

# HALE

## Powissett Press

A Newsletter for Friends and Supporters of Hale • Spring 2016

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## [DO MORE, FOR MORE]

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### • Noanet Dam •

IN 2015, over 100,000 swim lessons were given at Hale. The majority of those lessons were conducted in Noanet Pond, Hale's largest swimming area and the aquatic home to many partner camps that come to Hale as well as our Membership Beach. With so many children learning to swim at Hale, the health and safety of the pond is of utmost importance and maintaining its dam is crucial to Hale's success.

In the mid-20th century, the area that is now Noanet Pond was a Red Cedar swamp; an enormous area with large trees. With water running from the Powissett Brook to the Noanet area, it was easy to see that by building a dam, a pond would form. With the help of many volunteers from surrounding towns and the Army Corp of Engineers, the area was cleaned up, trees were harvested and stumps removed. It was an immense task but it made a transformative difference at Hale.

During a state inspection of the Noanet Dam it was determined that a significant amount of work needs to be done in order to keep it safe. A professional engineering company was hired, trees were removed and underwater divers were sent in to get a closer look. The extent of the work that still needs to be done is yet to be determined.

It's hard to say exactly how many people have learned to swim at Hale. It is even harder to estimate if swim lessons have saved the life of any past Hale campers. We do know, however, that drowning is one of the leading causes of death in young people, especially in

Africans Americans, a population that is well-served at Hale.

The lifesaving aspect alone would be enough to warrant dam repairs, but there is also the essential confidence building in the young people who are learning to swim and boat at Hale. Passing the "Deep End Test" is a major achievement showing a participant has mastered several swim strokes and techniques. For some, this comes after years of lessons and is a proud moment for any camper.

Our current campaign to "Do More, For More" addresses the needs of dam repair. Without a healthy pond, there is no aquatic activity, an area of Hale crucial to our continued success. Work of this nature is expensive but essential. Repairing a dam does not necessarily improve the aesthetics of Hale, but that pales in comparison to the importance of giving children skills that they will use for life.



Eat, drink and be generous!

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual

HALE ABRAZATION

9.17.16

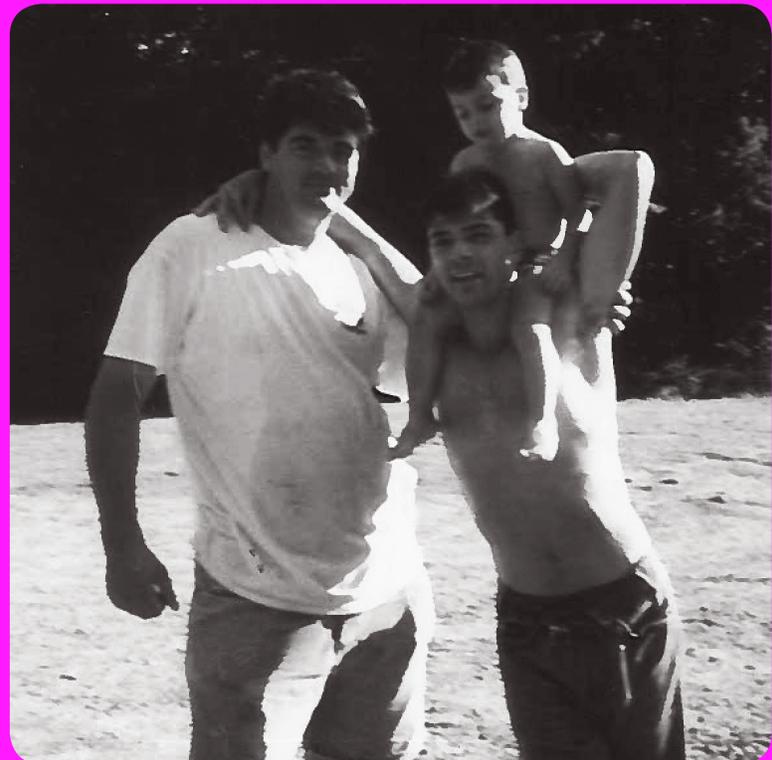
## • Staff Spotlight •

TOM DIETZEL was first drawn to Hale in 1986 as a high school intern from the Norfolk County Agricultural School in Walpole. His interest in wildlife drew him to this school where studies could ultimately lead him to his dream job: Park Management. Tom also worked at Mass Audubon's Moose Hill property in Sharon before attending Unity College in Maine.

After college, Tom eventually made his way back to Hale where he enjoyed being close to home and working with Jim Early, Paul Sheehan and the staff. Tom has been here ever since! For someone who grew up knowing he wanted to work in Park Management, being Hale's ranger is a natural fit. In addition to being part of the Building and Grounds team, Tom also lives on the property in the newly-renovated Trading Post. This gives him a nice home base and Hale a wonderful presence on the property. Tom enjoys the programmatic growth at Hale over the years which allows more kids to benefit from these grounds than ever before. He especially loves when alumni come back to see all of the positive improvements and enjoys catching up with them.

The best parts of Tom's day are the quiet moments when Hale's crepuscular critters make exclusive appearances. In one week, he recalls seeing a mink, a fisher cat, a river otter and a long-tail weasel by the same stream at Storrow Pond. His favorite Hale memories include fishing with his dad in a boat, catching monster bass and attending the Livingston Taylor concert benefiting the Westwood Land Trust. In fact, his hope for the next 25

years is for Hale to grow musically; incorporating classes and lessons for children and adults and maybe even having a summer concert series to get more people out to experience the place he loves to call home.



Tom with his brother, Pat, and nephew, Pat Jr., at Membership Beach circa late 90's.

# • Social Innovators at Hale! •

THE SOCIAL INNOVATION FORUM (SIF) creates positive social change in Greater Boston by engaging leaders, strengthening organizations, and building networks. In December, SIF announced Hale as one of eight non-profits chosen for the 2016 Social Innovator cohort. The group consists of organizations working for social change across eight distinct issue areas, also known as "tracks," in Greater Boston and beyond. Hale represents the "Open Spaces and Natural Resources" track, which is sponsored by the Highland Street Foundation.

Evaluation and interview committees made up of more than 90 social issue experts from the business, government, nonprofit, and philanthropic sectors spent six months reviewing over 170 applicants and interviewing finalists to select this year's Innovator cohort. Other 2016 Innovators are the African Community Education Program, Budget Buddies, Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association, Dorchester Community Food Co-op, Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health, and SMART Team.

"We are thrilled to be recognized for our innovative work in youth development and creative use of open space," says Eric Arnold. "The next six to twelve months with folks from the Social Innovation Forum are sure to provide great insight and motivation. My guess is that we will be a much better organization after our work with SIF."

Over the next two years, Hale will receive financial and capacity-building support valued at more than \$135,000 from the Social Innovation Forum and its partners. We are grateful for this prestigious distinction and are excited for the possibilities this opportunity can bring to fruition!



## • A Letter from the Executive Director •

Dear Friends,

In my 15 years at Hale, I am not sure there has ever been a more exciting time for the organization. Through an extensive fundraising effort, a campaign to "Do More, For More," we are expanding urban programming, making necessary repairs to the Noanet Pond Dam, constructing a new multipurpose building to support the Aspire campers in the summer and other programs in the shoulder seasons, and increasing the staff so that we can continue with future plans.

As we gear up for our centennial in 2018, we are considering what the next century might bring. The initiatives we are considering include a semester school for students during the academic year and an overnight camp for urban youth. At the same time, the board and staff are also seriously considering the option of a conservation restriction for all or a portion of the property, to ensure that it will remain true to its history.

As I observe those I work with every day, I am encouraged by the energy, enthusiasm and approach to tougher goals and by their desire to bring more to those we serve. As I have been meeting with people to share news of this campaign, I have been asked why I am so passionate about Hale. It brings me back to something my father used to say to me during my impressionable teenage years: "Our time on this planet is short and if you aren't doing something good for humanity and the earth, then what the hell are you doing here?" My work at Hale gives me the opportunity to "Do More, For More" and it makes my dad happy. Who could ask for anything more?

Happy trails,

Eric

## • A Letter from the Campaign Co-chairs •

Dear Friends of Hale,

Nearly a century ago, Robert Sever Hale acquired land, just 12 miles west of Boston, to provide outdoor exploration opportunities for "Scouts and other youth." Through careful stewardship of the land and innovative program development for children of the Greater Boston area, the Hale Board has evolved this vision to an 1,137 acre outdoor campus providing recreation for the general public, and, in summer, day camps which provide meaningful enrichment opportunities to more than 4,400 children.

Independent evaluations of Hale's ground-breaking programs for children of the Greater Boston area have shown we are succeeding in encouraging a love of learning, improving health, building relationships, fostering an appreciation of nature and changing lives - one child at a time. We know we can - and must - do more.

Working from our Master Plan, Hale's Board of Directors has identified important areas which are key to our growth and viability. Specifically, expanding youth programs, protecting our most valuable natural resources, growing our capacity and sustaining our day to day operations are all critical to our success.

As long-time residents of Westwood, we cherish this land, the many inspiring programs that happen here throughout the year, and the knowledge that we are making kids' lives better. We are honored to co-chair Hale's campaign to "Do More, For More" and lead the effort to raise \$3,000,000 through this "wrapped campaign" to be completed in 2016.

As part of an extensive network striving to make Hale a leading provider of outdoor services to so many, we know our limitations. We also know that this campaign's success is had with, and only with, your help.

As you listen to our story and consider joining us in the campaign to "Do More, For More," prepare to be inspired - Hale does that to you!

Sincerely,

  
Nancy Harding

  
Jack Troy



## • Our Accomplishments During the Past Eight Years •

- Established Hale Outdoor Learning Adventures (HOLA) - Summer Learning Program for Boston Public School students
- Installed new ropes course at Hale Day Camp
- Initiated fund to support visits from urban schools
- Grew year-round program to 8,000 visits annually
- Increased financial aid program
- Instructed over 110,000 swim lessons annually
- Added 39 acres
- Upgraded nine drinking water wells
- Made ongoing improvements to the Noanet Dam
- Built eight new cabins
- Added four new bathrooms
- Purchased adjoining house
- Hired a Director of Operations
- Added additional office space
- Expanded Advancement Office
- Installed a new database system
- Decreased debt
- Increased endowment from \$500,000 to \$1.1 million

# • Hale's Current Priorities •

- Increase the number of Hale Outdoor Learning Adventure (HOLA) campers in the summer program
- Develop specific partnerships with targeted Boston Public Schools (BPS)
- Create plans for overnight camp program for urban youth
- Expand program for children with Asperger's Syndrome

- Complete Noanet Pond Dam renovation
- Pursue a conservation restriction for all, or a portion of, the property
- Improve water quality
  - Remove outdated outhouses and construct new restrooms
  - Conduct landscape improvement project for North Beach

- Implement expanded public relations and marketing program
- Begin preparations for the Hale Centennial, which will be celebrated in 2018
- Raise annual campership funds to support subsidies and financial aid
- Provide support for annual operations and ongoing facility management

***"Our children were not familiar with the outdoors much at all. Some were afraid to explore the unknown. After a short period of time, it was nice to see those fears diminish and watch the children start to let their guard down and enjoy the world around them."***

***-Program Supervisor***



**TOTAL**  
**\$3,000,000**

**\$1,453,200**  
**Build**  
**Annual Fund,**  
**Camperships**  
**& Capacity**

**\$1,050,000**  
**Expand**  
**Youth**  
**Programs**

**\$496,800**  
**Protect Our**  
**Resources**



## • Looking Back In Time •

ALTHOUGH WE WILL SOON CELEBRATE HALE'S 100<sup>TH</sup> YEAR as an organization, the land was used by ancient man as early as 3,000 B.C. as determined by archaeologists from Harvard's Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology. When this area was first settled in 1635, the property now known as Hale was a favorite hunting and fishing ground for local Native Americans, most notably the Powissett and Wampanoag tribes. In fact, Carby Street is identified as Old Indian Path on early maps. Some families continued to live in Dover for many years, but it is believed that an epidemic of smallpox in 1933 took the lives of those still in the area.

In the 1700s, lumber from Hale was transported to Boston area shipbuilders. The trip was a long one, sometimes taking up to a day. Dover Street in Boston was named in tribute to the men from Dover who made a practice of staying overnight in a particular tavern in

the area before the long trip home.

The clearing of trees for timber allowed for much of this land to be used for pasture. The numerous stone walls that are found throughout Hale were used to mark property and contain livestock.

As we review Hale's history, we find information about notable neighbors such as Thomas Larrabee. Larrabee and his family lived on Strawberry Hill, land that abuts Hale, but he did much of his farming on Hale land. Larrabee was a soldier during the Revolutionary War and his unit was assigned to protect General George Washington. According to records, he fought at Ticonderoga in New York and took part in the crossing of the Delaware. When he returned from the war, he brought some of his fellow soldiers back to the area. Luke Dean, one such soldier, made his home on land that would eventually become Powissett Pond.

## • Welcome, Emily! •

EMILY RIVARD may be our newest full-time employee, but she is certainly no stranger to Hale. During elementary school, Emily's family joined Membership Beach, where she eventually learned to swim. Emily fittingly returned to Hale during summers to teach swim lessons, lifeguard, and eventually become the North Beach Aquatics Director.

After graduating from Norwood High School, Emily attended the University of Massachusetts Amherst where she majored in Public Health and minored in Education. She stayed connected to Hale by working with Education and Adventure facilitators while home on breaks. During her junior year she studied abroad in India, which sparked a love for Asian culture. She knew she had to return one day and in January 2014 was given the opportunity: a Fulbright scholarship to work as an English Teaching Assistant (ETA) in Malaysia.



Emily making friends at Heifer Farm in Rutland, MA.

Emily spent an entire year as a cultural ambassador, helping 13 – 17 year old teens become more confident with their English language skills. Most of the students came from underprivileged neighborhoods and, although many of them knew English, they were scared to utilize it due to a large Muslim population that frowned upon it. Emily drew on her experiences at Hale as a way to engage these kids. After all, she had already taught at North Beach, worked with diverse populations and learned to come up with fun, educational games on the fly. The teambuilding games were a hit with her Malaysian students and ultimately lead to much more frequent use of English, in and out of the classroom.

While in Malaysia, Emily learned about another non-profit that piqued her interest: Heifer International, an organization that works to end hunger and poverty around the world by providing livestock and training to struggling communities. With a learning center in Rutland, MA, it seemed like a natural fit for Emily and she worked there as a residential volunteer on the education team once she returned to the US.

When her stay at the farm was up, Emily reached out to see if there were any job openings at Hale. Fortunately, the revival of the afterschool program and expansion of the Hale Outdoor Learning Adventures (HOLA) program left some gaps that Emily was qualified for and more than happy to fill. We welcome Emily back with open arms and are excited to have her unique perspective here on staff!

# • Help us “Do More, For More” •

**SUMMERS AT MEMBERSHIP BEACH.** Hiking the trails with your family on the weekends. Long walks with the dog in the mornings. Navigating the ropes course. Whatever your connection to Hale, it is personal. It is emotional. It has meaning for you. Just as the things that connect you to Hale are unique to you, so, too, is what motivates people to support Hale and its mission.



For some, it is support for Hale's commitment to the natural environment, to keeping 1,137 acres of land available for the public to enjoy and use now and into the future. For others, it might be a “thank you” for a great summer of camp for their child or adventures their family enjoyed at Membership Beach. A friend on our Boston Marathon or Rodman Ride teams may have asked for support on our behalf. For still others, it is the expanding opportunities Hale provides for urban children to step outside of their comfort zone and explore the outdoors as part of the Hale Outdoor Learning Adventures (HOLA) program.

Whatever the reason, last year nearly 1,200 individuals and families decided to make a philanthropic investment in Hale. We are so grateful for their support of what Hale does and hopes to do, but these gifts represent only a fraction of the people who have been to Hale, who have benefited from our programs and who live in our community. It is our hope that through the “Do More, For More” campaign, we will see these numbers rise as people think about what Hale means for them and play a role in ensuring Hale's future remains as bright as its past.

Throughout the spring and summer, Hale will host programs to introduce the “Do More, For More” campaign. For more information and to learn more, call 781-326-1770 (ext. 28) to schedule a tour, get a schedule of upcoming events, or to speak with someone about making a gift.

**Obstacle Race • 6/12/16**  
**Race for Julia's Place • 7/14/16**

**Hale on Wheels, Water & Feet Weekend:**

**Adventure Race • 9/10/16**  
**Adult Triathlon • 9/11/16**  
**Youth Triathlon • 9/11/16**  
**5k • 9/11/16**

# • “Utilizing Open Spaces to Enhance Education for All” •

AS PART OF THE Social Innovation Forum’s (SIF) 2016 Social Issue Speaker Series, Hale will be presenting “Utilizing Open Spaces to Enhance Education for All,” with keynote speaker Michael Rich, MD. Join us on Monday, March 21 in Downtown Boston for lunch and to hear more about the importance of outdoor learning from The Mediatrician® himself!

Dr. Rich is Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School, Associate Professor of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the Harvard School of Public Health, and practices Adolescent Medicine at Boston Children’s Hospital. He is the Founder and Director of the Center on Media and Child Health (CMCH) as well as a pediatrician, researcher, father, and media aficionado. As The Mediatrician®, Dr. Rich offers research-based answers to questions from parents, teachers, and clinicians regarding children’s media use and implications for their health and development.

The Social Innovation Forum (SIF) provides a unique combination of capacity and network building to create positive social change in Greater Boston. SIF

actively connects supporters (funders, investors, and volunteers) and practitioners (nonprofit and social business leaders) to build productive relationships focused on growing social impact.

The Highland Street Foundation is a proud sponsor of SIF’s “Utilizing Open Spaces and Natural Resources for Public Benefit” track. For more information, please visit [www.socialinnovationforum.org](http://www.socialinnovationforum.org).



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