

## Unveiling a New Model for Land Conservation

**EQLT partners with other land trusts to increase the pace of conservation**

Eight land trusts have joined forces to conserve land in western Massachusetts in a way that has never been done before. This pilot initiative is the first phase of the Wildlands & Woodlands Conservation Project. The Project will aggregate the land trusts' projects and protect 12,600 acres owned by 77 landowners.

"The East Quabbin Land Trust is a partner in this innovative effort to increase the pace of conservation," stated Stan White, Board President. "The work of the New England Forestry Foundation is critical to the partnership success because they are acting as the funding intermediary and a conservation partner. We applaud their efforts on this Project." Many in our area know the NEFF because of the Mixer-Nields Memorial Forest on Greenwich Road, Hardwick that they own and manage to demonstrate sustainable forestry and wildlife habitat practices.

The current practice of parcel-by-parcel protection leaves too many critical forested properties open to the threat of development. The Wildlands & Woodlands Conservation Project addresses this concern by pooling resources and marshalling an effective fundraising partnership to attract the support necessary to purchase Conservation Restrictions on these woodlands. Participating landowners are also making a financial contribution through the bargain sale, or reduced purchase price for the Conservation Restrictions.

"My wife and I are very interested in conserving our land and being good wildlife habitat stewards," said Rod Leehy. "We can't afford to make an outright gift of the entire Conservation Restriction. We are grateful to be part of this Initiative because we will be able to meet our conservation and financial goals." For the East Quabbin Land Trust conservation of the Leehy land is vital because they are key landowners within our Dougal Range focus area.



*ABOVE: Luke Lagrant's rosette winning photo from the Hardwick Fair conservation category*

This "aggregation" approach implements the Wildlands and Woodlands vision to protect an additional 1.5 million acres of forest in Massachusetts. Originally published in 2005, the Wildlands and Woodlands vision was developed by a group of Harvard Forest scientists who share a belief that the New England landscape is being transformed by residential and commercial development at a rate that threatens critical ecological and economic values of forests. Rather than just document this process and its impact, the scientists developed a bold vision for the region's future that highlights the necessity and practicality of conserving more forests in advance of development.

Using Massachusetts as a model for New England and the Eastern U.S., the Wildlands and Woodlands vision proposes that one half of Massachusetts, 2.5 million acres, be in forest permanently protected from development. Of this forest, 250,000 acres of mostly publicly-owned forestland would be set aside as Wildland reserves embedded within 2.25 million acres of mostly privately-

## MESSAGE FROM THE Executive Director



*Cynthia Henshaw*

The state of the economy is on everyone’s mind. Job loss, economic uncertainty and higher prices for everyday necessities makes financial decisions more difficult. And for landowners the declining property values and fewer buyers makes this a challenging time to sell your property.

In the land conservation arena we are fortunate that the governor and legislature continue to be strong proponents of and are investing in land conservation. The state budget is still in flux, and the conservation agencies are all hoping that their programs aren’t going to be drastically cut. We hope so too because state investment is essential for continued land conservation successes in our region.

Each of the conservation initiatives that EQLT completed in 2009 was done with the assistance of state funding. The Department of Fish and Game, the Department of Agricultural Resources and the Conservation Partnership grant program through the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs were key players in the conservation of those 300 acres in Ware and Hardwick.

Currently, we are working with families in West Brookfield, New Braintree, Ware and Petersham to seek conservation solutions that meet their goals. These families are in the midst of either estate planning or resolving issues related to the lack of estate planning. A common theme is the desire to see the land remain as fields and woods into the future and still receive economic benefits for selling the land or development rights. Continued state support for land conservation is an essential ingredient in each of these initiatives. Please let our elected officials know that you value land conservation and emphasize that the state needs to continue investing in our future by promoting land conservation. ■

**THE EAST QUABBIN LAND TRUST** works to foster the sustainable use of our natural and historic resources for the benefit of all generations through the conservation and stewardship of the farmlands, woodlands and waters in our region of Massachusetts.

As a non profit organization the East Quabbin Land Trust envisions a regional community that continues to care for its natural environment and supports a sustainable local economy, ensuring a high quality of life for generations to come.

We welcome your thoughts, articles, and photographs on events in our area. For more information about the trust, to become a member, or request a change of address, please contact our office at:

**East Quabbin Land Trust**  
 120 Ridge Road, PO Box 5  
 Hardwick, MA 01037-0005  
 413.477.8229 (tel & fax)  
 email: [eqlt@comcast.net](mailto:eqlt@comcast.net)

**Visit our website at [www.eqlt.org](http://www.eqlt.org)**

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## VOLUNTEER PROFILE...

# Living Off The Fat of the Land, An Interview with Rick Hendra

by *Chuk Kittredge*

**EQLT:** So Rick, where are you from?

**Rick Hendra:** I was born in Detroit, and raised in New York City.

**EQLT:** Whaddya do for work?

**RH:** Actually, I recently retired from the University Without Walls, at UMass, teaching writing and critical thinking.

**EQLT:** Say, that's my line of work, too. You get a degree in it?

**RH:** Well, in philosophy.

**EQLT:** Y'got me beat. So Rick, how long you been in Oakham?

**RH:** Since 1979. Since the age of 8, I wanted to get back to the land. I'm a devotee of Walden, and Thoreau. (chuckles) It wasn't a good way to convince my wife, Claire, to marry me.

**EQLT:** (dry) You kept your day job, then?

**RH:** Retired early, actually. I retired to start a sustainable farm; 8 acres on the other side of town.

**EQLT:** Sure would be nice, to have a li'l piece of land.

**RH:** Well, I want to have something to leave to my kids. I'm doing small-scale organics – next spring, I'm getting ducks. I was a landscaper once, and I retired a little early, because I want to do this while I still have the energy and stamina.

**EQLT:** And how'd you get involved with the Land Trust?

**RH:** I don't remember, honestly. I've been involved with the land trust for 2 or 3 years now. I got a lot of info from them. They've got lots of energy – I'll continue to get more involved. I'm also on the open space commission in Oakham. Cynthia nominated me for Keystone training at UMass, hoping it might help me bring my leadership experience in Oakham to bear on environmental issues. I was on the town school committee for years – and the finance committee, too, for part of that time.

**EQLT:** What's the open space committee doing in Oakham?

**RH:** We deal with issues of open space and land planning – right now, we're selecting criteria for ranking and prioritizing possible land acquisitions. We recently finalized the open space plan. Oakham is interesting – in large part, residents see Oakham as an agricultural community, which is something of an anachronism. There's an important connection here to an agricultural past. We have a 3-acre minimum of zoning, which means that low-level ag-



*Rick Hendra, sustainable farmer and friend of EQLT.*

riculture is possible for a lot of people. I'd like to see that kind of agricultural economy – people developing small, hobby farms. It keeps people in touch with rural traditions. It's feasible in Oakham, and the EQLT is a big part of that. We think in those terms now; long-term plans for land.

**EQLT:** Do you think small-scale ag is something people are willing to try?

**RH:** During WWII, people went back to the land in droves. It can happen again if we create the right conditions.

**EQLT:** True that. You're doing it, certainly. Are you planning to pass the torch?

**RH:** We have two sons. One is in Boston, at college. The other is going into Forestry, at the State University in New York. I hope he'll take over the farm.

**EQLT:** Good for you, Rick. Say, if you ever get rabbits, and need somebody to tend 'em – anyways, what are your thoughts on what the land trust has accomplished?

**RH:** I'm still trying to learn more about the land trust. I know in the past few years there has been a lot of progress. It's doing very well; I appreciate what they do, and I always enjoy the events. I'm proud to be a part of it.

**EQLT:** Well Rick, we ought to wrap it up. Any final thoughts for our readers?

**RH:** (laughs) We're seeing bears in our yard, recently. Bears just cruising through.

**EQLT:** That's great. And say, Rick – remember about them rabbits, okay?

**RH:** Um...



## On the Land... BRIDGE REPAIRS UNDERWAY!

If you drive past the entranceways to the Mass Central Rail Trail in Hardwick or New Braintree you'll see some recent changes. And that's just the tip of the iceberg, as they say.

"We recently received two grants towards different aspects of developing the Rail Trail," stated Cynthia Henshaw, EQLT Executive Director. "The larger one is from the Mass. Recreational Trails Grant Program to start work on the bridges and the other is from the Empowering Local Land Trusts program to install All-Terrain Vehicle control measures."

It's the newly installed bollards that are visible from the road. The bright yellow posts mimic the style used on other trail en-



*Newly installed bollard at the New Braintree Train Station*



tranceways. The brush is getting cut back and welcoming signs are ordered. The signs will be installed this fall.

For those interested in seeing the changes first hand come on over for a walk (though please use caution since there is construction underway). To see the new decking on the I-Beam bridge park along Creamery Road in Hardwick and follow the trail northeast for about ten minutes. While standing on the bridge you can look out over beautiful hay fields and catch the curve of the Ware River to the east.

If you keep walking about another ten minutes you'll come to a longer trestle bridge and soon after that the truss bridge over the Ware River. The decking and abutment repairs on the trestle bridge are planned for this fall. Serious work on the truss bridge decking is expected to start in 2010. Improvements to the trail bed are also planned.

Anyone interested in volunteering to bring the rail trail closer to its opening is welcome. Please contact Cynthia at 413-477-8229 or [chenshaw@eqlt.org](mailto:chenshaw@eqlt.org). ■

## Gifts Were Received

*In Memory of*  
**Myron Goddard**

by Linda Young and John Goodrich  
Hans and Ginna Thoma

**Achsah Hinckley**

by Linda Young and John Goodrich  
Hans and Ginna Thoma

**Chuck Kidd**

by Richard and Dorothy Bachtold  
Kristen Elmes  
Linda Young and John Goodrich  
Rod and Linda Leehy  
Virginia and Donald Rich

**Rose Rabschnuk**

by Linda Young and John Goodrich

**Guido Simone**

by Joe and Patty Koziol

## Grants Received

**Anonymous**

\$5000 matching for membership.

**George H. & Jane A. Mifflin Memorial Fund**

\$5,000 gift

## Leave a Legacy!

We welcome the opportunity to talk with you personally and confidentially about your interest in a philanthropic bequest to the East Quabbin Land Trust.

You can remember EQLT in your will or living trust, or name EQLT as a beneficiary of your IRA, qualified retirement plan or a life insurance policy. Let us welcome you into EQLT's legacy circle.

For further information please contact: Cynthia Henshaw, Executive Director at 413-477-8229 or [chenshaw@eqlt.org](mailto:chenshaw@eqlt.org)

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### New Model for Land Conservation

owned Woodlands managed for multiple goods and services. To date, of Massachusetts' total of 5 million acres, approximately one million acres of forestland is already protected and one million is developed. The goal is to conserve half of the remaining three million, leaving 1.5 million acres more to be conserved. In order to reach the goal of 2.5 million acres of protected forestland the pace of land conservation must increase.

A major stumbling block to conservation is the limited funding available to purchase conservation restrictions from willing landowners. Many landowners are committed to the long-term protection of their woodlands but cannot afford to give away the full value held in their land. Participating landowners agree to

contribute 25% of the conservation restriction value by making a bargain sale. The remaining 75% will be raised by the joint effort of the New England Forestry Foundation and the seven other participating land trusts -- soliciting contributions from foundations, individuals, and state and federal agencies.

Land trusts participating in the pilot Wildlands & Woodlands Conservation Project are: Berkshire Natural Resources Council, East Quabbin Land Trust, Franklin Land Trust, Kestrel Trust, Monterey Land Protection Trust, Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, New England Forestry Foundation and The Nature Conservancy. ■



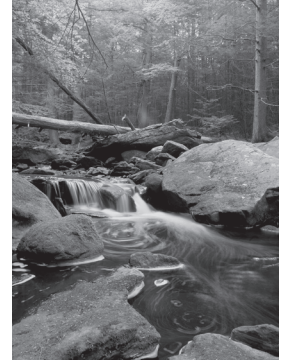
## CALENDARS FOR SALE

### *Celebrating the 15th Anniversary of EQLT*

The East Quabbin Land Trust is 15 years young. Learn about a highlighted EQLT preserved property each month. Beautiful photos by Chris Buelow, John Burk, Cynthia Henshaw, Linda Leehy, Craig Shibley, Silver Ridge Photography and Abbie White.

Calendars make wonderful holiday gifts. Calendars are \$20 each, or 3 for \$50. You can also make a tax deductible donation of \$100 to EQLT and receive a calendar for FREE.

Calendars can be purchased on the EQLT website, [www.eqlt.org](http://www.eqlt.org), at the Hardwick Farmers Market, Sundays 11-2, and at the Hardwick Farmers Cooperative. (All Calendar photos are full color)



## Family Land Conversations:

### Effective Communication Strategies for Estate Planning and Inheritance Decisions with Olivia Boyce-Abel of Family Lands Consulting

This seminar will be a rare opportunity to learn from one of the leading experts in the field about how to manage family communication issues in estate planning and land conservation conversations. The principal audience for the workshop is landowners and their family members, though land trust staff, municipal board members, foresters, and anyone interacting with landowners will learn valuable strategies for how to encourage healthy communication and trust in making decisions about family lands, as well as:

- How to initiate family conversations about the transfer of your land
- Different ownership and management structures that work over the long haul
- Where to go for help & which professionals you need on your team
- How to lay out a plan to keep your land in your family

Olivia Boyce-Abel has over 25 years of experience working with individuals and families across the country on issues of estate planning and land transfer. Ms. Boyce-Abel has in-depth experience dealing with property stewardship, multiparty ownership and dispute resolution, and excels in working with family dynamics to foster creative solutions.

This conference is sponsored by UMass Extension, The Trustees of Reservations' Highland Communities Initiative, Mount Grace, the MA Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, and MA DCR.

*“Having a healthy family conversation is essential to developing a successful plan for the future of your land.”*

Paul Catanzaro, Extension Forester

**Saturday, November 14th 9AM-3PM, \$20 per person, \$50 per family, Pre-registration required.**

**Hotel Northampton, King St., Northampton 413-268-8219**

**For more information or to download a registration form, visit [www.masswoods.net](http://www.masswoods.net).**

## Summer Intern Stephanie Korzec in her own words

My name is Stephanie Korzec and I graduated from Quabbin this year and I will be attending Paul Smith's College in New York this fall. At Quabbin I was on the Envirothon team and Mrs. Bottomley and worked very hard studying green energy and focused on soil. Being on the Envirothon team cemented my passion to study environmental science and go to Paul Smith's College.

This fall at Paul Smith's College I will be studying environmental science and natural resource management. I have always loved the outdoors and taken an interest in preserving it.

I have known about the land trust because they are our neigh-



bors and my family has always been a supporter. My family farm borders the Morss property. I have always loved wandering through the trails. I was interested in doing this part time internship to get more experience before I went to school at Paul Smith's.

Working at the land trust this summer taught me many things about my possible career path. Working with Cynthia on the rail trail, talking to town assessors, meeting many people that could be future coworkers have made me think about what I really want to do.

My favorite day working at the land trust was helping Melissa LeVangie, a tree arborist. As she climbed in the tree I would tell her when a car was coming or when to drop the branch. It made me realize all the possibilities of working with the environment. But nothing beats the endless up hill walks with Cynthia in Moose Brook.

I would also like to thank the land trust and Cynthia for giving me the opportunity to work or learn, and help me discover a path for me to follow. ■

## A Walk in the Woods

### Reflections on a Timber Sale

Walking through Harry Webb's woods you'd be hard pressed to see where the trees were cut. There are small spots periodically along the nicely grassed woods roads that have a concentration of branches. Everywhere you look there are trees. It's when you look up into the treetops that you can tell that some of the larger trees were removed and younger ones took their place.

Since the mid-70's the entire 175 acres of woods on the farm were cut two or three times through a series of eight harvests. Each harvest was designed to improve the health of remaining trees and improve the woods roads for future use. The family uses the woods roads for hiking or skiing, and they are also important access points if there was ever a fire.

"I once read that an average woodland grows by 160 board feet per acre per year. Doing the calculations shows that we've removed less volume than what has grown. Meaning that now we have a greater volume of trees on the land as when we bought the property and that's after removing nearly 600 thousand board feet and 300 cords of wood during that time. The management has improved the composition, health and value of the remaining trees." Stated Harry Webb.

A key element of all the harvests on the Webb property is the significant amount of cordwood or pulpwood removed. Harvesting the smaller or poorly formed trees makes more room for

the remaining trees to grow straighter, taller and faster because of reduced competition for sunlight and nutrients. The most recent harvest was not a significant net money maker for the family because the primary tree removed was hemlock, nearly 300 tons. But the demand for hemlock mulch for landscaping also means that it didn't cost money to remove the lower quality hemlock, which is a critical step to overall forest health.

Over the years the type of equipment used to harvest trees on the property has changed. The use of a skidder, which drags trees behind it on the way to the staging area, often scraps standing trees along the road removing the bark and permanently damaging the tree. This most recent harvest used a forwarder, which picks up the trees and carries them off the ground back to the landing. The forwarder left the woods in better shape. "The type of equipment used in a harvest is critical decision to get the results that you want," said Harry Webb.





## EQLT Events

This past summer we were busy with many events. Thank you to Ken and Jen Groeppe for hosting us at their butterfly oasis, all the of volunteers who make the Hardwick Fair a great success, and Harry Webb for inviting us to learn more about timber sales.

Thank you to the endless volunteers who made our Saturday Work Days a great success this summer. Our trails are looking beautiful, and we encourage all to come and enjoy them. ■



ABOVE: Brian and Harry looking at a white oak that was damaged during the 2000 timber harvest by the skidder. This type of damage to the remaining trees was avoided recently because a forwarder transported the trees.



LEFT: Alex Giguere clears the trail at the Chuck Kidd trail work day. In the background are Jim and Betty DiMaio.



ABOVE - Jerry Reilly, Harry Webb, Brian Klasanos and Peter Schmidt. The area behind them was harvested in 2000 and shows tremendous sapling growth.



LEFT - Harry, Brian and Peter discussing the large, healthy crowns of the trees remaining from the harvest this winter.

*Conserving the land, Preserving our heritage*

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## EQLT News | INSIDE...



### Bridge Repairs Underway

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Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
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Permit No. 5  
Hardwick, MA

Return Service Requested

POSTAL CUSTOMER

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### NOVEMBER...

#### Hyde Woods Walk

**Sunday, November 1, 1:00 PM** – The Hyde property is a largely wooded tract with significant frontage on the Muddy Brook and several unique natural communities. Meet at 25 Hardwick Pond Road in Ware to join Brian Klassanos on a nature walk through the property. Wear sturdy boots and bring water. Expect some off-trail walking to fully explore the property. To register or for more information, contact the office at 413-477-8229 or [chenshaw@eqlt.org](mailto:chenshaw@eqlt.org).

### FIRST SATURDAY WORKDAYS CONTINUE...

Please join us on October 3, November 7 and December 5 beginning at 9am as we make progress on a variety of trail and property maintenance projects. Site locations may include the rail trail, Chuck Kidd Trail at Moose Brook Preserve, Indian Rock Trail and the Deer Park Preserve. Please contact the office at 413-477-8229 or [chenshaw@eqlt.org](mailto:chenshaw@eqlt.org) to confirm which location will be the work site for each Saturday.

**\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\* ANNUAL DINNER AND AUCTION, SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 2010**

If you have an item you wish to donate to the auction, please contact the office at [eqlt@comcast.net](mailto:eqlt@comcast.net)