



# Powissett Press

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*"...to use my land for camping and other outdoor activities, and to do so with a feeling that it belongs to all..." Robert Sever Hale*

## Naturally Speaking

# Fishers in Our Midst

**M**ANY FOLKS have now heard a bit about fishers lurking in the woods in suburban areas. They may have heard of their night prowling tactics, their interest in small mammals as a snack, or their eerie scream. Once described as shy creatures that avoid human contact, fishers are now regularly seen. We know Hale Reservation is an attractive habitat for fishers and sightings amongst our staff and visitors continue to increase. This includes a group of campers and staff witnessing one bounding off during camp this summer.



The Fisher  
(*Martes pennanti*)

The fisher has been struggling with an identity crisis since the arrival of Europeans on the East Coast. To the Abenaki Indians of Northern New England, the fisher was known as pekan, but in the 1600's, European fur trappers misidentified the fisher as the European polecat. Polecats, the wild ancestor of domesticated ferrets, are very similar to fishers aside from their coloring. Fishers however, are found only in the US and Canada. Both are members of the weasel family and are approximately the same size. To this day the names "fisher" or "fisher cat," a name unique to the East Coast, are confusing misnomers since the fisher is neither a cat nor does it eat fish. Its misleading name was derived from Fichet, the French word for a polecat pelt, meaning "nasty."

Prized for their luxurious fur, fishers were entirely eliminated from New England and facing extinction by the early 1900's. Both the physical and cultural landscape was very different then. Fisher habitat was cleared for farms and trapping was completely unregulated. It was not until the 1950's, with the reintroduction of 125 fishers as part of Vermont's reforestation program, that dramatic population increases were noted in the East. Fishers,

- one of the few natural predators of porcupines,
- were re-introduced to control the porcupine population which had skyrocketed out of control since the fisher had been eliminated.
- The unchecked growth of the "porky" population had reached a nuisance level as they chewed everything, including the valuable, young, trees that were intended to reforest the state. By 1962, the fisher had recovered enough to reopen regulated trapping.

- As humans have expanded their living area (Mass Audubon claims that Massachusetts loses nearly 80 acres/day to development), we are forced to live more closely with all types of wildlife. Given the ability of a young fisher kit to travel up to 70 miles seeking a new territory, we can be sure there will be more interactions. Look closely while you travel the trails at Hale, hopefully you will have a chance to spot this illusive forest resident.





# ACT 1.5

**I**N THE SPRING, I used this space to celebrate our successful completion of “Act I” in our multi-phased effort to expand our role as a leader in outdoor education and recreation. The results of those efforts continue to bare fruit. Summer camp was fantastic, the Membership Beach community was once again vibrant and full, and our fall schedule of school programs is busier than ever.

We have also been putting together the cast for Act II. This past summer we completed a project with Boston Architectural College students who developed a master plan for the orchard, butterfly garden and some future maintenance areas. Late this summer, we evaluated some strategically significant parcels of abutting land. This fall we will continue the careful planning process required before we begin another effort to expand and enhance programs and facilities.

As I inch close to ten years of service at Hale Reservation, I only see more we can accomplish. Sure, with volunteer leadership and an amazing staff we have been able to accomplish a lot, but there is so much more we can do. There is no shortage of creative programming ideas or improved facility concepts that will dramatically help us to better our mission. We all look forward to the next Act.

With the fall annual appeal campaign upon us, I also want to thank our annual donors for their continued support. Our improvements and success are directly related to your gifts.

Enjoy the fall and let me know if you are interested in being part of our cast for the next Act.

Eric Arnold  
*Executive Director*

## Meet the Board

**Chris McKeown** is a Westwood resident who works for the town as the Westwood Station Project Manager, Economic Development Officer and the Veteran Affairs Agent. The many hats he wears in his professional life are duplicated in the diversity of his involvement with the community. Chris coaches the Thurston Middle School boys hockey team, is an outdoor enthusiast, and is an avid cyclist; there aren't many Pan Mass Challenge rides that he hasn't been in—having participated 26 years in a row! Chris spent 9 years in the U.S. Navy Nuclear Submarine Force and holds a degree from

Northeastern. Chris joined the Board of Directors at Hale in 2003, is currently the Vice President and Chairs the Finance and Administration Committee.



*Chris McKeown, Maureen Bleday  
and Jack Wiggin enjoying a moment  
at the Trading Post.*

- ERIC ARNOLD — *Executive Director*
- JULIA BRUNE — *Membership Beach Director*
- DIANE COLLINS — *Finance Director*
- BRIAN DAVIS — *Facilities Assistant*
- TOM DIETZEL — *Ranger*
- ADRIENNE FARFALLA — *Education Director*
- STEVE LARSEN — *Director of Programs*
- PAULA McLAUGHLIN — *Director of Development*
- ROBERT PARR — *Facilities Director*
- JAMES REINHOLD — *Camp Director*
- JAY WALSH — *Environmental Resource Manager*

- BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S OFFICERS:
- JUANITA ALLEN KINGSLEY — *President*
  - CHRIS MCKEOWN — *Vice President*
  - TRUM CARY — *Treasurer*
  - BOB TRUESDALE — *Assistant Treasurer*

DESIGN — Holtz Design [holtzdesign.com](http://holtzdesign.com)

Hale Reservation is a private, non-profit educational organization that manages over 1,100 acres of woodlands, including four ponds and over twenty miles of trails in Westwood and Dover, Massachusetts. Hale is most widely recognized for its summer day camp programs which annually serve over 4,400 children from over 70 communities in the Greater Boston area. Hale Reservation also offers a family program, outdoor and environmental education experiences for children and adults, and open space for casual recreational use.

The essence of Hale Reservation can be found in Robert Sever Hale's original desires for the organization he began in 1918. The current programs and land management practices are the legacy of his desire "to provide education which will develop intelligent, capable and responsible citizens" and to use the land "so long as it is charitable and benevolent in nature." Today's programs strive to develop intelligent leaders and educated environmental citizens. We also believe that the diversity of the natural environment must be reflected back in the diversity of the people who experience our programs. Therefore, we strive to provide programs and opportunities for people of any race, background, religion or economic status.



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# Martha Crawford Remembers...

by Theresa Cunningham

**A** QUICK STROLL around the Membership Beach parking lot will demonstrate how members return year after year; more than half the cars are colored with decals dating many years prior. Although many members are not new to the beach, Martha Crawford of Westwood has been enjoying the wonders of Hale since 1967 when she first joined Membership Beach with her young children. Crawford remained a member for nearly twenty years until her children were grown. Over two decades later, in 2003, she rediscovered Membership Beach and has joined as a senior citizen every year since.

While much of the beach has remained the same in terms of outward appearance, Crawford recalls a facility with significantly fewer organized activities than the Membership Beach of today. Swimming lessons were offered in the mornings only and although there were opportunities for fishing and boating, no formal instruction was provided. Additionally,



*Martha & Theresa enjoying the senior citizen cookout.*

the beach was open to Westwood and Dover residents only. Members enjoyed swimming, hiking, and picnicking just as they do today. Members in those days were also able to participate in an ice skating program offered in the winter.

For the Crawford family, time at Membership Beach was an important part of their childhood summers. Crawford remembers that she and her daughters came to the beach every day and stayed for lunch. She feels that summers at Hale were especially pivotal for her younger daughter, Amy, who worked for a water and ski patrol

service in Vermont after being certified in many Red Cross programs through Hale. Crawford herself took an adult lifesaving course that was offered at Membership Beach many years ago.

Since returning to Hale in 2003 Crawford has been active as a senior member, attending regular cookouts and participating in aqua aerobics classes. She always encourages young families to join Membership Beach because she initially joined on the recommendation of a friend.

While the Membership Beach of 2010 may include a host of programs for patrons of all ages including boating lessons, archery and a teen program, there's also improved facilities including the playgrounds and bathrooms. The mission, however, remains the same. Membership Beach provides an opportunity for families to enjoy the outdoors each summer.

Theresa Cunningham: Member 1999–2007, Arts and Crafts Assistant, 2005, Lifeguard, 2006–2007, Water Safety Instructor, 2008–2009, Supervisor, 2010.

## The Pen & Paddle Writers Group

**N**EW THIS YEAR at Membership Beach was a fun and informal, nature inspired, adult and youth writers group that met weekly at the beach. They did short writing exercises exploring different techniques and points of view. Below are some samples of acrostic poetry produced by children.



The Pen and Paddle Writers Group also wrote Haiku poems about Membership Beach. (Haikus are Japanese poems, three lines long, typically about nature. The first line has five syllables, the second seven, the third five.) Here are some samples:

**Blueberry season,  
Stained fingers pick ruby jewels,  
Nature Jay's dessert"**

**Suzanne (Adult)**

**"Swim in the deep end  
My feet kicking the water  
Fishies swim with me."**

**Kendall, Age 5**

**S**wimming in the deep end  
**W**ater feels good  
**I**ce cold  
**M**ommy doesn't go in when it's cold  
**M**y sister likes swimming with me  
**I** love swimming in water  
**N**o more Hale  
**G**reen leaves gone

**Kendall age 5**

**H**ills are steep  
**I** love hiking  
**K**ids sweating because they are hot  
**I**tchy mosquito bites  
**N**ext trail  
**G**oing home

**Lauren age 5**

# Upcoming Programs

Hale Reservation offers a wide variety of fun outdoor activities for family members of all ages. Over the course of the year you have the opportunity to snowshoe, canoe, listen for owls, mountain bike, learn to use a map and compass, rock climb, in addition to simply walking on over twenty miles of woodland trails. Detailed program information can be viewed at our website [www.HaleReservation.org](http://www.HaleReservation.org). Monthly emails will be sent to all our friends about the upcoming programs. If you would like to be included on this list, please send your email address to [jbrune@HaleReservation.org](mailto:jbrune@HaleReservation.org). Enjoy visiting Hale with your family all year.

## School Early Release Afternoon Outdoor Adventure Programs

Hale is excited to offer new programs to coincide with some of the local early release days of schools in Westwood, Medfield, Wellesley, Dedham, Norwood, and Needham. They are scheduled from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. We combine fun active outdoor activities with guided hikes for ages eight through 12 years of age. All activities are led by Hale professional staff. The following are a few of the upcoming activities:

- Outdoor Living Skills tests participants in the great outdoors as they learn all the basic skills necessary to survive.
- During Map and Compass they learn how to read a map and use it in conjunction with a compass to easily pinpoint their location.
- Animal Trackers learn to identify animal species in the New England area by viewing and examining their pelts, skulls, scat, and tracks firsthand.
- Rock Climbing participants learn the basic skills of rock climbing at Ohio Rock, a large natural boulder right here at Hale.

- Ropes Course participants enjoy playing games within the forest and then putting on their harnesses and getting ready to swing!

Log onto our website for dates, prices and registration information for these programs.

## Nature Mornings for Preschoolers

For one hour a week, bring your preschooler to Hale Reservation for “hands on” nature education. Each Wednesday morning we will gather at the Trading Post. Topics will include: Using Your Senses Outdoors, Tall Trees, What’s Out There, Whose Tracks are These, Let’s Look For Bugs, Nature Stories and other age appropriate topics and activities.

## February Vacation Program

From Tuesday, February 22 through Friday, February 25, join our talented, experienced staff at Hale for four days of exciting indoor and outdoor winter activities for children five to 12 years old. We will have age appropriate activities each day so kids can sign up for single days or all four. The focus is on learning

- winter skills, teambuilding, and having fun with others. Children will learn about where animals live, what they eat, and how to identify their tracks. And of course, there will be campfires and marshmallows.

## Other Upcoming Programs

### COMING IN NOVEMBER

- Let’s Look For Crepuscular Creatures
- Adventure Day

### COMING IN JANUARY

- Owls Eve for Families
- Family Moonlight Tracking
- Moonlight Adult Snowshoe

### COMING IN FEBRUARY

- Family Moonlight Tracking
- Owls Eve for Families
- Moonlight Adult snowshoeing

## 2011 SUMMER PROGRAMS

### Hale Day Camp

Registrations open January 1.  
Early incentive rates end  
January 31, 2011.

### Membership Beach

Registrations open January 1.  
Early incentive rates end  
February 28, 2011.

Brochures will be mailed to 2010 campers and members in December.



## Three Notes

By Holly Mawn

**I**MAGINE A PEACEFUL summer morning: the air is still, the sunlight is soft, and there are no sounds except the occasional chirp of a bird or rustle of a squirrel running up a tree. While this scene might be ideal for those who choose to sleep in and spend their summers rejuvenating in peace, it doesn't interest me. For me, a summer morning without song and laughter just doesn't feel right.

I came to Hale Day Camp last year without really knowing what the daily experience was going to be like. I had been to many camps as a youngster and then as a counselor-in-training, but it had been a couple years since those



*Holly Mawn with a camper.*

experiences. I quickly learned, and have grown to appreciate even more in the two whole summers since my first day, is that camp is full of energy like no other.

Around 8:30 a.m., children come pouring out of cars and buses ready to start another fun-filled day, bringing with them enough sound to wake an entire neighborhood. The energy the campers bring is contagious; even after a restless night I can't help but get

caught up in their stories and jokes. And then the singing starts. A song sung at morning circle can get stuck in your head all day. To some, that might be distracting, perhaps annoying even, but simply sing three notes from the song and suddenly you have a group of ten campers singing along with you. After a morning where a camp classic has been sung, (Bazooka Bubblegum, for example) you can hear it all over camp for the rest of the day. Campers clap and cheer and beg to sing it again. So for me, singing the Bazooka Bubblegum song for the ninth time in one day is always fun.

Working at Hale this past summer taught me that it doesn't take much to turn a five-minute walk into an exciting and memorable moment. I hope that this school year, when I struggle to get out of bed for my 8 a.m. class, all I will have to do is hum a camp song and some of that summer energy will come back.

Holly Mawn: Summer Camp Counselor  
2009 – 2010

## Carnival Soup – Summer 2010

**A**NYONE INVOLVED with Hale is well aware of the vast number of campers who come each summer. With nine agency camps there is a growing number of communities that are represented by the camp population. One of our goals, and biggest challenges, is to find ways to integrate these camps. It has been over 15 years since an "all camp" event and the challenge to make it happen in 2010 was embraced by Hale's Program Director, Steve Larsen and directors of various camps at Hale.

Early in the spring, directors from Waltham and Watertown Boys and Girls Clubs got together with Hale staff and aimed to create a camp wide fair. And so it was born. A bit like "Stone Soup" everyone had a little something to contribute. Putting their

collective heads together, the group came up with games of chance and skill. "It sort of came alive before our eyes," said Program Director, Steve Larsen. "One person would say that they had a bean bag toss and that would trigger another to say that they could come up with a balloon dart game, that led to the question 'how hard would it be to do a water-balloon toss?'" And on it went.

A former camp director now working for a restaurant thought a hotdog lunch would be perfect and he got his employer, Watertown's 21 Nickels, to donate the food. It all seemed to be taking shape. But with any event of this nature, it needed some funding. "We really thought, wouldn't it be great if we had a budget to rent a dunk tank and a sno-cone machine?"



*Campers enjoying the dunk tank.*

Perhaps even come up with a few small prizes for the games?" But since this idea sprang up mid summer, there was no budget. Enter Needham Bank.

A call to the office explaining the situation and an explanation of who would benefit from the donation and the budget problem was resolved.

So just like in the fable "Stone Soup," lots of people contributing something made it a day to remember for hundreds of campers.



## Hale Teaching Teachers

In November, Hale staff will be presenting two workshops at the MAHPERD (Massachusetts Health Physical Education Recreation and Dance) convention in Worcester. The workshops presented will be Orienteering for Fitness and Teambuilding for the Future.

In addition, Hale is offering a teacher education program called "What's in your Schoolyard?" through The Education Collaborative.

## Bringing the Outdoors into School

**D**URING THE past few years, there has been a steady groundswell supporting outdoor education and experiential learning. Knowledge about youth obesity, shrinking open space for children to explore, and the overwhelming influx of screens (tv, computer, phone, video) has created a genuine concern that our youth today are not as connected with the natural world as generations past. The impact is still unknown but given our warming climate and the plethora of environmental challenges that will face future generations, it is important that today's youth have a real connection to nature. The concern is real and has begun to take shape as legislation in Washington D.C. named "No Child Left Inside."

Hale Reservation is directly working to address these concerns. Education and Adventure programs with schools have dramatically expanded in the past few years and these partnerships continue to be an invaluable way we achieve our mission. Although this isn't a complete list by

any stretch, Hale educators currently work with the following schools to design creative, active outdoor education programs:

- Beaver Country Day, Newton (Ropes, Teambuilding and Raft Building Program)
- Bentley University, Waltham (Ropes and Teambuilding)
- Blessed Sacrament School, Walpole (Ropes and Teambuilding)
- Derby Academy, Hingham (Ropes and Teambuilding)
- Devotion School, Brookline (Ropes, Teambuilding, Shipwreck and Overnight Program)
- Mason Rice, Newton (Ropes and Teambuilding)
- McAuliffe Regional Charter School, Framingham (Map & Compass, Shipwreck and High Ropes Program)
- Newbury College, Boston (Ropes and Teambuilding)
- St. John's Church, Westwood (Boating and Ropes)
- Thurston 7th Grade, Westwood (Vernal Pool Program)
- Ursuline Academy, Dedham (Ropes and Teambuilding)
- Wellesley 5th Grade (Ropes, Teambuilding, Nature Studies, Map and Compass and Shipwreck Program)
- Weston 9th Grade (Ropes and - Teambuilding)
- Young Achievers, Jamaica Plain (Ropes and Teambuilding)



# Hale belongs to all...

**H**ALE IS A GIFT to us all - the open space, the beautiful ponds, the miles of trails that are enjoyed by many. These 1,100 acres are a lot to cover and to manage not to mention the large number of visitors that come to Hale each year. Between campers, hikers, dog walkers, and program participants, it is estimated that there will be over 100,000 visits this year alone. With a very small year round staff, one has to wonder how everything gets done. The answer is simple, it's the people—the volunteers, the visitors, the donors, the board who work together to make sure that Hale is a place where all want to be.

Volunteers help maintain the property. They come by themselves or by the hundreds but without them, many chores would not get done. In the last 12 months, volunteers have groomed miles of trails, painted several buildings, removed overgrown weeds and trees that were encroaching on the dam, helped with geese control, and assisted the staff with a laundry list of things to be done. In addition, these volunteers also contributed by helping



*A volunteer group helps clear a trail.*

with office work or with events like the triathlon which raises money to send children to camp.

Visitors also make Hale special. It's the people who come and give Hale life. They walk the trails, greet one another, pick up the stray piece of trash that was left behind, or bring in their left over plastic bags for the dog waste stations around Hale. On the occasion when someone gets a little confused on a trail or forgets to pick up after their pet, there is usually a Hale regular who can point them in the right direction or remind them that we all need to leave no trace behind.

Of course we would be remiss if we didn't mention the donors. Without financial support, Hale could not exist as we know it. Dollars raised allow us to maintain a healthy and happy Hale, a place that is able to offer programs to schools, camp opportunities to the masses, and even a quiet place to walk a dog nine months out of the year.

And last, but certainly not least, is a dedicated board who put in so much time for the love of Hale and who recognize the value of all these groups working together with the staff to make Hale the sort of place we are all proud to be a part of.

Hale belongs to all of us.

## Hale is a gift...



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CARD NO. \_\_\_\_\_

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HALE RESERVATION began as a generous gift to all of us.

We are sustained by gifts from friends like you, enabling us to share our resources and wonderful programs.

Thank you for doing your part.

Yes, I would like to help Hale continue the tradition. Enclosed is my gift of

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

to help preserve, protect and allow for public use of the natural resources at Hale Reservation.



*Hale staff admire the new modified pontoon boat recently launched in Noanet Pond.*

## Ever Seen a Floating Classroom?

**W**ELL, SOON YOU'LL be able to see one and perhaps actually board one at Hale Reservation. Thanks to a grant from the Smith Family Foundation an adapted pontoon-boat arrived at Hale in late September. A quiet electric motor and some solar panels keep the boat moving. The vessel will be equipped with water quality monitors, depth detectors, computers, binoculars, wildlife guide books, and a wide variety of educational information. The floating

• classroom will be able to tour Noanet Pond and give  
• students of all ages a chance for in-depth learning  
• about aquatic environments.

• Who will be our students? Schools, scout groups,  
• families, youth groups, campers, family members.  
• We hope you will be a part of an aquatic tour in  
• the spring of 2011.

• Bon Voyage!



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