



# Friends of the Middlesex Fells Reservation

www.fells.org 781-662-2340 **Events Calendar pullout: pages 5-10**

## News of the Fells Winter 2012 | 13

### Conservation Commission charges DCR violation of Wetlands Protection Act

**On September 18th** the Stoneham Conservation Commission filed a legal Enforcement Order against the Department of Conservation and Recreation, charging violation of the Wetlands Protection Act in the Middlesex Fells Reservation.

The Enforcement Order states that DCR's June destruction of stone stairs on the Reservoir Trail occurred in close proximity to protected wetlands resources.

The Commission charges DCR with "altering the surface area in a buffer zone by dislodging large boulders creating large burrows and loosening and exposing large areas to erosion from a very steep incline on the adjacent areas."

Also cited is DCR's failure to abide by an April letter from Deputy DCR commissioner Jack Murray who had stated that the agency would not alter the protected trail section without prior review and approval from the Commission.

*continued on page 11*



### Thoreau visits the Fells!

Richard Smith as Thoreau (Mike Ryan)

by Mike Ryan

**O**N SEPTEMBER 8TH, A BEAUTIFUL FALL DAY, WE FOUND "Henry David Thoreau" in the Fells, sauntering along from Bellevue Pond towards Wright's Tower with a number of companions. The setting and mood was circa 1855. Thoreau stopped and remarked that he would be happy to entertain any questions, "I do not usually like talking in the woods," he said, "but I don't mind talking with people like you."

He pulled an arrowhead from his pocket, remarking, "When I go for my walks, usually I have my eyes on the ground in case I find an arrowhead or two. I have one I found not too long ago. ... I believe there is a great deal to

*continued on next page*



FROM LEFT: Thoreau at Wright's Tower (Mike Ryan); Thoreau reading a passage on nature (Bryan Hamlin); Thoreau shares a find (Mike Ryan)

## Thoreau visits the Fells! *continued from front cover*

be learned from the Indian. I am quite disappointed that we seem to think that the only thing we can do with the Indians is to wipe them out. When you see a Red Man in the woods he belongs there, part of the woods themselves. Most White Men when you see them in the woods they are very much out of place, and you can tell that. I think we should learn from the Indians about how to be in the woods and in the midst of Nature and how to survive in the wilderness if there are no modern conveniences about. So I study the Indians a great deal."

"My first summer at Walden Pond I had two and a half acres of beans...It was too much! I did not read books the first summer, I hoed beans. After the second summer I was determined never to grow beans ever again."

"I work when I want to not because I have to."

"I have read some books by this man named Darwin. I read his book about the voyage of the Beagle to the Galapagos Island. I am very interested in what he has to say."

"I enjoy living near and being with the ne're-do-wells more than the philosophers. We have plenty of philosophers."

"I would like to see even Concord set aside some land so that nature might be nature, so that trees would not be cut down for ship building or for firewood and you could use land for recreation or just to watch nature be herself. I would like to someday see even Walden Pond set aside, but this thinking is very rare in Concord."

Mr. Thoreau finished the walk by reading from a description of the beauty of sunlight in nature.

And then, on the count of three, Richard Smith, the man behind the persona, emerged to answer present day questions, saying he is happy to take his historical and acting experience directly to people across the country. "Walking with Mr. Thoreau", is a trail-based outreach program of the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area. 'Thoreau's' Fells visit was funded by the Medford Arts Council, in partnership with the Medford Historical Society.

# Fells provides rich geologic lessons



by Mike Ryan

**The lively sound of a hundred students** along the trail for their second geology lesson of the morning showed that the vision of the Fells Reservation as a living scientific laboratory for teaching and learning was alive and well!



Friends of the Fells geology expert Ed Myskowski's first lesson at a large glacial erratic boulder already introduced the group of Winchester McCall Middle School students to

some fundamentals of Fells geologic history.

The October 10 field trip was organized in response to Earth Science teacher Lanie Higgins' request to "help our students take the classroom outside the walls into the real world!" Any question as to whether it would be possible for Ed to teach one hundred students at a time in the field was quickly answered as students gathered around in quiet attention.

Ed's next stop, following the excellent Winchester Trails Long Pond Trail guidebook, was at the mirror smooth *slickenside* feature, which he explained was formed during a pre-historic three-phase process, including an earthquake, that yielded the green mineral *epidote*.

Later, standing atop volcanic bedrock at Indian Lookout, Ed pointed out an extensive series of shallow striations in the rock face as evidence of the immense scraping force of tons of glacial debris tens of thousands of years ago.

Asked to round out the excursion with a botanical discussion, Friends of the Fells board chair Bryan Hamlin spoke to the students about the connection between the acidic soil derived from granite, and the types of trees and plants found amongst the Fells volcanic features.

TOP: Ed Myskowski explains presence of glacial erratic boulder (photos: Mike Ryan)

AT LEFT: Bryan Hamlin providing botany lessons among the pines



# Middlesex Fells Plant Survey available in December!

by Bryan Hamlin and Walter Kittredge

**We are pleased to announce** that the published article of the nine years in the making Fells Plant Survey will be available in December! The eighty-page review includes a full list of all vascular plants (ferns, conifers, trees, grasses and all other flowering plants, large and small) reported in the Fells since 1894 when the 2,500 acre forest park was created.

After we submitted the manuscript to the botanical journal *Rhodora* last year we found that we couldn't stop hiking in the Fells, and continued to find new things! Over the last year we have found 25 additional plant species not included among the 868 plants listed in the published survey. Sixteen of our new plant finds are non-native, some of which therefore probably represent new arrivals. Four of the nine native species found are grasses or sedges; hard to identify and therefore easy to miss. Last Spring we were excited to stumble upon a small patch of the early blue violet, *Viola palmata*. It hadn't been reported in the Fells area since 1854.

Plant survey work is not an exact science, especially when dealing with an area of about ten million square yards. Meanwhile, it appears that single patches of two

plants — an orchid and a rare species of buttercup have very sadly departed, in one case over-run by invasive plants. So the other lesson to take from all this is that it's a moving picture — plants are constantly arriving and departing as conditions change.

The Friends of the Fells has arranged with *Rhodora* so that reprints of the Fells Survey will be available for purchase at ten dollars apiece. In addition to the complete list of all Fells vascular plants the article includes a small map and a detailed description of the thirty habitat types in the reservation. You may pre-order your copy by sending a check to Friends of the Fells, 235 West Foster Street, Melrose MA 02176.

We invite you to get your copy of the Fells plant list and then see if you can find a new species in the Fells!

*“Although the reservation has retained a high level of biodiversity over the last century, many native species survive in small populations in just one or two locations, making them vulnerable. ... Active management is needed for the protection of sensitive habitats, the reduction of fragmentation through trail closures, and active invasive plant removal programs.”*

From Hamlin, Kittredge, Lubin and Wright, “Changes in the Vascular Flora of the Middlesex Fells Reservation,” *Middlesex County, Massachusetts*, from 1895 to 2011, *Rhodora*; 114: 229-308.



TOP: *Viola palmata* (file photo taken elsewhere in Mass.); ABOVE: Butterfly-bush, *Buddleja*



# WINTER 2012-13 HIKES & EVENTS

All hikes are free to the public and do not require pre-registration

## DECEMBER

### Hike the Southern Fells

**Saturday, December 1**

**10:15am - 12:30pm**

*Leader: Dan Sumorok.* Join Dan on a hiking tour of the southernmost part of the Fells on the Skyline, Reservoir, and Cross Fells trails. This walk will end with a visit to Pine Hill and Wright's Tower, where the view includes Medford, Boston, and the Blue Hills in the distance. The trails are steep and rocky in places. Wear sturdy boots and bring at least a liter of water. Meet at the Bellevue Pond parking area, South Border Rd., Medford. Rain cancels.

### Animal Habitats Walk on the Rock Circuit Trail

**Sunday December 9**

**10:00 - Noon**

*Leader: Pete Costello of Zoo New England.* Join Pete for a family-friendly walk to explore and discuss animal and bird habitats, nests and

animal signs in the Fells. Walking will be Easy to Moderate. Bring water and binoculars. Meet at 10:00am at the Flynn Rink parking area on Woodland Rd. in Medford. Rain Cancels. Email Pete at pbeararl@yahoo.com for more information.

### Bare Trees and Naked Shrubs at Bellevue Pond

**Wednesday, December 12**

**9:15am - 11:30 am**

*Leader: Boot Boutwell.* No leaves? No problem! We will learn how to identify trees and shrubs in winter by looking at branching patterns,

### CELEBRATE THE WINTER SOLSTICE

**Tuesday, December 18, 2012 3:30 - 5:30 pm**

*Botume House, 4 Woodland Road, Stoneham (on the shore of Spot Pond)*  
Join Boot Boutwell and the Friends of the Fells in celebrating the season of the Winter Solstice, the time of year when the midday sun is at its lowest point in the sky. The solstices mark key turning points in the year and have been celebrated by many cultures throughout history. The Winter Solstice marks the shortest day (and the longest night) of the year. We will celebrate the season with solstice history and lore, poetry, a solstice story, and a walk outdoors to enjoy the beauty of nature in winter. The program will end back indoors with a short ceremony to welcome in the solstice season followed by warm cider and cookies. Families and other nature lovers of all ages invited!

**Note: Pre-registration is required: Call Boot Boutwell at 781-729-4712 by Friday, December 14. Enrollment is limited.**

buds, bark, persistent fruits, galls and persistent flowers. We will also learn some fun and interesting natural history about these amazing

plants. Meet at the Bellevue Pond parking lot on South Border Road in Medford. Heavy rain or heavy snow cancels. For more information

about this walk, call Boot Boutwell at 781-729-4712.

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## JANUARY

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### Hike the Southern Fells

**Saturday, January 5**

**10:15am - 12:30pm**

*Leader: Dan Sumorok.* Join Dan on a hiking tour of the southernmost part of the Fells on the Skyline, Reservoir, and Cross Fells trails. This walk will end with a visit to Pine Hill and Wright's Tower, where the view includes Medford, Boston, and the Blue Hills in the distance. The trails are steep and rocky in places. Wear sturdy boots and bring at least a liter of water. Meet at the Bellevue Pond parking area, South Border Rd., Medford. Rain or heavy snow cancels.

### Animal Habitats Walk on the Rock Circuit Trail

**Sunday January 13**

**10:00 - Noon**

*Leader: Pete Costello of Zoo New England.* Join Pete for a family-friendly walk to explore and discuss animal and bird habitats, nests and animal signs in the Fells. Walking will be Easy to Moderate. Bring water and binoculars. Meet at 10:00am at the Flynn Rink parking area on Woodland Rd. in Medford. Rain or heavy snow cancels. Email Pete at [pbeararl@yahoo.com](mailto:pbeararl@yahoo.com) for more information.

### Bare Trees and Naked Shrubs at Long Pond

**Monday, January 14**

**9:15am - 11:30 am**

*Leader: Boot Boutwell.* No leaves? No Problem! We will learn how to identify trees and shrubs in winter by looking at branching patterns, buds, bark, persistent fruits, galls and persistent flowers. We will also learn some fun and interesting natural history about these amazing plants. Meet at the Long Pond parking lot on South Border Road in Winchester. Steady rain or heavy snow cancels. For more information about this walk, call Boot Boutwell at 781-729-4712.

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## FEBRUARY

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### Hike the Southern Fells

**Saturday, February 2**

**10:15am - 12:30pm**

*Leader: Dan Sumorok.* Join Dan on a hiking tour of the southernmost part of the Fells on the Skyline, Reservoir, and Cross Fells trails. This walk will end with a visit to Pine Hill and Wright's Tower, where the view includes Medford, Boston, and the Blue Hills in the distance. The trails are steep and rocky in places. Wear sturdy boots and bring at least a liter of water. Meet at the Bellevue Pond parking area, South Border Rd., Medford. Rain or heavy snow cancels.

### Animal Habitats Walk on the Rock Circuit Trail

**Sunday, February 10**

**10:00 - Noon**

*Leader: Pete Costello of Zoo New England.* Join Pete for a family-friendly walk to explore and discuss animal and bird habitats, nests and animal signs in the Fells. Walking will be Easy to Moderate. Bring water and binoculars. Meet at 10:00am at the Flynn Rink parking area on Woodland Rd. in Medford. Rain or heavy snow cancels. Email Pete at [pbeararl@yahoo.com](mailto:pbeararl@yahoo.com) for more information.

### Evergreens and Other Cool Plants at Long Pond

**Tuesday, February 12**

**9:15am - 11:30 am**

*Leader: Boot Boutwell.* We will search the Long Pond area for a variety of evergreens as well as other easily recognizable plants of winter. As always, we will also focus on some fun and interesting natural history about these plants. Meet at the Long Pond parking lot, South Border Road in Winchester. Heavy rain or heavy snow cancels. For more information about this walk, call Boot Boutwell at 781-729-4712.

# BABES IN THE WOODS

## TUESDAY HIKES

All hikes are from  
10:00am to 11:30am

### December 4

#### Bellevue Pond to Panther Cave

Meet at the Bellevue Pond parking lot, South Border Rd., Medford.

### December 11

#### Spot Pond Stroll

Meet at the DCR Botume House Visitor Center, 4 Woodland Rd., Stoneham. Parking is also available next door at Spot Pond Boating.

### December 18

#### Escape to Silver Mine

Meet at the Sheepfold parking lot, off Fellsway West/Route 28, Stoneham.

### January 1

#### New Years Hike! Bellevue Pond to Pine Hill

Meet at the Bellevue Pond parking lot, South Border Rd., Medford.

### January 8

#### Crystal Spring to Virginia Wood

Meet at the Greenwood Park parking lot, Pond St., Stoneham across from the Stone Zoo.

### January 15

#### Sheepfold to Bear Hill

Meet at the Sheepfold parking lot, off Fellsway West/Route 28, Stoneham

### January 22

#### Bellevue Pond to Panther Cave

Meet at the Bellevue Pond parking lot, South Border Rd., Medford.



Babes in the Woods bundle up for a hike (Terry Murray)

### January 29

#### Spot Pond Stroll

Meet at the DCR Botume House Visitor Center, 4 Woodland Rd., Stoneham. Parking is also available next door at Spot Pond Boating.

### February 5

#### Escape to Silver Mine

Meet at the Sheepfold parking lot, off Fellsway West/Route 28, Stoneham.

### February 12

#### Long Pond Nature Trail

Meet at the Long Pond parking lot, South Border Rd., Winchester.

### February 19

#### Bellevue Pond to Pine Hill

Meet at the Bellevue Pond parking lot, South Border Rd., Medford.

### February 26

#### Crystal Spring to Virginia Wood

Meet at the Greenwood Park parking lot, Pond St., Stoneham across from the Stone Zoo.

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# THURSDAY HIKES

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All hikes are from  
10:00am to 11:30am

## December 6

### North Reservoir Exploration

Meet at Gate 18, Hillcrest Parkway, Winchester.

## December 13

### High Service Reservoirs

Meet at Gate 53, Fellsway East, Melrose

## December 20

### Long Pond Exploration

Long Pond parking area, South Border Road, Winchester

## December 27

### Bear Hill Exploration

Meet at Gate 21, Fallon Road, Stoneham

## January 3

### North Reservoir Exploration

Meet at Gate 18, Hillcrest Parkway, Winchester.

## January 10

### Bellevue Pond and Beyond

Meet at Bellevue Pond parking area, South Border Road, Medford

## January 17

### North Reservoir Exploration

Meet at Gate 18, Hillcrest Parkway, Winchester.

## January 24

### High Service Reservoirs

Meet at Gate 53, Fellsway East, Melrose

## January 31

### Long Pond Exploration

Long Pond parking area, South Border Road, Winchester

## February 7

### Bear Hill Exploration

Meet at Gate 21, Fallon Road, Stoneham

## February 14

### North Reservoir Exploration

Meet at Gate 18, Hillcrest Parkway, Winchester.

## February 21

### Bellevue Pond and Beyond

Meet at Bellevue Pond parking area, South Border Road, Medford

## February 28

### North Reservoir Exploration

Meet at Gate 18, Hillcrest Parkway, Winchester.

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# SATURDAY / SUNDAY HIKES

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All weekend walks are  
from 1:00pm to 2:30pm

## Saturday, December 1

### Long Pond Nature Trail

Meet at the Long Pond parking lot, South Border Rd., Winchester.

## Sunday, December 9

### Crystal Spring to Virginia Wood

Meet at the Greenwood Park parking lot, Pond St., Stoneham across from the Stone Zoo.

## Saturday, December 15

### Sheepfold to Bear Hill

Meet at the Sheepfold parking lot, off Fellsway West/Route 28, Stoneham

## Sunday, December 23

### Spot Pond Stroll

Meet at the DCR Botume House Visitor Center, 4 Woodland Rd., Stoneham. Parking is also available next door at Spot Pond Boating.

## Saturday, December 29

### Long Pond Exploration

Meet at the Long Pond parking lot, South Border Rd., Winchester.

## Sunday, January 6

### Woodland Path Trail east or west

Meet at Flynn Rink, Woodland Road, Medford

## Saturday, January 12

### Sheepfold and Beyond

Meet at the Sheepfold parking lot, off Fellsway West/Route 28, Stoneham

## Sunday, January 20

### Spot Pond Stroll

Meet at the DCR Botume House Visitor Center, 4 Woodland Rd., Stoneham. Parking is also available next door at Spot Pond Boating.

## Saturday, January 26

### Crystal Spring to Virginia Wood

Meet at the Greenwood Park parking lot, Pond St., Stoneham across from the Stone Zoo.

## Sunday, February 3

### Long Pond Nature Trail

Meet at the Long Pond parking lot, South Border Rd., Winchester.

## Saturday, February 9

### Woodland Path Trail east or west

Meet at Flynn Rink, Woodland Road, Medford

## Sunday, February 16

### Sheepfold and Beyond

Meet at the Sheepfold parking lot, off Fellsway West/Route 28, Stoneham

## Saturday, February 23

### Spot Pond Exploration

Meet at the DCR Botume House Visitor Center, 4 Woodland Rd., Stoneham. Parking is also available next door at Spot Pond Boating.

# Babes in the Woods Festival!

by Mike Ryan

There was fun happening inside and out during the Saturday, October 13th Babes in the Woods Fall Story-time Festival and Fundraiser at the Beebe Estate in Melrose. Interactive story time, crafts, snacks, raffles, face painting, bubble tricks, and more, entertained children and parents throughout the two-hour party.

A mini-bake sale as well as raffles, maps and t-shirt merchandise underscored the event's purpose to raise funds to assist with program supplies, volunteer stipends, and expansion and development. Special thanks goes out to each person who donated great raffle items!

Enthusiasm for Babes in the Woods has been growing by leaps and bounds.

Hikes have expanded to three days per week, and the Festival was a perfect expression of gratitude to hike leader Terry Murray and the enthusiastic parents group, which works so diligently to develop this gateway program for parents and their kids to enjoy Fells nature and make new friends.

The festival organizers were most appreciative to the Beebe Estate board of directors for making the beautiful space available.

For information on the Babes in the Woods program see the *Calendar* section of this newsletter. Becoming a member of Friends of the Fells is one of the best ways to support this program!



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3

- 1 Story time
  - 2 Bubbles on the lawn
  - 3 Coloring table fun
- (all photos: Mike Ryan)

# What is Babes in the Woods?

**Are you home on mornings with young children?** Come for a walk in the woods with Friends of the Middlesex Fells hike leader Terry Murray. (Find more info about Terry on his website, ([terrytheinventormentor.com](http://terrytheinventormentor.com)) The walks occur every Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00am to 11:30am. and Saturday or Sunday, 1:00pm to 2:30pm. See weekly calendar section for hike locations. Rain or snow cancels. No dogs please.

All hikes are drop-in format — no pre-registration is required. *Hikes are always free, but we encourage you to become a Friends of the Fells Member to help support these programs.*

Babes in the Woods gather at Wright's Tower (Terry Murray)



## Detailed hike descriptions

### **Tuesdays: Babes Classic**

A stroller-friendly meander through the Fells. Children of all ages are welcome, whether they are hanging out in a carrier, kicking back in a stroller, or tromping through the woods on their own two feet. Terry will point out interesting sights and sounds unique to that day's trail, and there will be a mid-hike break for snacks and fun. When it's warm, Terry loves to show off his giant bubble wands!

### **Thursdays: Adventure Babes**

These hikes are not stroller-friendly, and children should either be in carriers or able to keep an adult pace through mixed terrain. We will take the trail less traveled, and break a sweat. A short break will allow a little time to rest and refuel.

### **Saturdays or Sundays: Family Babes**

This is the weekend edition of our hikes. Like Tuesdays, kids of any age are welcome, however, programming

may be targeted to 5 to 8-year olds who can't join us during the week. The later start time and alternating Saturdays and Sunday offerings are conveniently designed for laid back weekend schedules.

### **Program note**

For convenience you may download and fill out the annual liability release form linked on the Friends of the Fells website on the Babes in the Woods information page. Please fill out and give to Terry at your next hike. Babes in the Woods is co-sponsored by the Friends of the Middlesex Fells, the Medford Family Network, the North Suburban Family Network, the Malden/Everett Family Network, and the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

**Questions?** Call the Friends at 781-662-2340, or go to [www.fells.org](http://www.fells.org)

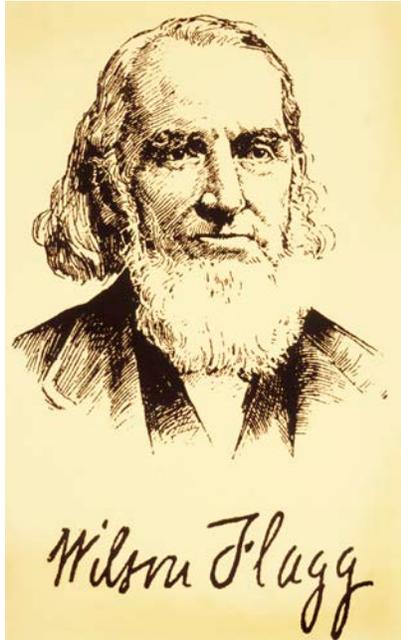
## December

by Wilson Flagg [excerpt from *Studies in the Field and Forest*, 1857]

**On these pleasant days** of winter, which are of frequent occurrence in our variable climate... when the earth is free from snow. ...

The stalks of the faded asters are still erect, with their downy heads shaking in the breeze, which has already scattered their seeds upon the ground; and the more conspicuous tufts of the golden-rods are seen in nodding and irregular rows under the fences, or bending over the ice that covers the meadows where they grew.

The evergreens, if not more beautiful, are more conspicuous than at any other season and there are many beautiful streamlets that ripple through the woods, and often in their depths find protection from the greatest cold. Around these streams the embroidering mosses are as green as the



grasses in May. The water-cresses may be seen growing freshly at the bottom of their channels, and the ferns are beautiful among the shelving rocks, through which the waters make their gurgling tour.

When the sun, at noonday, penetrates into these green and sheltered recesses, before the snow has come upon the earth, when the pines are waving overhead, the laurels clustering with the undergrowth, and the dew-berry (ever-green blackberry) trailing at our feet, we can easily imagine ourselves surrounded by the green luxuriance of summer.

But the charm of a winter's walk is derived chiefly from the flowerless plants — the ferns and lichens of the rocks, the mosses of the dells and meres, and the trailing wintergreens of the shrubbery pastures. Many species of these plants seem to revel in cold weather, as if it were congenial to their health and wants.

*Naturalist and author Wilson Flagg was vice president of the Middlesex Fells Association, formed in 1880.*

## Commission: DCR and the Wetlands Act *continued from front cover*

At a September 5th Conservation Commission meeting at Whip Hill in Stoneham DCR representatives disputed the Stoneham Conservation Commission's jurisdictional authority for the area by claiming that the area next to the stone stairs was not a wetland.

Commission chairman Bob Conway reminded the DCR representatives that "In April, when we did our site visit with you out there, we walked to the top of the hill and we all acknowledged there was a wetland right up there." Another commission member pointed out that DCR had earlier claimed that these alterations to the Reservoir Trail trail were necessary in order to protect the wetlands area from erosion! DCR's about-face was clearly challenging the patience of the Conservation Commission.

Commission members rejected the accuracy of the DCR map which showed no wetlands in the damaged area. One commissioner stated incredulously, "You're

telling me that if you went out to the site and you saw a stream and it wasn't on this map, you would just ignore it?"

The Enforcement Order requires DCR to cease and desist from any further activity in the area of the stone stairs, and if during a two year monitoring period continued erosion or degradation of the trail occurs "the DCR will be responsible for all remediation action necessary to return the area to an acceptable condition."

DCR was informed that trail alterations in any additional section of the Fells within Stoneham's jurisdiction are prohibited without full prior review and approval by the Commission.

The Friends of the Fells applauds the Stoneham Conservation Commission for taking action requiring DCR to fulfill its legal obligation to put conservation first in the Middlesex Fells Reservation.

# Days of Service in the Fells

by Rich Sanford

**On August 25th, ten students from Tufts University's FOCUS pre-orientation community service program** came to the Middlesex Fells Reservation to connect with their new community. A month later, on September 29th, 3 different groups, more than forty volunteers, came to the Fells to honor National Public Lands Day with a day of service.

The Tufts group removed a large swath of invasive Winged Euonymus bush from Virginia Wood, giving native plants in the area a chance to grow back. A large quantity of scrap metal was also removed. Friends of the Fells board chairman Bryan Hamlin, who had joined the work crew, commented that he "was struck by their cheerfulness and lack of any sense that this menial work was beneath a college student. While bringing humor and fun to the work, at the same time the students were careful to do the job correctly, quickly learning the offending plants."

The Tufts FOCUS group also cleaned up cans and other rubbish along the Crystal Spring Trail, at Doleful Pond and on the Rock Circuit Trail. The following day, August 26th, a volunteer Hike 'n' Carry crew collected



Tufts students carry out trash collected along the Crystal Spring trail (Rich Sanford)

and removed 15 large bags of trash (and one large metal fire pit) from these areas.

The September service crew included sixteen youth from New England Aquarium's *live blue Ambassadors* program who expanded the August work in Virginia Wood, removing additional growths of Winged Euonymus, and also pulling a patch of Garlic Mustard.

Two local Cub Scout Packs also helped by picking up trash along the shore of Spot Pond and along South Border Road. In all, around 10 trash bags full of trash or recyclables were removed from the Fells on that day.

Tufts student Nick Ryder stated that his group was dedicated to preserving the Fells experience, "The trails snaking through the Middlesex Fells were absolutely beautiful. Where it was clean, our group was in awe." He said he hoped that more Fells visitors would take individual responsibility for clean trails.

If you are interested in joining a future volunteer efforts like these, please complete the Volunteer Interest Form online at the Friends of the Fells website [www.fells.org](http://www.fells.org), or simply submit your email address on the website link to receive monthly updates on upcoming events.



Bryan Hamlin leads botanical discussion with volunteers at Virginia Wood. (Rich Sanford)

“Whatever may be the season of the year, to the student of science as well as to the lover of beauty, something is always presented to fix his attention or awaken his admiration, and he seldom returns from a woodland ramble without increased cheerfulness and a prospect of new sources of rational happiness.” *Wilson Flagg, 1857*

## HELP NOW: Donate to The Friends of The Middlesex Fells

Your contribution to the Friends of the Middlesex Fells will help preserve this priceless landscape for the enjoyment of this and future generations! We truly need your financial help in dealing with the proposed development which threatens the very essence of the Fells. Your support for Friends programs benefits Fells visitors of all ages.

### Donation Levels

- \$1000 and above: Protector — my contribution is \_\_\_\_\_
- \$500-\$999: Advocate — my contribution is \_\_\_\_\_
- \$100-\$499: Conserver — my contribution is \_\_\_\_\_
- \$10-\$99: Associate — my contribution is \_\_\_\_\_

**Donate**

In addition to mailing a check you may now contribute online! See the 'Donate' button on [www.fells.org](http://www.fells.org).

The Friends of the Middlesex Fells is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible. Check with your employer's Human Resources Department to see if they will match your gift.

## JOIN US: Become a member of the Friends of the Middlesex Fells

- New Membership (includes trail map!)     Renewal

Which level would you like to join?

- Life Member \$1,000       Sponsor \$100       Individual \$25       Corporate \$500
- Benefactor \$500       Supporter \$50       Senior \$15
- Patron \$200       Family \$25       Student \$15

All but \$50 of Life Memberships are tax-deductible. All but \$5 of Annual Memberships are tax-deductible.

Donate online, or make checks payable to the Friends of the Middlesex Fells and mail this form to:  
Friends of the Middlesex Fells, 235 West Foster Street, Melrose, MA 02176

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please print legibly.

Personal information is not released for any purpose.

Please add friends@fells.org to your email address book to prevent email blocking.

- Check here if you would like to receive the Friends of the Middlesex Fells volunteer opportunities questionnaire.

**\$6** Trail Map with descriptions of the Fells geology, natural and cultural history, and plants and animals on the back

**\$3** *Creation of the Middlesex Fells* by Michael Ryan, executive director, Friends of the Middlesex Fells

**\$4** *The Middlesex Fells: An 1898 article* by William de las Casas

**\$6** *Middlesex Fells Reservation 1998-99 Tracking Survey* by David W. Brown. 2008 Edition Condensed and Updated

**\$18** Friends of Middlesex Fells Fox T-shirt (Please visit [www.fells.org](http://www.fells.org) for details)

**\$8** Pack of 4 Fells postcards: Lawrence Woods Pond, Spot Pond, Spot Pond Brook, Ravine Road Hemlock Grove

*All prices include shipping and handling.*

*Contact the Friends of the Fells for wholesale prices.*

### Friends of the Middlesex Fells Board

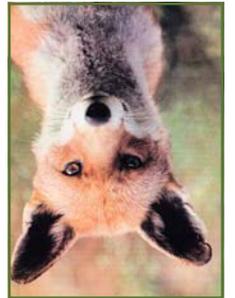
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Quarter Mile Pond (Mike Ryan)

Return Service Requested

If you would like to receive Friends of Fells email updates on program changes, breaking news or alerts, please send your email address to [friends@fells.org](mailto:friends@fells.org).



## News of the Fells Winter 2012 | 13

Friends of the Middlesex Fells Reservation | 235 West Foster Street | Melrose, MA 02176  
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