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Naturally Speaking

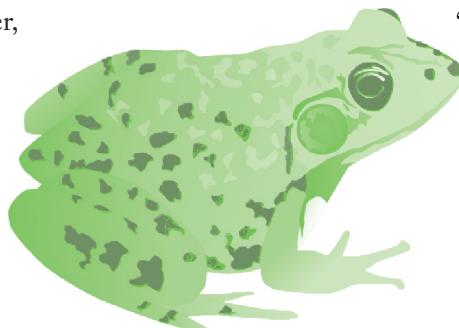
The Green Frog

ATIMLESS MEMORY for any camper at Hale is a visit to Storrow Pond. Armed with either a homemade fishing rod to catch “sunnies” or a dip-net for collecting insects and tadpoles, the anticipation of coming face to face with one of natures creatures never seems to get old. Nothing ramps up the excitement level as much as when a camper catches a slippery frog either by hand or with a net. The squeals of delight can spoil the chances for anyone else to catch something but campers all seem to delight in “sharing” their treasure.

With several bodies of water, Hale is a favorite spot for frogs, toads and salamanders. It is safe to say that they far outnumber the campers we get each summer. The female frog will lay up to 7,000 eggs in the water at one time and the male will then fertilize the eggs. It takes weeks for tadpoles to hatch, and for three to four months, they remain in the tadpole stage. As a froglet, still with a visible tail, they begin to branch out of the water until the tail disappears and they become the commonly found (and heard) adult Green Frog.

Green Frogs are active all night and day. They will eat just about anything they can fit in their mouths including insects, spiders, tadpoles and even other frogs. The Green Frog is not without its own predators. Ducks, mallards, herons, crows and snakes will feast on Green Frogs and tadpoles. Staying close to the shoreline allows the frogs to leap back in the water when approached by enemies. Green Frogs are also known as the “screaming frog” because they often let out a yelp during escape.

Though frogs are “icky” and “slimy,” campers seem to love them. For many children catching a frog is their first chance to observe a wild living creature up-close. For counselors, it is an occurrence known as the



The Northern Green Frog
(*Rana clamitans melanota*)

“teachable moment.” It is the perfect time to educate campers while their attention is focused solely on the smiling child with the wriggling frog.

Frogs and their amphibian cousins are very vulnerable to changes in their environment.

Anything that touches their moist, permeable skin is readily absorbed into their bodies. Because of this, they act as “a canary in the coal mine” warning us of contaminants in the water. As an eco-indicator, they expose early warning signs if something is wrong with the environment. By simply observing changes in the pond, such as frog populations or biological deformities in frogs, one could surmise that there was something harmful in the water. Given the number of happy campers every summer, it appears that the environment at Hale is healthy — there are plenty of frogs to catch.

While at Hale, children discuss and learn all about these threads of ecological connectivity as they explore. They are taught to handle frogs, toads and salamanders with responsibility and are reminded that even the bug spray and sunscreen on their hands contain chemicals that are toxic to the very creatures they are holding. Although we encourage the hands on approach to learning, we make sure to do so with care.

“...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



Time Flies

T'S 2011, and it does not seem like 11 years ago we were preparing for Y2K and anxiously waiting for the start of the new millennium. It sure feels like time is moving really fast. I know that happens to all of us when we try to remember years gone by or measure the age of our children, but the addition of a "1" in the "10's column" impacted me in a slightly different way when put into Hale historical context. It was during the "teens" that Hale Reservation began.

In the spring of 1918, Robert Sever Hale wrote a letter to C.H. Ernst, the District Commissioner of the Boston Area Boy Scout Council, offering his land to be used for scouting. This initial offering is what began youth activities in Dover and Westwood and has now evolved into the many programs and camps at Hale Reservation. At the time, Mr. Hale offered some activities that today would break every Conservation Commission rule (including draining a part of the marsh and building a dam to create a pond) and he encouraged boys to build "a shanty" and "set any traps or do any hunting that would be proper for Scouts."

What the creeping (or racing) of time means is that we are only eight years away from celebrating the 100th anniversary of the start of Hale Reservation. Although it is a bit hard to start thinking about a celebration that is eight years away, the observation of our Centennial will be an important moment in our history. At this point, we will continue to think about the improvements and progress we can make in the coming years so that when we ring in the 100th Anniversary of Hale Reservation, confident that we are improving the lives of thousands of children, families and visitors.

In the meantime, please make sure you browse this newsletter. You will have a chance to gather some facts about the Green Frog, explore the public programs we will be offering this spring, hear from three generations of family members, and learn about a new land purchase made by Hale Reservation.

Until 2018... actually, until summer, I look forward to seeing you on the trails!

Eric Arnold
Executive Director



Welcome

Jan Parr Hale is pleased to welcome back Jan Parr to the front office. Many visitors may remember Jan as the program registrar who worked at Hale from 2005–2006. She returns to expanded responsibilities as the new administrator at Hale. It has been a smooth transition back to Hale for Jan, in part due

to her familiarity with most of the staff and many of the procedures in place. Jan has a degree in Park Management from University of Massachusetts at Amherst and is a past President of the Sharon Historical Society and the Friends of Borderland State Park. Among her co-workers most excited to see her return is her husband Bobby, the facilities director at Hale.

<p>ERIC ARNOLD — <i>Executive Director</i> JULIA BRUNE — <i>Membership Beach Director</i> DIANE COLLINS — <i>Finance Director</i> BRIAN DAVIS — <i>Facilities Assistant</i> TOM DIETZEL — <i>Ranger</i> ADRIENNE FARFALLA — <i>Education Director</i> STEVE LARSEN — <i>Director of Programs</i> PAULA McLAUGHLIN — <i>Public Relations Director</i> JAN PARR — <i>Office Administrator</i> ROBERT PARR — <i>Facilities Director</i> JAMES REINHOLD — <i>Camp Director</i> JAY WALSH — <i>Environmental Resource Manager</i></p>

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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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Three Generations of Members

by Theresa Cunningham

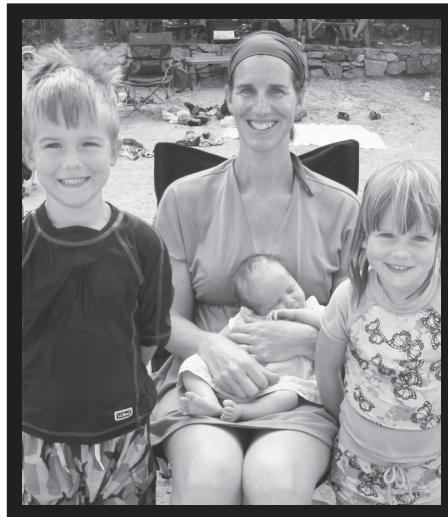
EACH SUMMER Membership Beach provides organized lessons and activities for over 400 families with children of all ages. For the Hall's of West Roxbury spending summers at Hale is a family tradition. Alicia Keenan-Hall, was a member as a child and so it was an easy decision when she and her husband Andrew made up their minds to join with their three children, Erik age 4 ½, Cassie age 3, and newborn Annikki. When Alicia's mom Lois also chose to return, there were three generations enjoying the "Best Beach in the World."

Lois joined when Alicia was seven. At the time, Alicia participated in swimming lessons, boating and arts and crafts - the only organized activities offered at the time. As a teenager, she became very active in the Membership Beach swim team, which competed locally. Alicia was a proud member of the team during the 1987 season when Membership Beach won the summer league championship.

The Hall's enjoy many of the same activities that were popular years ago. There is something timeless about children making arts and crafts projects, swimming in the pond with friends, or searching for turtles. They are happy, however, that today there are more activities offered than ever before. They look forward to taking part in the Kids Fun Triathlon, which Erik and Cassie competed in last year, and the popular Family Hoe Down that is quickly becoming a member favorite.

Alicia Keenan-Hall looks back on her childhood summers fondly and wants these same experiences for her children. At Membership Beach, there are always plenty of opportunities for wonderful memories for generations to come.

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



*The Hall Family,
Erik, Alicia, Cassie
and baby Annikki,
enjoying another
wonderful day at
Membership Beach.*

PART OF THE MISSION at Hale is to offer educational experiences that foster responsibility, leadership and appreciation for the natural environment. Over the past two years, we have seen an increase in groups for our education and adventure programs. It is great to see that schools and organizations still value the importance of our programs.

As educators, we want to see the positive change that people experience after learning how to work together, use a compass, or build a fire. We relish witnessing the "ah-ha" moment when a person realizes their compass is



Students learning to use a compass.

pointing in the right direction or their group challenge is a success because they have communicated effectively.

Our Education and Adventure program consists of many different hands on learning activities such

as Pond Discoveries, Geology, Map and Compass, Survivor Games, Teambuilding, and the Low and High Ropes challenges.

Upcoming Programs

Hale Reservation offers a wide variety of outdoor exploration and education programs for family members of all ages. Detailed program information is emailed to our friends. To receive these emails, contact jbrune@HaleReservation.org. Information is also posted on our website: www.HaleReservation.org. To register for a program, call us at 781-326-1770 or if applicable, download a registration form.

MOUNTAIN BIKE TRIPS

Go for a guided mountain bike ride on our beautiful trails.

PEAK TO PEAK HIKES

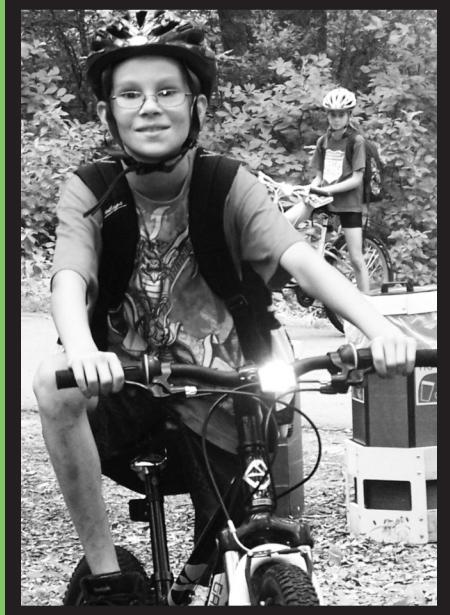
An event for the adventuresome family – enjoy a four mile, picturesque hike over the rough terrain between Powissett Peak and Nimrod's Rock. The view west over Powissett Plains and the view east to Boston are magnificent.

FAMILY WALKING EXPLORATIONS

A Hale naturalist will lead a walk exploring the seasonal landscape of Hale and sharing the wonders of its natural history.

SUNSET SERENADES

For a short period of time in the early spring, the sky and forest are full of animals, feathered and furred, making their way to their summer homes. Come explore and observe these creatures with the help of a Hale naturalist.



WESTWOOD EARTH WEEK

Watch for more information on our website as Hale Reservation supports the Westwood community with Earth Week activities.

BIODIVERSITY DAY AT HALE

Join Hale staff as we take census of different species at Hale. A fun educational opportunity for the whole family as we search for birds, plants, insects, salamanders and mushrooms.

FULL MOON CANOE TRIPS

Enjoy a canoe trip under a full moon on Noanet Pond. We provide the canoes.

INTRODUCTION TO MAP AND COMPASS

A naturalist will take you through the steps of how to use a map and compass to explore Hale Reservation.

FAMILY GEOCACHING

Geocaching is a fun activity where participants must find their way to a given point using navigation tools. The destination is the location of a hidden treasure for the geocachers to enjoy! GPS units are provided.

ADVENTURE DAYS FOR FAMILIES

A day of outdoor adventure for families led by Hale staff will include ropes, team-building and rock climbing activities, trail hiking and GPS exploration, fishing and nature exploration, mountain biking, and field games.

GIANT SWING ADVENTURES

Youth groups ages eight and up will enjoy playing games in the forest, putting on their harnesses and getting ready to swing! Groups work as a team to give each person an opportunity to fly on the Giant Swing. Select any Monday through Thursday, in late April through mid-May.

NEW IN 2011

Hale Race Series

Building on the success and popularity of our annual triathlon, Hale is adding a series of 5K races for 2011. The courses will vary from race to race and each will be a trail run that challenges the outdoor enthusiast and showcases some of the most beautiful parts of our property. Sat April 30, Sat June 25, Wed July 27, Sun Aug 28, Sun Oct 23



Floating Classroom Excursion

Take a ride on our floating classroom. Enjoy some time aboard our pontoon boat while you learn about water clarity, oxygen levels, and the aquatic and pond edge species that make up the Noanet Pond environment.



HALLOWEEN HIKES

In October, come walk the trails and meet your forest friends – at each encounter, a costumed animal character will tell you about themselves and their habitat. At the end of the trail, there is a camp fire and marshmallows.

HALE TRIATHLON

Sunday, September 11, 2011 Make room on your calendar for the eighth annual Hale Triathlon! Each year this event raises money to ensure that children in need are able to enjoy camp at Hale Reservation. In 2011, the adult and youth races will be back. Look for practice sessions throughout the summer.



RED CROSS PROGRAMS

In June, the following courses are offered: Water Safety Instructor Training, Lifeguard Training, Lifeguard Review, CPR Review.

April Vacation Program SAVE THE DATE April 19-21

THE AWAKENING FOREST GRADES 1-3

Come visit Hale at the most exciting time of the year, spring! Participants will explore the natural surroundings as they awaken from the winter sleep. Loads of hands on activities engage children in learning about the environment around them.

CABIN FEVER ADVENTURES GRADES 4-6

Are your kids itching to get outside? We'll take full advantage of the 1,100 acres Hale has to explore as we rock climb and rappel our newly established 80' rock wall and hike all four corners of the property in search of fun! Activities vary each day and will focus on experiential learning, outdoor adventure and survival skills!



Trash to treasure

SOME STAFF members at Hale are very creative when it comes to finding new uses for things that other people might throw away. As the saying goes, one man's trash is another man's treasure and at Hale there are plenty of treasures. Most recently, the success of our recent capital campaign enabled us to replace or upgrade some buildings on site leaving what some would consider useless scrap. While many people would have discarded the leftover wood, the facilities team at Hale found countless ways to re-use what was salvageable.

Though we are thrilled to have several new bathrooms available, there was a question about what we should do with the old outhouses. Any that were deemed unsafe were removed but those whose structures were solid were turned into mini storage sheds.

Planks from a torn down pavilion are now part of a deck, the gutters from the old Trading Post have been installed at the Maintenance Garage, the sinks from the Membership Beach old bathrooms were used at the Wellness Center, and so the list goes on.

This isn't anything new for Hale. As a matter of fact, next time you visit, take a look at the main office. Much of the structure was built with old telephone poles that Robert Sever Hale rescued from his days with the Edison Company.



Experience by Design

By James Reinhold, Camp Director

SAM COULDN'T remember a better day. As he got on the bus to go home, all he could think about was how much fun he had! First there was the skit he and his fellow campers did at morning circle. Then he was off to find a treasure but instead discovered a cool new spot that is now the "base camp" for the Cardinals. By 11:00 he was playing his favorite game before heading off to swim lessons. After lunch he hiked to the ropes course where he flew through the trees on a zip line. Topping the day off with free swim, Sam was quite honestly buzzing with happiness!

At Hale Day Camp (HDC) no two days are ever exactly alike. It is our goal to make sure that each day campers come home feeling that this was their best day.



Happy Smiling Faces at Hale Day Camp

During training, the week before camp starts, staff gathers and begins to review the camp's Policies & Procedures. We discuss camper behavior issues and how to handle group dynamics, as well as the best five techniques for getting a five year old out of the pond and into dry clothes in less than three minutes. We try to cover everything, but beyond the day

to day routines, we are always trying to implement the idea of what their job really is — helping campers make great memories.

Every day at HDC, we focus on the little things that make camp work and hope that we did everything possible to make it a day to remember for our campers.

What Did You Learn at Camp This Summer?

LAST SUMMER we surveyed campers from all areas at Hale to document and measure developmental outcomes. The Camp Youth Outcomes Battery was made available by the American Camp Association and measures seven desirable behaviors and attitudes we hope to foster in our campers which include friendship, independence, teamwork, family citizenship, competence, interest in exploration, and responsibility.

Over 280 campers answered questions like "Has camp helped you make friends more easily?" or "Since going to camp, are you better at choosing things to do in your free time?" The answers, on a scale of 1 to 5 were compiled and distributed and will become a valuable tool for evaluating a camp program's effectiveness year to year.

The results will provide a baseline of information we will repeat each year. This will help measure, not only camper's growth, but how we as camps can grow with them.



Data from surveys collected will enable our staff to improve the overall camp experience.

As a Matter of Fact...

EVERY OFTEN within these pages we see the phrase "Hale Matters." But what does that mean, who does it matter to? Here are just a few people who feel that Hale Matters...

KYLE RUDMAN

Kyle is a student from The Education Collaborative (TEC) who has been coming to Hale for the past four years as a volunteer. TEC provides member and non-member school districts with an array of services designed to address the needs of students with moderate to intensive disabilities. Kyle's responsibilities vary a little each week but mostly consist of clearing trails and general clean up. Kyle always greets the office staff with a big hello before getting to work. Sometimes Kyle brings classmates with him and proudly shows them the lay of the land. Two years ago when Kyle was transferring from one school to another, he insisted he continue his involvement with Hale. "I'm not sure they can do it without me," was his thought. And we're not sure we could have. We love having Kyle as a volunteer staff member



Kyle Rudman receives an award for Volunteer of the Year from Juanita Allen Kingsley.

and know he is a great example of why Hale is so important to so many people.

THE THOMAS FAMILY

Avid hikers and mountain bikers, Richard and Ann Thomas are frequent visitors to Hale. As Westwood residents, they appreciate having the trails so close to home. Their daughters learned to swim at Membership Beach while also enjoying many of the other activities offered. Through visits with their school, both girls have experienced the Ropes Course and Education Programs. Ann explained that when their church hosts outings at Hale, the whole family takes part. "Once a year we sponsor a cookout with games, fishing and boating for homeless folks from Boston who we know through events at City Reach and Common Cathedral. We pick them up at the Norwood train station and take them to Hale, which they love."

The Thomas family shows how much Hale matters to them by contributing not only financially but also as volunteers. Part of the success of our Hale Triathlon can be attributed to their involvement. After years of running the registration table, Ann has let daughter Amanda take over. "Hale has provided so many things to our family. It is a priceless gem! Empowerment through volunteering is another benefit."

CAMP UNITY

Cooper Community Center of Roxbury runs Camp Unity at Hale. More than just a camp, they offer what they call "a unique approach to summer education." Working together with Hale's Environmental Educators, campers take part in unique activities like shelter building and nature exploration.

Executive Director Kevin Fusco elaborates, "We at Cooper are proud of our association with Hale Reservation which enables our children to have fun, develop new skills, and connect with nature. As expressed through the words of an 11 year old who has been attending Camp Unity for the past six years, "I can't wait for Camp to start again... it's the only time I can swim everyday, learn new things about the outdoors, and see my summer friends!"

Yes, Hale Matters!

Please accept my donation.



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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.

Securing an Entrance to Hale Reservation



MANY WHO HAVE driven into Hale's Membership Beach are undoubtedly familiar with the small grey cape style house that abuts the driveway towards the gate guard shack. The house and property, at 573 Dover Road, was carved out of a larger parcel and developed prior to the back land being donated to Hale. For almost forty years, this home has been surrounded by Hale Reservation. Today, we are happy to say that it is part of Hale.

In the fall of 2010, Hale Reservation purchased the property thanks to a generous gift from Duncan and Ellen McFarland and other donors. The property has been on a list of “priorities” for a long time. While it adds only 1.4 acres to the overall 1,130 acres that make up Hale Reservation, its significance is much greater than its size. On three sides, this small parcel

- abuts wetlands that feed into Noanet Pond. Use of fertilizers and other toxins have a huge impact on the health of Hale's waters and the potential of possible development or major construction on the site would have adverse effects for future recreation on our ponds.
 - In addition, a greater presence on this property will allow improved security for our Membership Beach families and facilities and on the less traveled upon areas of Hale's property.



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