

THE

Oak Leaf

A PUBLICATION OF THE WHITE OAK LAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY

FALL 2010

Now Open: Porcupine Hill

In 2008, White Oak completed a successful fundraising drive to purchase and protect 50 forested acres along Route 31. This property, now called Porcupine Hill, enjoyed its official grand opening on October 3, 2010, held on White Oak's parcel and on the adjacent land owned by the EcoTarium, all formerly part of the Holden Nature Training School.

A sunny fall day greeted the scores of White Oak supporters and neighbors who attended the event. White Oak President Scott Morrison gave welcome remarks, while board member and event organizer Nancy Wilson expressed gratitude to the Peabody and Wilson families for their generous contributions, which were acknowledged by naming portions of the trail at Porcupine Hill "Peabody Path" and "Wilson Way." Nancy also thanked George Dresser, Dick Callahan, and the foundations and state agencies which offered grants toward the purchase of this property. Lastly, Nancy pointed out a bench on display, with a plaque



Attendees examine news stories and old photos about the Nature Training School and White Oak's fundraising campaign, before enjoying special "Porcupine Hill Trail Mix" made by volunteer Jane Peck, far right.

describing White Oak's appreciation for former board member Anthony Costello, whose hard work made possible the acquisition of, trail network on, and parking lot for Porcupine Hill. This bench will be placed along the 1.5 mile trail Anthony built on the property.

Local resident Brad Blodget, who gave a speech as part of the opening ceremony, credits his lifelong love of the outdoors to his time spent at the Nature Training School. "I think this is the largest reunion we've ever had," he said of the dozen or so campers and counselors who were present. He described for the audience the camp's daily schedule, including the famous flying bus ride, red three-ring binders, and regular ringing of the camp bell.

White Oak hopes to continue the Nature Training School's legacy of promoting respect and appreciation for the environment. The trail at Porcupine Hill is open to walkers and non-motorized vehicles. Dogs are also welcome!

We are grateful to the EcoTarium for their support of this event. 🍂



Brad Blodget entertains the audience with tales about the Nature Training School.



Anthony Costello relaxes on the new bench.

Photos by Paul McManus

“Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.”

—Albert Camus

Summary of Proposed Changes to Bylaws of White Oak Land Conservation Society

These changes were approved by the Board of Directors on September 9, 2010 and, in order to take effect, require a vote of approval by a majority of our members in attendance at White Oak's Annual Meeting on Wednesday, November 17, 2010. For the full text of all changes, please visit www.whiteoaktrust.org.

Membership: Removed requirement that the Board of Directors approve application for membership in White Oak Land Conservation Society (WOLCS). Revised text states that all interested persons may become members of WOLCS upon payment of dues.

Annual Meeting of Members: Removed requirement that the Annual Meeting of the Members be held at 2:30 PM on the fourth Saturday in September each year. Revised text states that the Annual Meeting of the Members will be held in November of each year.

Meetings of Board of Directors: Removed requirement for Board of Directors to hold a meeting immediately after, and at the same place, as the Annual Meeting of Members.

Resignation of Directors: Previous bylaws did not provide a process for a Director to resign. New text added to state that a director may resign by delivering a written resignation notice to the President, Treasurer, or Clerk.

Officers: Previous bylaws stated that any 2 or more offices may be held by the same person except for the offices of President and Clerk. Revised text states that no person shall hold more than one office.

Terms of Service: Changed terms for Directors from 1 year to 2 years.

Committees: Removed requirement that one member of each committee shall be appointed chairman by the person or persons authorized to appoint the members thereof.

Inspection of Records: Previous bylaws stated that all books and records of the corporation could be inspected by any member, or the member's agent or attorney, for any proper purpose at any reasonable time. Revised text states that the Board of Directors will take requests from members to examine books and records, and that the Board will accommodate requests by Members to review books and records by making materials available for review at a reasonable time and place of the Boards' selection.

Corporate Seal: Deleted requirement for the Board of Directors to provide a Corporate Seal. (Saying "Signed and sealed this 13th day of September" is equivalent to putting an actual seal on the document. So we do not need a Corporate Seal for White Oak.)

In addition to the changes described above, editorial revisions were made to improve the clarity and flow of information in the bylaws. 🌿

White Oak Seeks New Board Members

Would you like to help manage the open space in your community? Do you want to learn more about conservation issues? Do you have special skills you want to develop or that might benefit a small but actively growing local land trust? White Oak Land Conservation Society is seeking new volunteer board members who are willing to commit to attending lively two-hour monthly meetings, as well as occasional special events, work parties, and exciting educational programs. Email us at info@whiteoaktrust.org for more information, or come to a meeting and try us out. We welcome board members from diverse backgrounds and experience levels. 🌿



Board member Nancy Wilson and board president Scott Morrison at the Porcupine Hill grand opening.



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Board of Directors

Scott Morrison, President

Erich Mierzejewski, Vice President

Nancy Rocheleau, Secretary/Clerk

David Sabourin, Treasurer

Jo-Anne Crystoff

Karen Eisenhauer

Jennifer Leith

Paul McManus

Ralph Peck

Nancy Wilson

White Oak is a member of the Land Trust Alliance and the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition.

The Blob. No, really!

Have you ever been on a river or lake and noticed a blob that looks like it might be ready to consume your arm? Well, this is no alien invasion from a landing meteor; rather, it is *Pectinatella magnifica*, a tiny native animal species that has been on earth for millions of years. *Pectinatella magnifica* is a bryozoan or “moss animal,” and forms large colonies, somewhat like coral or living sponges. Bryozoans are harmless to humans and belong in this environment; though some might say they look creepy!

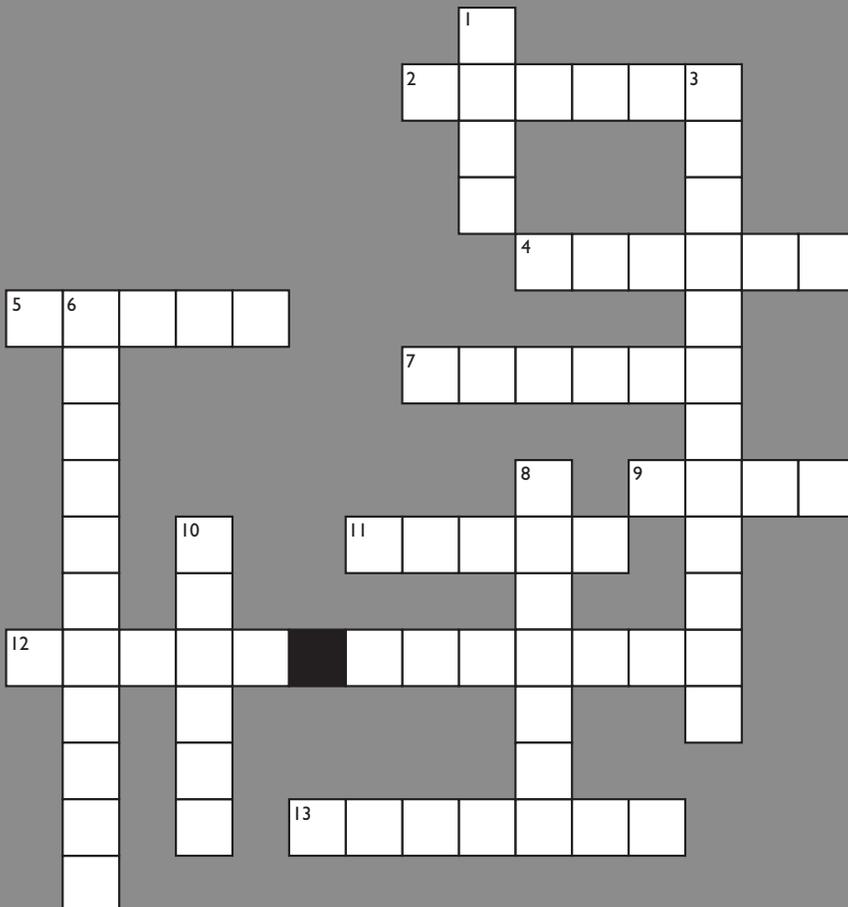
For more information about this unique species, visit <http://www.bio.umass.edu/biology/conn.river/bryozoa.html>. 🌿



Photo by Paul Jomegat

Kids Korner

Get Outdoors, and Enjoy Autumn in Holden.



ACROSS

- 2 Wear it when it gets cold.
- 4 The sound of leaves beneath your feet.
- 5 You see your breath on a cold day.
- 7 Fun to pick from a tree.
- 9 Moves the branches on the trees.
- 11 What the leaves change.
- 12 A carved pumpkin.
- 13 Fall is _____ season for farms.

DOWN

- 1 Current season.
- 3 Family holiday in November.
- 6 Weather gets hotter or colder.
- 8 What you wear for Halloween.
- 10 Yard work in fall.

White Oak Annual Meeting

All are welcome to this free event!



**Wednesday, November 17
7 p.m.**

**Memorial Hall
Town Hall
1196 Main Street, Holden**



Richard Johnson, a skilled nature photographer for Mass Audubon, will present his self-taught photography strategies. He will also share some of his stunning images of Worcester county birds and animals. On display will be the winning entries from White Oak's first photo contest. Light refreshments will be served.

All photos courtesy Richard Johnson

Printed on recycled paper with soy ink



LAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY

WHITE OAK



HOLDEN, MA 01520

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