

Southborough Open Land Foundation

David Morgan steps down as President



Fall 2007

Thank you to the following people for their help on various projects:

Jack Canzoneri
Dick Chase
Jack Downs
Chris Flood
Freddie Gillespie
Linda Hubley
Gordon Morrison
Amanda Watters

After serving for four years as the president of the Southborough Open Land Foundation, David Morgan has stepped down in order to devote more time to his family and his business. During his tenure as president, SOLF helped spearhead the successful effort to educate town voters about the advantages of purchasing a conservation restriction on acreage at Chestnut Hill Farm. As the head of SOLF, David spent many hours in fundraising efforts in conjunction with Sudbury Valley Trustees to help finance the purchase of the CR. He has also overseen several important projects such as the building of an entrance to Wolf Pen Pastures off of Sears Rd. This entry way provides access to a SOLF parcel of land located between Sears Rd. and Wyndemere Rd., and which connects to Chestnut Hill Farm land.

Working on the preservation of land came naturally to David whose late father, Allen Morgan, was a founder of the Sudbury Valley Trustees which has become the major regional land protection organization in the area. Allen Morgan also worked as executive vice president of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, and was instrumental in getting the designation of wild and scenic river on portions of the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers. David has carried on the Morgan legacy with his dedication to preserving open space in Southborough.

We are pleased that David will continue to serve as a trustee and be available to give us his expertise. He will now have more time to devote to his business, DRM Designs, a residential remodeling company that he founded over twenty-five years ago. Since moving to Southborough in 1996, David has been active not only in SOLF, but has also served on several town boards and committees including the Southborough School Building Committee.

The Sudbury Valley Trustees recently honored him during their meeting at Chestnut Hill Farm in Southborough where he was presented with the Lewis Conservation Award by George Lewis. The inscription on the award says: "In recognition of his lifelong commitment to conservation and his leadership role in the protection of Chestnut Hill Farm."

David, his wife Sandra, and the two younger of his three children, Emily and Nathan, live on Breakneck Hill Rd. in Southborough. He also has a son Reed who resides in France. David commented that he enjoys living in Southborough and is very pleased that the residents made the choice to preserve Chestnut Hill Farm.

Thank you David for all you have done to help make Southborough a great place to live!

4th annual River fest – June 17, 2007

On a beautiful June day, SOLF participated in the festivities of the 4th annual River Fest. The event was held on the property of SOLF trustee Debbie Costine whose land abuts the Sudbury River on Wood St. River Fest is part of a nationwide celebration held to call attention to the importance of rivers and waterways in helping to maintain a healthy environment. Approximately one hundred people came to take part in the activities which included canoe rides on the river, the construction of twig fairy houses, and a scavenger hunt. The event is sponsored by the Sudbury River Watershed Organization, and co-sponsored by the Open Space Preservation Commission, the Southborough Recreation Department, and SOLF. The main focus is to celebrate the environmental attributes and the recreational possibilities of the Sudbury River in Southborough. Most people don't even know

the river is here and are amazed when they get up close and personal at how truly beautiful it is. Plans are already underway for next June's 5th annual event.



Canoeing on the Sudbury photo by Linda Hubley

A stroll at Chestnut Hill Farm

By Debbie Costine

To learn more about SOLF, its properties, activities, and trails in town, visit our website at:

www.solf.org

SOLF NEWSLETTER

Editor

Sally Watters

Technical advisor

Amanda Watters

Contributors

Debbie Costine

Carol Gay

Freddie Gillespie

Linda Hubley

On Sunday, October 14, The Southborough Open Land Foundation (SOLF) sponsored a walk on the trail at the new conservation land at Chestnut Hill Farm.

Eleven enthusiastic walkers thoroughly enjoyed the beautiful fall afternoon. We were very fortunate to have "curious naturalist" Gordon Morrison with us. Gordon has illustrated numerous field guides and has written 5 award winning nature books for children.

The walk began and everyone chatted amiably and became acquainted as we then crossed the expanse of fields on both sides. A couple of monarch butterflies floated in the breezes above the alfalfa. As we entered the woods we began noticing smaller things like all the acorns, some oddly shaped tree trunks, and a dead mouse! We allowed our pace to slow a bit. We talked about all the different trees especially noting the difference between the red and white oaks. The children in the group collected samples of the different leaves as they learned how to identify them. SOLF member Amy Kassatly astonished us by spotting the tiny tree frog (known as *Hyla Crucifer*) so well camouflaged in the leaves. We all huddled around it as Carol Gay snapped pictures of it in Gordon's hands. We saw the "x" marking on its back that gives the frog its name. This frog is also known as the spring peeper! Pretty soon everyone was walking slowly and looking for more little marvels. Here's what we noticed:

Hyla Crucifer

White Oak

Red Oak (several kinds)

birch

Pine

red maple

hickory

Princess Pine (a club moss)

Oak apple gall

Blue Jays

Robins

Red Tailed Hawk

Red and White clovers

Monarch butterfly

Bladder Campion in bloom

Yellow Hawkweed

Timothy Grass

and wonderfully shaped trees and trunks

We were all glad we had taken time

from busy schedules to get exercise and some fresh air and to learn more about our Southborough environment. We were amazed at the wide variety of plants and animals found by paying close attention to our surroundings. Our residents are lucky to have the beautiful, Chestnut Hill Farm property to enjoy.



Debbie Costine & Gordon Morrison helps young naturalist Alexandra Shaffer identify leaves during the walk at Chestnut Hill Farm

photo by Carol Gay



Tiny tree frog (*Hyla Crucifer*) in Gordon's hands

Photo by Carol Gay

books Donated in memory of Peter Kallander

. Peter Kallander, a founding member of SOLF, and a long serving president, died in March, 2007. SOLF honored Peter posthumously with the Elaine Beals Award for conservation in recognition of his many efforts, including donations of land, to help preserve open space in Southborough. SOLF also donated several books and a DVD set to the town library in Peter's

memory. The books donated are: *Hidden New England* by Susan Farewell. *A Drop of Water* by Gordon Morrison, *AMC's Best Day Hikes Near Boston* by Michael Tougias, and *Best Loop Hikes* by Jeff Romano. The DVD donation is the five part set *Planet Earth: The Complete Series*. These are all on topics that reflect Peter's interest in the environment. We hope they will be well used.

Financial Report

SOLF Inc. Financial Report Through October 31, 2007

BALANCE SHEET SUMMARY

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Cash	\$4,151.58
Endowments	\$30,000.00
Investments	\$76,108.56
Total Current Assets	\$110,260.14

Land assets	\$1,181,628.84
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,291,888.98

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Equity	\$1,291,888.98
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$1,291,888.98

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT

INCOME

Membership Dues/Contributions	\$4,890.00
Interest and Dividends	\$2,106.06
Total Income	\$6,996.06

EXPENSES

Operating Expenses	\$6,733.50
Final Chestnut Hill Farm Payment	\$13,685.00
Total Expenses	\$20,418.50

Net Ordinary Income	(\$13,422.44)
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Annual Meeting

The Southborough Open Land Foundation held its annual meeting on May 14, 2007 at the Community House. After refreshments and the business meeting which was conducted by President David Morgan, Freddie Gillespie gave a presentation about her extensive experience working to protect the environment in Southborough. Freddie is a member of the Southborough Open Space Preservation Commission and the Southborough Community Preservation Committee, and has been involved in many projects to fund and preserve land and landmarks in the town. She was the recipient of the 2006 Elaine Beals Award for Conservation. At the annual meeting, the main thrust of her presentation was her involvement with the Sudbury River Watershed Organization. SRWO's recent activities have included monitoring the flow of the river, testing the quality of the river water, and stenciling storm drains to call attention to the fact that the drains empty into a river system. Although it played a major role in the settlement and early industrialization of Southborough, many people in town are not aware of the existence of the Sudbury River within the town borders. We thank Freddie for her efforts to protect this valuable resource and to make people aware of its beauty and importance.

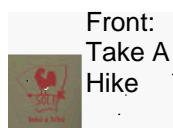
TRUSTEES

- Sally Watters
President
- Hewitt Heiserman
Vice President
- Carol Gay
Treasurer
- Betty Meyer
Secretary
- Jack Barron
- Debbie Costine
- Dick Dinjian
- Attila Herczeg
- Bill Hohenberger
- Amy Kassatly
- David Morgan

ADVISORY BOARD

- Elaine Beals
- Whitney Beals
- John Butler
- Jack Canzoneri
- Diane Koziel
- Larry Susskind
- Inge Tufts

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR SOLF. BUY A SOLF T-SHIRT. \$10 EACH



Back:
Southborough Open Land
Foundation
Since 1988
Preserving our open spaces

Sizes:
Adult (red on khaki)
S, M, L, XL
Youth (red on lime green)
M, L

To order, call Carol at 508-485-1133 or Sally at 508-481-4720.

Thanks to Diane Koziel

Diane Koziel is leaving the SOLF Board of Trustees after ten years including several as vice president. She worked very hard on the Chestnut Hill Farm project and contributed to the organization in countless ways. One of her greatest accomplishments was helping with the production of the pamphlet, "Outdoor Southborough" which has been so popular for showing open space and trails in town.

Diane and her husband Bob live on Chestnut Hill Rd. with their two children, Lexie and Will. Diane works for the Bose Corporation. She is also very active in volunteering for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. SOLF will miss her special talents. We wish her well in all she does!

SOLF NEEDS YOUR HELP

SOLF deeply appreciates all your support. We now need to remind you it is time to renew membership. Of equal, or even greater importance, is our need for a little of your time. We need volunteers to serve as trustees and to help with other projects so to continue the work of protecting open space in Southborough. Thanks to those who have already renewed their membership.

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RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOUTHBOROUGH OPEN LAND FOUNDATION:

Name: _____ Street: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

____ \$25 individual ____ \$50 family ____ \$100 supporting ____ \$1000 sponsor ____ \$5000 corporate

If you are eligible for a matching gift, we would appreciate you applying for it.

All donations are tax deductible.

I would like to volunteer to: ____ serve as a trustee ____ help with mailings

____ help with outdoor projects.

Southborough Open Land Foundation
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