

Conservation Innovation UPDATE

The Program on Conservation Innovation at the Harvard Forest

Dear Colleague in Conservation:



As everyone involved in protecting land and biodiversity is well aware, conservation is not only about field work and getting deals done. It is also, very importantly, about educating the next generation of conservation leadership, as well as informing the public-at-large about the critical nature of the work before us. The items in this quarter's *Conservation Innovation UPDATE* focus several new initiatives in the field of conservation education and outreach.

We look forward to hearing from you about new efforts in conservation education and outreach, as well as the wide variety of other initiatives necessary to address the vast challenges we face. Let us know of your inventive efforts in the field.

Best regards,

Jim Levitt, Editor and Director of the Program on Conservation Innovation

Deidre Peroff, Assistant Editor and Research Assistant

Sharing Expertise

Conservation Finance "Boot Camp" at Yale a First

In the last week of June 2007, a remarkable group of instructors will share their expertise with a group of about 20 attendees who have signed up for the first-ever conservation finance "boot camp." The five days of instruction in the latest conservation finance techniques will be offered on the Yale campus, under the auspices of the Center for Business and the Environment at Yale (CBEY). Story Clark, a Wyoming-based consultant who has extensive experience in conservation finance, is coordinating the session along with Peter Stein of the Lyme Timber Company and Brad Gentry, co-director of CBEY.

Gentry reports that, as of mid-May 2007, the course is fully subscribed. Interest in the course has attracted students from states across the nation, including California,

Texas, North Carolina, Minnesota, New Jersey and New Hampshire. The attendees will hear from a guest faculty that includes such leaders in the field as Ernest Cook from the Trust for Public Land, Michael Catania from Conservation Resources, Inc., and Nick Dilks from Ecosystem Investment Partners.



Co-sponsors of the boot camp, including CBEY, Island Press, the Land Trust Alliance, and the

Conservation Finance Innovation Network (affiliated with the Program on Conservation Innovation at the Harvard Forest) hope that this precedent-setting session is the first of many such short courses on conservation finance offered across the United States, and, in the nottoo-distant future, internationally. To sign up for the course waiting list, or to put your name on the mailing list to learn about conservation finance short courses that may be offered in the future, contact Amy Badner, Senior Administrative Assistant at the Center for Business and the Environment at Yale, at 203-432-5887, or at amy.badner@yale.edu.

Conservation Trail Aims to Inspire a New Generation

Waverley Trail Celebrates a Neighborhood's Local and Natural Heritage



On Massachusetts Arbor Day 2007, civic leaders, state officials and a chorus of school children gathered to celebrate the dedication of a new three-quarter mile interpretive trail that leads from a busy transit hub to a regional park that is the historic home of the Waverley Oaks. The Trail tells the story of how the Oaks, and nearby Beaver Brook, helped to inspire the creation both of the world's first land trust (today known as the Trustees of Reservations), and the nation's first metropolitan parks commission (today part of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation).

The key aim of the trail is to inform children and adults that live and work in the Waverley neighborhood of Belmont and Waltham that they live in a place that should be known not only for its outstanding car wash and bike shop, but also for its internationally significant role in in the history of conservation. The Trail was entirely financed by a set of local citizens and businesses who want to keep the neighborhood's historic legacy alive. As noted at the Waverley Trail dedication ceremony by Belmont Selectman Paul Solomon, "should members of the current generation of schoolchildren be inspired by the Trail's story, and by the sight of the single Waverley Oak that has survived into the twenty-first century, then the three-year initiative to conceive, design, and build the Trail will have been well worth the effort."

To learn more about the Waverley Trail -- perhaps as an example of what might be done in your own neighborhood to highlight local cultural and natural resources -- see www.waverleytrail.org. A video offering an overview of the Waverley Trail created by the New England Cable News is available by clicking [on this link](#).

New Regional Focus at Highstead Job *Opening for Regional Field Coordinator*

Highstead, a regional conservation organization that operates a natural area and arboretum in southwestern Connecticut, is creating the new position of Regional Woodland Conservationist to increase regional-scale forest stewardship and land protection across southern New England. The primary responsibilities of the Woodland Regional Conservationist will be : (1) to investigate models and advance efforts in landscape-scale conservation, (2) to enhance the regional and national role of Highstead by building partnerships with individuals and organizations focused on landscape- and regional-scale conservation, and (3) to expand Highstead's education and communication programs aimed at facilitating regional collaboration.

Given that Highstead is anxious to facilitate the establishment and growth of regional conservation partnerships that promote outreach, information exchange and land protection, the new position is particularly well-suited for candidates who enjoy discovering and sharing emerging ideas and best practices in the field of land conservation. For more information on the new position, and for application materials, please write to the Conservationist Search Committee, Highstead, PO Box 1097, Redding Center, CT 06875.

Conservation Innovation UPDATE is a publication of the Program on Conservation Innovation at the Harvard Forest, with additional support from the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

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