S., Age: 16

"Living deliberately to me was to live in the present, connect on a close level with my surroundings, and to use my own intuition as a guide."

—Angela D., Age: 16

"I realize that this world is a revolving timer and it is up to us to use up every second of that time to create a life that will make ourselves happy."

—McKenna W., Age: 16

"The journey to total self awareness is a long journey indeed, but it is a journey that must be taken to fully live deliberately. It is not enough to march to the beat of a different drummer; I believe we are called to be the drummers of the beat to which we march."

—Tim W., Age: 17

"Yet I realize I cannot live my life always looking forward, focused on each new step in my life. I have to force myself to race ahead, into the unknown edges of my path to see what life exists outside my own."

—Nicolette G., Age: 17

"Two hours I walked, minutes I sat by the small pond, but not a second I found the temptation to shut my eye, drown the sounds and dull the smell! Every wisp of breeze was alive, every disappearance and emergence of the path had a story."

—Aishwarya J., Age: 18

"Living deliberately is taking a step back from the materialistic and common world in which we reside and following your passion. It is following your beliefs and doing that which fulfills your understanding of your role in the world."

—Emily G., Age: 17

"Life may be impossible; indeed everyone who has ever attempted it has died trying. That is why you must take it in the moment."

—Lekey L., Age: 15

"There are only a few things that we can say about life with real certainty. If we look at our lives we will see that we live them according to assumptions, beliefs and what we have adopted from our ancestors."

—Tavoy J., Age: 17

The 2nd Annual Essay Contest

Submission deadline:
March 15, 2011

This year's topic:
Live Simply

Visit www.worldwidewaldens.org
to view contest guidelines and
to submit essays online.



Educators on a Seasonal Retreat on Mt. Monadnock in October 2010

Seasonal Retreats for Educators

The Walden Woods Project Education Department has initiated a new program of seasonal retreats for educators. Walden Seasonal Retreats offers educators day-long opportunities to reflect on their lives and teaching through an exploration of the natural world in Walden Woods and beyond. These gatherings use encounters with the natural world as a focus for reflection on the connection between who we are and what we do. In 2010 we offered three seasonal retreats:

WINTER ANIMAL TRACKING IN WALDEN WOODS: On one of the coldest days of the winter, with a fresh blanket of snow on the ground, Lydia Rogers, a Concord-based wildlife tracker, led a tracking workshop in Walden Woods. Before the group headed outside, Lydia introduced them to basic tracking skills while we sat by a roaring fire in the Great Hall of the Thoreau Institute. Bundled up in many layers and prepared with hand and foot warmers, the group spotted signs of fisher, coyote, fox and rabbit as we wandered the trails in Walden Woods. This retreat was co-sponsored by Courage and Renewal North East.

ANDROMEDA PONDS: SIGNS OF SPRING: Guided by naturalist Cherrie Corey, we visited the quaking bogs of the Andromeda Ponds in Walden Woods. Lisa Sankowski from Courage and Renewal NE and Susan Frey facilitated the workshop.

MT MONADNOCK HIKE: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THOREAU:

On October 2nd the Walden Woods Project co-sponsored an autumn hike with the New Hampshire Science Teachers Association to Thoreau's and Emerson's Seats on Mt. Monadnock in New Hampshire. The group comprised teachers and college professors who had attended Approaching Walden and science teachers from New Hampshire. In advance of the hike, participants had received a reading packet of Thoreau's journal writings about his experiences at Monadnock. Trail guide Tom Sintros, a science teacher from Keane High School, interpreted the natural history along the trail.

To learn more about seasonal retreats, go to www.walden.org/education and select seasonal retreats.

Youth Leaders Convene in Walden Woods

(continued from page 1)

people to care about their Waldens, and mounting a Facebook campaign encouraging people to post small steps they take to help the environment.

While at the Summit, students visited Walden Pond, where our staff gave presentations on the life of Henry David Thoreau and the natural history of Walden Woods. In the evening, singer-songwriter Erica Wheeler led a powerful reflective writing workshop focused on developing a sense of place.

The Youth Leadership Summit is part of the *World Wide Waldens (WWW)* environmental ethics and action program. The goal of WWW and the annual summit is to provide an opportunity for students from the US and around the world to exchange ideas about environmental challenges and solutions and share their environmental action stories.

Summit participants are selected from a pool of students nominated by their high school teachers because of their environmental leadership at school or in their communities. To learn more about the May 2011 Youth Leadership Summit and find the student nomination form, visit www.worldwidewaldens.org or find us on Facebook. We are also looking for international student environmental groups interested in participating in the 2011 Summit via Skype. Please contact Susan Frey at susan.frey@walden.org if you know of groups that might be interested.

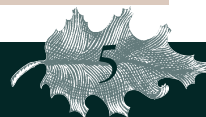


WWP/Matt Burne

Students at work on their Summit Challenge

Education Events Calendar

- Walden Youth Summit International Site Nominations
Deadline: February 1, 2011
- Essay Contest Deadline: March 15, 2011
- Walden Youth Summit Nominations
Deadline: March 15, 2011
- Walden Youth Summit: May 18-19, 2011
- Approaching Walden Summer Seminar: July 10 - 15
- Seasonal Retreats for Educators: visit www.walden.org for information and registration



In Memoriam: Edmund A. Schofield (1938—2010)



Preserving Ed's Legacy

Many of us at the Walden Woods Project, knew Ed Schofield for 20+ years. He visited us often and it was always a great joy to hear about his latest discovery, his newest theory, or his next project. Ed had an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, whether about his friends, the Transcendentalists, or other subjects far afield. His death came as a shock, not only in the context of the dear friend which so many of us lost, but for the work he was never able to complete. Even if he had "several lives to live," to quote Thoreau, it is unlikely he could have finished all he envisioned.

Many years ago, Ed asked the Thoreau Institute to be the repository for his life's work. We were honored by his request because much of Ed's work had been tied so closely to the work of the Walden Woods Project. Back in the 1980s Ed was working with a few other dedicated individuals to form the Thoreau Country Conservation Alliance, a grassroots organization seeking to prevent inappropriate commercial development in historic Walden Woods. It was the nationwide publicity of that group's efforts that led to the involvement of Don Henley and the establishment of the Walden Woods Project.

When the Walden Woods Project's book, *Heaven is Under Our Feet* (available at www.walden.org), was published to raise awareness, Ed's essay "Walden, Symbol of Hope" was positioned first, following President Jimmy Carter's foreword and Don Henley's preface. A brief excerpt shows why: "Saving this world's Waldens at this aggressively materialistic hour—the actual Pond and the actual Woods and all of the Waldens beyond—will not be easy. But save them we must if we are to save Walden the sign and symbol of hope. . . . Saving all of this world's Waldens will mean confronting and changing ourselves. Each Walden saved clears the way to our own salvation, and, through ours, to that of the world."

Ed was a botanist, ecologist, educator, editor, writer, and conservationist; former director and president of the Thoreau Society; a founding director and president of the Thoreau Country Conservation Alliance; and president of Walden Forever Wild. His lifetime of research and scholarship created an extensive collection that is second only to the Walter Harding Collection in number of items, here at the Thoreau Institute. The Edmund A. Schofield Collection consists of research materials, institutional records, memorabilia and ephemera, artifacts, clippings, audio and video tapes, CDs, maps, photographs (including aerial photographs), scientific reports and papers, and correspondence. We're very grateful to Vidar Jorgensen, co-founder of the Thoreau Country Conservation Alliance, for his generous support in funding the organizing and cataloging of this collection. A finding aid to the collection will be available early in 2011.

Our Youngest Researcher

In April, a visitor came to our library to do some biographical research on Thoreau. What was unique about this particular visitor is that she was eight years old — a good deal younger than our usual scholar. At the time, Emily was a third-grade student at the St. James St. John School in New Bedford. She came to the Thoreau Institute to find information for a biography she had to write. Her subject, drawn from a list in a hat, was Thoreau. In starting her research on the Internet she discovered the Thoreau Institute and asked her Mom to make an appointment and drive her here. To her surprise, she found "a lot of kids' books that we didn't find at the public library, which made him easier to understand." One of her discoveries was that Thoreau had "a friend from New Bedford which is close to where I live." Finding the woods around the Institute "so pretty," she said, "I think I know why Henry David Thoreau liked to live in the woods there." Visiting the Institute was "fun" but perhaps for Emily the best part of all may have been the A she got on her project.

Rev. Milton E. Dettterline Collection

After the Reverend Milton E. Dettterline, pastor of St. Peter United Church of Christ in Knauertown, PA, passed away in April, we received a call from one of his sons. Their father—"Rev. Milt" as he was often called—had a lifelong interest in Thoreau. Over the years he had accumulated an impressive collection of books by and about Thoreau, as well as other pieces of interest, such as the record album, *Euell Gibbons is Henry David Thoreau*, for which he wrote the script, and a copy of *Walden* inscribed by William Lloyd Garrison.

His family was wondering what to do with Rev. Milt's Thoreau-related books and papers. They kindly agreed to honor Rev. Milt's decades of book collecting as he travelled over the world by establishing a permanent collection here at the Thoreau Institute to preserve his legacy.

The Walden Woods Project is grateful to Rev. Milt's sons, James, Jon and Peter, for their generosity in donating their father's Thoreau collection to our library, and making the Rev. Milton E. Dettterline Collection available in perpetuity for the use of future scholars and enthusiasts.

Near the end of his life, Milton Dettterline had his tombstone prepared, on which are engraved words paraphrased from Thoreau: Surely joy can be the condition of life.



Rev. Milt with his headstone, which bears a Thoreau quotation.

Courtesy of the Dettterline Family

Noteworthy...

RIVERFEST

The Walden Woods Project partnered with the Vernal Pool Association (VPA) to present a natural history walk this past June as part of the tenth-annual SuAsCo Riverfest celebration. Riverfest is a celebration coordinated by the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Wild and Scenic River Stewardship Council (www.sudbury-assabet-concord.org). More than 30 people walked to a vernal pool in the King Philip Woods Conservation Area in Sudbury where our Conservation Director, Matt Burne, and Leo Kenney of the VPA found a variety of amphibian and invertebrate larvae in the pool, and discussed issues that affect the conservation of these important habitats.

SCHOLARSHIP

The Walden Woods Project awarded its third round of annual scholarships this year to Thornton Ritz of Concord-Carlisle High School (CCHS) and to Michael Sylvia of Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School (LSRHS). Each received \$2,500 toward their college tuition. Thornton is now a student at the University of Vermont. He plans to pursue a career in Environmental Sciences (fisheries conservation, in particular). He looks forward to "improving and conserving our natural world." Michael is continuing his education at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy. His

interests include environmental protection and safety. The WWP Scholarship is awarded to high school students who attend schools in the Walden Woods communities of Concord and Lincoln, Massachusetts. Applications for the 2011 Walden Woods Project Scholarships are available on-line. CCHS students: www.ccscholarshipfund.org. Graduating LSRHS seniors: www.lssf.org

DECORDOVA

The Walden Woods Project joined neighboring nonprofit organizations at the DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum in Lincoln,

J.L. Wright



Richard Smith portraying H.D. Thoreau

Massachusetts for its first annual Family SculptureFest on Sunday, September 19th. Thousands of people participated in this day celebrating art, both inside and outside the museum, which included face-painting, sand-castle building and scavenger hunts. Our contribution to the cultural activities was "Henry David Thoreau," as portrayed by Richard Smith, who engaged with attendees of all ages as they enjoyed the beautiful weather. The WWP also hosted an information table and talked about the organization with new friends.

CONCORD FESTIVAL OF AUTHORS

For our eighth year as a participant in the Concord Festival of Authors, the Walden Woods Project was proud to present William Powers, best-selling author of *Hamlet's Blackberry: A Practical Philosophy for Building a Good Life in the Digital Age*. In his book, Powers advocates for creating a "Walden

zone," a refuge from the world of technology, within your home. Looking back at *Walden*, Powers saw that the problems Thoreau describes about society and how we spend our lives haven't changed, nor has the goal of living a good life changed. He says that the point "is not to withdraw from the world but within the world," reminding us that it was Thoreau's proximity to society that "made his project relevant to others."

SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT WORLD WIDE WALDENS

In June, 2010, the Environmental Protection Agency awarded an environmental education grant to the Walden Woods Project to create an Environmental Ethics and Action workshop featuring the World Wide Waldens program. In the spring of 2011, high school teachers from throughout New England will be invited to attend one of the workshops in their region. The workshops will be co-sponsored by the following organizations and held at: Mass Envirothon in MA; Shelburne Farms in VT; Antioch New England in NH; Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History in CT; and Thompson Island in MA. Webinars will also be offered in collaboration with the Lap Top Initiative in Maine. For the workshop schedule, visit www.worldwidewaldens.org. If you have questions regarding the workshops, contact Susan Frey at susan.frey@walden.org.

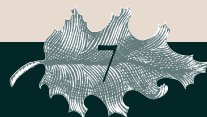
FUNDRAISER AT GILLETTE STADIUM

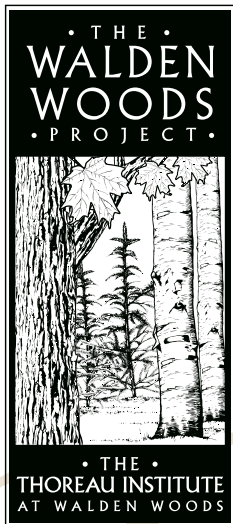
On Saturday, June 12th, the Eagles, along with the Dixie Chicks and Keith Urban, performed at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Massachusetts. The Walden Woods Project, in celebration of its 20th anniversary year, hosted a reception for a group of our friends and donors before and after the show. Don Henley and WWP Board Member Ed Begley, Jr. greeted our guests at CBS Scene, one of the popular restaurants at Patriot Place next to the stadium. The pouring rain that evening didn't dampen the spirits of concertgoers. We were especially grateful to those supporters from Ohio who made the trip east to celebrate this special milestone. The WWP also wishes to express its appreciation to the Robert Kraft family for its generosity and in-kind contributions to this event.

Photo by Hilton



Michael Sylvia of Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School receiving his scholarship award





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 life-long 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.

Advocacy: The Walden Woods Project advocates for the preservation of historic Walden Woods and Thoreau Country in Concord and Lincoln, Massachusetts, and for the broader, global environment.

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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