

Marblehead Conservancy

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2013 Upcoming Events

Annual Meeting: Wednesday, April 10, at 6:30 p.m. The Marblehead Conservancy will hold its eleventh Annual Meeting in the Abbot Library Meeting Room. All members, friends, and interested community members are invited. Light refreshments will be served, followed by a brief business meeting and a presentation by our guest speaker.

The evening's talk is titled, "**Munching on Marblehead's Wild Flora, Native and Otherwise.**"

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President's Message

A most sincere *Thank You* to the residents of Marblehead, especially those who dug a little deeper, and to all others who contributed to the project to secure the former Chadwick Lead Mills property as open space - a priority issue in Marblehead's Open Space and Recreation Plan. Coincidentally, another project near to the Lead Mills property is nearing completion. The article on page 6 tells of the recovery of an open glade that, like Lead Mills, borders on Salem Harbor.

Our Education Committee has been quietly adding literature to Marblehead's Abbot Public Library all year for the interests and enjoyment of all. Take a look at the titles on page 7.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the support of our members. The Membership Report reveals another record-setting year for membership. The Treasurer's Report reveals stability even after making a significant contribution to saving Lead Mills.

Again, with thanks to all,

- Bob French, President

Mission Statement

To protect, acquire, and enhance Marblehead's natural resources for the benefit and enjoyment of the community and the generations to follow.

Upcoming Events - continued from page 1

The Town of Marblehead is home to over seventy species of edible wild plants, many of which are more nutritious and/or flavorful than their cultivated counterparts. Join Russ Cohen, expert forager and author of *Wild Plants I Have Known...and Eaten* to learn about two dozen of the tastiest species that can be found in the Town, plus several suggestions for yummy native species that could supplement the edible species already here. Russ' talk will also cover several toothsome weed and invasive species already well-ensconced in Town, which offer guilt-free foraging opportunities (you can't pick too many of them). For each species covered in the talk, Russ will present information on identification tips, edible portion(s), season(s) of availability and preparation methods, along with general guidelines for safe and environmentally responsible foraging. Russ will also bring along a foraged goodie or two for everyone to taste.

Please join us at this Annual Meeting.

Earth Day/Arbor Day: Saturday, April 27, 9:00 a.m. Early planning calls for planting native shrubs in the Hawthorn Pond conservation area. Plants, planting tools, and instruction will be provided by the Conservancy's Trails Committee.

Perambulation: Saturday, May 18, 9:00 a.m. This ever popular walking tour was last held in 2011. Join with friends exploring Marblehead's hidden public rights of way downtown and on the Neck.

Farmers Market opens: Saturday, June 15. Be sure to drop by the Environmental Booth to see what is new and chat with those who can pass along information about Conservancy happenings.

Reminders for these events will be published in the *Marblehead Reporter* and posted on *MHTV* as the dates draw closer.

Preserving Lead Mills

Two years of planning, partnership, and implementation that have gone into an effort to carry out a most important goal of Marblehead's *Open Space and Recreation Plan* - securing the former Chadwick Lead Mills property for conservation purposes - are about to be realized. The partnership of the Marblehead Conservancy and the Essex County Greenbelt Association (ECGA), has raised sufficient funds to complete the purchase of the property.

Six months of work in 2011 and 2012 to update Marblehead's *Open Space and Recreation Plan* revealed broad public support for acquiring open spaces. That support was affirmed at a May 2012 Town Meeting. Then at a special election in June over 65% of those voting approved \$1.5 million in funding to purchase Marblehead's portion of Lead Mills. This provided the momentum to press ahead.

From April 2012 until the final days of January 2013, the Conservancy and ECGA worked closely to ensure every resident knew the important community benefits that would come with the property's conservation. In July the Salem City Council confirmed Salem's support for the project. For the rest of the year and into 2013, the Conservancy and ECGA campaigned to raise the additional \$100,000 needed from private sources to complete the purchase. Donations have come in all sizes from both communities and beyond. In December, supported by the updated *Open Space and Recreation Plan*, Marblehead received \$400,000 in state funding from the Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Program in the form of a post-acquisition reimbursement to lower Marblehead's acquisition costs. Now, with all necessary funding in hand, the project moves to an expected completion by April this year. *Success!*

Treasurer's Report

Total operating revenues for 2012 were \$35,352 including almost \$12,500 in transfers from restricted capital accounts. Total membership dues increased for a second year. We're very thankful for our strong membership. Expenses of \$34,828 resulted in an operating surplus of \$524, versus a budget that had projected a loss of \$2,850. The surplus is all the more surprising in view of the special request for donations to support the purchase of the Lead Mills property. There were two transfers into the operating budget - \$3,500 from Trails Endowment for trail work and \$8,960 from the Harbor Glade Grant.

Marblehead Conservancy, Inc. Summary Financial Report Statement of Operations January 1 – December 31, 2012

Operating Income

Membership Dues	\$17,455
Contributions	2,827
Sales (books, shirts, etc)	2,541
Transfer - Trails Endowment	3,500
Transfer – Coolidge Grant	8,960
Interest, Dividends, Other	<u>69</u>
Total Operating Revenue	\$35,352

Operating Expenses

Trails Projects	\$13,361
Land Preservation	11,064
Education Projects	1,438
Office & Administration	3,744
Insurance	3,120
Legal	220
Miscellaneous	<u>1,881</u>
Total Operating Expense	\$34,828

Operating Surplus (Deficit) \$ 524

Statement of Condition December 31, 2012

Operating (unrestricted) Assets

Operating Funds	\$ 41,753
Liabilities	<u>-0-</u>
Net Operating assets	\$ 40,415

Restricted Assets:

Trails Endowment	\$ 130,444
Lead Mills Fund	55,220
Harbor Glade Grant	<u>6,938</u>
Total Restricted Assets	<u>\$ 192,602</u>

Total Net Assets \$ 234,355

The market performance of the Marblehead Trails Forever Endowment Fund amounted to a surprising 16% growth - largely reflecting the good year for the stock market. The Fund ended the year at \$130,444. This Fund, established as assurance of support for continuing trails maintenance, is about 93% invested in primarily broad equity index funds and 7% in bond and money market funds. All our other funds (\$103,911) are held in bank deposits.

As noted previously, the Conservancy is a co-leader in the \$100,000 Campaign to Preserve Lead Mills. By year-end the Conservancy had raised \$55,220 towards the Campaign. The Campaign ends in the first quarter of 2013.

Our budget for 2013 forecasts an operating deficit of about \$1,600. Once again, past surpluses have helped us to absorb a projected operating deficiency. As a result, the Conservancy continues to be in sound financial condition for continuing operations and for facing the unexpected.

- Don Morgan, Treasurer

Membership Report

Membership of the Conservancy continues to grow!

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Members	284	280	269
Membership dues	\$17,455	\$16,950	\$15,503

Membership dues are the major source of our operating revenue and thus of critical importance to our long-term success, and we hope they will continue to grow. We thank our members very much for their support and generosity.

Memberships are on a calendar basis and dues are now due. While we know many choose to do their charitable giving at different times during the year, prompt remittance is appreciated. Please use the form and return envelope enclosed with this newsletter to renew or initiate your membership.

- Dick Marcy, Membership

Do we have your correct email address?

Our electronic newsletters go out about three times a year to those who have provided us with an email address. These publications are in addition to the paper newsletters mailed in February and September and are specifically intended to deliver news more timely to the seasons. Both types of newsletter eventually are added to our web site for all to read, www.marbleheadconservancy.org.

Email addresses change from time to time and we need your help to catch up with the changes. If you wish to receive our electronic newsletters, please note your current email address for Conservancy communication on your membership form. We promise to use your email address only for Conservancy purposes and will not share it with others.

Trails Committee Report



Moving the rocks during Max Levine's Eagle Scout project at Hawthorn Pond.

The Trails Committee continued to sponsor Trail Crews twice a week, all year long. We worked at all seven of the Town's conservation areas as well as Seaside Park (Rec & Park) and the RR bed Wye (Water & Sewer Dept).

Major accomplishments this year were: 1) continuation of a program with Tower School cutting invasives and planting native shrubs; 2) renovation of Harbor Glade by rebuilding a stone wall, removing invasives and weeds, and planting shrubs and trees; 3) our 10th Earth Day – Arbor Day celebration, this one at Wyman Woods next to the Lead Mills where 125 seedlings were planted with much help from the Girl Scouts; 4) support for two Eagle Scout Projects: Ian McIver built a 110 ft. boardwalk extension at Robinson Farm and Max Levine built an 82 ft. boardwalk and a 70 ft. drainage trench at Hawthorn Pond; and 5) we joined with the teachers and students of the Cohen Hillel 5th grade for a nature experience at Ware Pond.

We are especially thankful for Rob Carr of Superior Landscape for a terrific vista pruning job at Seaside

Trails Report continued on page 5, column 1

Trails Report continued . . .

Park on the slope down to the harbor and to Nick Freemen for supporting several jobs with trucking and wood chipping equipment.

The Trails Committee members deserve special thanks since every member has contributed leadership to a few projects enabling us to get a lot done.

- Don Morgan, Trails Committee Chairperson

Trails Committee: Mo Ashley, Bob French, Jody Howard, Fred Madio, Dick Marcy-Vice Chair, Joan McDuff, Don Morgan-Chair, Sandi Peaslee, Doug Perkins-Forest Ranger, Rich Thibedeau

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee will present motions to be voted on by members attending the Annual Meeting regarding:

The Committee's nominees for Trustees: incumbents Robert French, Jody Howard, Fred Madio, Richard Marcy, Donald Morgan, and Sandi Peaslee.

Officer Nominees: Robert French as President, Donald Morgan as Treasurer, and Richard Marcy as Secretary.

The maximum number of positions on the Conservancy Board of Trustees for the next year is proposed to be held at eight, which will allow the addition of up to two Trustees during the year as circumstances may warrant.

The Nominating Committee asks for those with a serious interest in the Conservancy's mission to make their interest known. There is a great opportunity here to help set direction.

- The Nominating Committee

2013 Earth/Arbor Day

Several improvements have been made along the trails at the Hawthorn Pond conservation area over the past few months. As noted in the report of the Trails Committee, a new boardwalk and rework of a water runoff channel, both carried out by a Boy Scout group relieves a trail flooding problem. Removal of a fallen tree on another trail reopened a heavily used path. A few young native trees have been planted and appear to be thriving. It is time to take a next step in replacing alien invasive plants with native ones.

On April 27 from 9 a.m. until noon, the public is invited to join with the Trails Committee in planting native shrubs. The location can be accessed from Hawthorn Road or from the old railroad right of way. The Conservancy will supply all necessary instruction, tooling, and the shrubs.

Please join us and bring the children. They always enjoy the experience.

- Maureen Ashley and Joan McDuff, Project Leaders

Landfill Remediation Work in 2013

Remediation of Marblehead's landfill site is set to begin in September. At present, the planning process for this major engineering effort, led by Marblehead's Director of Public Health, Andrew Petty, is proceeding through a series of meetings required by the permitting process. Several of these meetings have been open to the public and have drawn both questions and comments. The consistency in the engineering responses to public inquiry gives confidence that the Health Department will be ready to seek interest from potential

Landfill continued on page 6, column 1

Landfill Remediation continued. .

contractors around the beginning of April, get quotes in the beginning of August, and award a contract for the start of work in September.

One of the difficulties in moving the process forward has come from the need to recover earth containing hazardous waste from a former dumping site now part of the Steer Swamp Conservation Area and move it to a site to be capped. Although the work in Steer Swamp is only part of the overall project, working through regulations with seemingly conflicting interests is no small task. Perseverance wins, however, and project work will begin this year.



Remediation of contaminated landfill from a portion of Steer Swamp will take place in this currently wooded area just beyond a remediated area cleaned in 2012 the end of Stonybrook Road.

Removal of contaminated earth from a part of Steer Swamp adjacent to the landfill will temporarily close two existing trails in the conservation land, one that starts at Blueberry Road and one that has its beginning behind the Peach Highlands condominium complex. While earth removal is underway, these trails will be closed. Once the area is remediated and restored, the trails will be reconnected, though not necessarily in their present locations. As work goes on, the Conservancy will be reporting status and plans for trail restoration.

Harbor Glade Work Continues

Harbor Glade is a descriptive name for an open space in the Wyman Woods conservation area between the old railroad right of way and the shore of Salem Harbor. A century ago, this same spot was part of a much larger area called “The Pines” on local maps. Times change, and pine trees are hard to find anywhere nearby. Over the past few decades, the area had worn down. Alien plant growth was crowding in. A stone wall had largely crumbled, and water and foot traffic along the path from the right of way to the shore had begun eroding a groove at the water’s edge.



Rebuilding a stone wall, removing alien shrubs and planting new native growth highlighted this year's work at Harbor Glade at Salem harbor.

Our September newsletter announced a project to begin restoration of what had been a beautiful glade. By late 2012 the alien growth had been removed, the stone wall rebuilt, and the first new plantings set. The grassy area has been cleared of poison ivy and planted with winter rye to hold the soil in place. This coming spring, the area will be tilled once again to bury the rye as fertilizer for a new planting of native grasses. More native shrubs will be added.

Harbor Glade continued on page 7, column 1

Harbor Glade continued. .

Water bars will be constructed to slow water drainage in the existing path, and a new path will be added to create a loop trail. A large but dead English oak was taken down, giving up two thick slices of its trunk for those who wish to enjoy the site while sitting on something other than the ground.

Stopping shoreline erosion is a task that will take some planning and permitting, but we hope to see completion of this restoration work in 2013.

Education Committee Report

In addition to engaging speakers to talk on various subjects related to the Conservancy's mission, the Education Committee also supports the acquisition of books, magazines and other media for the same purpose. During 2012, a fund was provided to the Abbot Public Library to make the purchases and add them to the Library's holdings so that anyone could access them.

Titles of books acquired in 2012 are: - *Sibley Backyard Birding Flashcards* - *New England Hiking (Moon Outdoors)* - *The Wilderness World of John Muir* - *AMC's Best Day Hikes in the White Mountains* - *The Man Who Planted Trees* - *The Complete Book of North American Butterflies* - *Appalachian Trail Guide to Massachusetts and Connecticut* - *Keeping a Nature Journal* - *A Sanctuary of Trees* - *A Passion for Nature: the Life of John Muir* - *A Field Guide to the Dragonflies and Damselflies of Massachusetts* - *The Vascular Plants of Massachusetts* - *An Introduction to the Threatened Turtles of Massachusetts*.

We will have more to say about adding periodicals and other resident benefits to the Library in another newsletter later this year.

- *The Education Committee*

2013 Perambulation



Perambulating Marblehead's public rights of way on the Neck with Denny Curtin in 2011

The popular biannual perambulation of the Town's lesser-known public ways will take place on May 18 at 9 a.m. We will gather at the upper field of Abbot Hall to sign in. Attendees will be asked to choose a venue of interest as two walks will go on simultaneously. One tour will strike out and cover the old town residential area with Betty Hunt, longtime lecturer on a variety of Marblehead history subjects and stories, as guide. A second group will head for Marblehead Neck. Photographer and author Dennis Curtin will again lead the walk around the Neck, combining his stories of the many areas and houses passed along with facts concerning the several public paths to the ocean.

These perambulations have received many wonderful comments regarding what people learn along the way. We do, however, offer the guidance that anyone attending should be wearing good shoes for walking.

- *Fred Madio, Event Organizer*

Land Tax Credit Workshop

Where Are the Maps?



The ECGA workshop was held in Gould's Barn, the home of the Topsfield Historical Society

In December, as part of our job to stay informed on subjects related to the Conservancy mission, Conservancy Trustees attended a workshop on the Massachusetts Land Tax Credit, hosted by the Essex County Greenbelt Association.

David Santomenna, Director of Land Conservation for ECGA, first gave an overview outline of the program and its options. This was followed by a case-study presentation by a recent donor of a 1½ acre parcel of land in Danvers.

The purpose of the Massachusetts program is to provide refundable tax credits for qualified donations of properties of interest, those with “sufficient natural resources.” It is necessary to establish natural resource sufficiency to qualify for the credit. Inclusion of the property in a local Open Space Plan helps.

The process of applying for a tax credit is lengthy and involved, but, for those interested, the Conservancy would be glad to help anyone get in touch with those who have experience in moving through the process.



Jay Johnson's map of Marblehead showing locations of spaces open to the public.

A common question asked of Conservancy volunteers is, “Where can I get a map of _____?” with the name of one of Marblehead’s open space areas filling in the blank space. The good news is that there is more than one answer.

The *Maps* page of the Conservancy’s web site (www.marbleheadconservancy.org) offers an opportunity to not only see a map of each of the Town’s conservation areas, but to also print out a copy of each one free of charge! At this writing we have also installed map kiosks at one entrance to each of the Robinson Farm, Steer Swamp, and Wyman Woods conservation areas. Copies of maps available at these sites are the same as those on the web site, but are printed on water resistant paper.

The book, *Discovering Marblehead* provides maps of Marblehead’s open spaces along with informational text. Finally, we offer a color two-sided map of the Town conservation areas available at the Farmers’ Market in the summer months or from the bookstore, *Spirit of ’76*. Pick one up!