

“...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

# Talkin' Turkey

**D**ID YOU KNOW that at one time there were hardly any Turkeys left in New England? With today's revival of the eastern forests the Wild Turkey now flourishes and Hale Reservation provides the ideal habitat for the largest ground-feeding bird in North America. As any rural neighbor will attest, turkey flocks and sightings of tiny, down-covered poults (baby Turkeys) are now commonplace in Dover, Westwood, and most communities in Massachusetts.

Although the Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) was the runner up to the Bald Eagle when our founding fathers selected our national symbol there is no question why it was such a close race. The iconic image of the Turkey that most of us have in our minds is derived from the figure we commonly see on holiday decorations portraying the stately and magnificent male bird in full courtship display. Dressed to impress, the male is indeed a sight to see. Courtship is initiated when hens answer the calls of gobbling polygamous suitors. One or more males will then locate the female and audition for her. Contestants strut before the female like a real showman, fanning their wings and tail feather. The male's featherless head, sporting a telescopic snood and inflatable waddle turns a vivid blue and scarlet red intended to win the favor.

The ground-nesting, beautifully camouflaged female will lay 10-12 eggs in a shallow depression lined with brown leaves concealed in the dense underbrush. As soon as they are hatched, Turkeys are able to move easily and without much parental care. The mothers do, however, point out invertebrates such as worms, grubs and grasshoppers that the nestlings devour as part of their early high protein diet. After a few weeks they will become primarily herbivorous like the adults. At Hale Reservation we've seen flocks of Turkeys ranging in numbers from six to 30! These groups of females, with their respective broods, band together for safety while helping each other raise their young. After one year, the chicks reach maturity and leave their mothers. Females leave alone and travel the furthest from their nest site. Male siblings,

who usually remain close to their breeding grounds, will typically stay together and travel as a group.

As local populations of other game birds such as Pheasant, Grouse, and Woodcock continue to dwindle towards oblivion the Turkey population grows. Why the difference? The same land use changes which have benefited the Turkey have victimized the other species. Today's subdivided suburban landscape is nearly devoid of the unkempt edges characteristic of farms and fields. These untidy niches are essential to the smaller game-birds for they provide the necessary cover from predators as they habitually haunt the edges of fields for food. The Turkey, relies less on the wooded edges and more on the interior of the forest to meet its two main habitat requirements: tall trees to roost in and dense underbrush to brood and raise its young. As a ground-feeder subsisting primarily on a diet of acorns, berries and tubers the Turkey has once again established itself in our vast abundant, mixed hardwood forests. Now that the Turkey is firmly entrenched in our communities and their population continues to increase the question is what the future will hold. As long as the use of insecticides does not impact the young at their critical early stage and we maintain our precious wooded areas, Turkeys should continue to be able to strut their stuff for years to come.

SOURCES:

1. The Birder's Handbook: A Field Guide to the Natural History of North American Birds by Ehrlich, Dobkin & Wheye
2. The National Audubon Society The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior by David Allen Sibley



# POWISSETT PRESS

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# The Afternoon Thunderstorm –And a Ray of Light

**I**T SEEMED A BIT ridiculous this summer. There was some form of precipitation on most camp days and often campers were forced to “take cover” as the skies rumbled. Special events at Membership Beach were frequently postponed; only to be postponed again when there was another day of rain. Regardless, events happened and camp went on. In fact, rain or shine Hale served as an oasis for so many.

During the third week of August there was a spat of violence in Boston. A young child and her uncle were shot while sitting on a porch and there were multiple other shootings and stabbings throughout the city. On August 19, I spent a part of the day with campers from Bird Street Community Center in Dorchester while visiting the Butterfly Garden. The group had just picked apples off one of the nearby trees in the orchard and two girls wandered over to look for butterflies. As one of the girls chomped away on her apple, the other spoke quite eloquently when I her asked about her summer. “I love it at camp, even in the rain. If I was at home I’d be inside because my Momma and Auntie don’t let us outside.”

Later that morning, I was at the campfire near “three rocks” with an older group of Bird Street campers. Some were having their first ever “S’mores.” It was also their first time roasting marshmallows over the fire. There was lots of discussion on cooking techniques and quite a few of the marshmallows became a blazing inferno as they got too close to the hot coals. But there were no complaints. I guess there is no such thing as a bad marshmallow or a bad day at camp for that matter.

Picking apples off a tree and eating them; enjoying your first “S’mores;” kayaking on Noanet Pond; visiting the “frog pond” to go for the catch; swimming. The list of healthy, safe, educational, and natural activities at Hale is too lengthy to put in this newsletter. We will remember the summer of 2008 as a wet year, but we’ll always remember the shining moments that brighten up a child’s summer.

Happy fall and I hope we see you on the trails,

Eric Arnold  
*Executive Director*

## Welcome!

**Steve Larsen**—Steve joined us as Director of Programs in March. He came from the Town of Wellfleet where he was the Beach Administrator and Assistant Harbormaster for three years. He moved to Massachusetts from California in March 2005. Previously he was the Director of Circle Pines Center, a recreation, education, and summer camp cooperative in Michigan.

**Brian Davis**—Brian joined us as Facilities Assistant also in March. He comes to Hale with more than 20 years experience in carpentry, landscaping and livestock management. He last worked for Graham Contracting for 5 years. The thing he likes most about Hale... ‘the people!’

ERIC ARNOLD – *Executive Director*  
JULIA BRUNE – *Membership Beach Director*  
DIANE COLLINS – *Finance Director*  
BRIAN DAVIS – *Facilities Assistant*  
ADRIENNE FARFALLA – *Education Director*  
ANDREA JENKINS – *Administrative Assistant*  
STEVE LARSEN – *Director of Programs*  
PAULA McLAUGHLIN – *Director of Development*  
ROBERT PARR – *Facilities Director*  
JAY WALSH – *Environmental Resource Manager*

### BOARD OF DIRECTOR’S OFFICERS:

MAUREEN BLEDAY – *President*  
JUANITA ANDREA ALLEN – *Vice President*  
CHRIS McKEOWN – *Vice President*  
TRUM CARY – *Treasurer*  
BOB TRUESDALE – *Assistant Treasurer*

DESIGN – Holtz Design [boltzdesign.com](http://boltzdesign.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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# The Spirit of Camp

by Steve Larsen, Director of Programs

ANOTHER SEASON at Hale Day Camp has ended. The sound of children laughing has been replaced by chipmunks chattering over granola bar remains. The immature red tailed hawk that seemed to enjoy the morning fire circle now keeps the mice honest. Hundreds of children from our surrounding communities have once again discovered woods, ponds, and other delights of nature at Hale Reservation.

It is sometimes hard to appreciate how remarkable it is, in this electronic age, for children to spend the entire day outside. One day this summer I saw a group of young boys and girls kneeling in a circle around a counselor in a field. They remained in that position very intensely, until my curiosity got the best of me and I walked over to see what they were doing. The counselor had a magnifying glass and was leading a campfire building class. He was showing how the glass could magnify the effects of the sun and start his tinder smoldering. The campers were absolutely captivated.

We never know the consequence of that small event in a child's life. Will one of those children become a future solar scientist? Did being in that group start a lifelong friendship?

This year, as in years past, Hale Day Camp has put nature under the magnifying glass and helped our campers develop an appreciation for the environment. We gently taught our camp kids to not only respect the beautiful place they spend their day in, but also to respect themselves and others as they learn to be members of our community.

## Meeting an Urban Challenge

A RECENT SURVEY commissioned by USA Swimming found that in ethnically-diverse communities, the youth drowning rate is more than double the national average. They also found that nearly six out of 10 African American and Hispanic/Latino children are unable to swim, nearly twice as many as their Caucasian counterparts.

Every summer North Beach lifeguards teach hundreds of African American children attending our partner agency camps to, not only have fun in the water, but also learn the fundamentals of swimming and water safety. North Beach, one of the busiest sites at Hale Reservation, hosts hundreds of children from Newton, Watertown, Waltham, Dorchester, Roxbury, East Weymouth, and



*A camper enjoying free swim at North Beach.*

Charlestown, all splashing, sun bathing, and learning to swim together.

Mike O'Shea, North Beach Aquatics Director, fondly remembers one young man who, on the first day of



*A group of campers working together to solve a problem.*

camp, leaped into the deep end claiming he was an "excellent swimmer." After promptly being rescued, he was placed in swimming lessons to learn the fundamentals. Mike now proudly reports this young man is one of the strongest swimmers at North Beach. Teaching our diverse population of campers at Hale Reservation basic swimming and water safety is one of many unheralded activities we routinely accomplish.

By creating a supportive learning environment, the North Beach lifeguards are helping break the non-swimming cycle in our surrounding communities. It is one of the reasons North Beach is considered the "happiest place in camp." One day these children will pass on to their children the joy and pleasure that swimming brings.

# Hale Calendar of Events

2008-2009

To register for most programs, call the Hale Main Office at 781-326-1770. Search for more information about these events online, visit: [www.HaleReservation.org](http://www.HaleReservation.org).

## Family Programs

**Sundays, 1pm – 2:30pm**

### FAMILY WALKING CLUB

A Hale naturalist will lead a walk exploring the seasonal landscape of Hale and sharing the wonders of its natural history. Strollers welcome, no dogs please. Meet at the Hale Main Office FREE



**Thursday October 23**

### HALLOWEEN HIKES

Follow the trail into our forest and meet along the way our friends of the forest - when you find them, they will tell you about themselves. At the end of the trail there is sure to be treats and a trick to share! Trail groups start every 15 minutes starting at 4pm through 7pm. When you register, please choose your preferred start time. Trail Groups are encouraged to be a maximum of 15. Expect your total event time to be 90 minutes. Pre-registration is required by Friday, October 17. \$8 per person.

**Thursday, December 4. 6pm – 8:30pm**

### OWL'S EVE

Learn "who" lives at Hale at night! The evening begins with an owl slideshow and then we will bundle up for a hike in search of nocturnal critters. Meet at Trading Post. Pre-registration is required by Friday, November 28. FREE

**Thursday, January 8, 6:30pm – 8pm**

### MOONLIGHT TRACKING

A Hale naturalist will share some tips on animal tracks and then under the full moon on a bed of snow, weather permitting, we will explore together to see what we can find. Meet at Trading Post. Pre-registration is required by Friday, January 2. FREE

**Tuesday, February 10, 6:30pm – 8pm**

### MOONLIGHT TRACKING

Pre-registration is required by Friday, February 6. FREE (see above)

**Tuesday, March 31, 7pm - 8:30pm**

### FLIGHT OF THE WOODCOCK

The American Woodcock, one of our most bizarre and secretive forest-dwelling birds, possesses superior camouflage for its life of obscurity. However, for a short period of time in early spring, males will leave the safety of the forest to strut their stuff in a dazzling courtship display. Meet at the Hale Main Office. Pre-registration is required by Friday, March 27. FREE

## Outdoor Adventure Series

(Most series are FREE. Maximum of 20 participants per series, meet at Trading Post)

**Sunday, November 2, 3pm - 4:30pm**

### MOUNTAIN BIKE TRIP

Go for a ride on our beautiful trails with a guide. Please provide your own mtn. bike. Pre-registration is required by Wednesday, October 29. FREE

**Tuesday, December 9, 6pm – 7:30pm**

### NIGHT HIKE

A Hale naturalist will take you on a guided night hike. Night hikes can be a wondrous event for participants wanting to explore their senses. A night hike is like a sensory hike with many opportunities to learn cool things. Pre-registration is required by Friday, December 5. FREE

**Tuesday, January 13, 6:30pm – 8pm**

### SNOWSHOE EXPLORATION

Enjoy the fresh snow in a healthy way. A guide will take you snowshoeing through our trails. Please provide your own shoes. Pre-registration is required by Friday, January 9. FREE

**Friday, February 13, 6:30pm – 8pm**

### SNOWSHOE EXPLORATION

Pre-registration is required by Tuesday, February 10. FREE (see above)

**Wednesday, March 11, 5pm – 6:30pm**

### MAP AND COMPASS

A Hale naturalist will take you through the steps of how to use a map and compass. Participants will learn how to navigate their way around Hale. Pre-registration is required by Friday, March 6. FREE

**Thursday, April 2, 5:30pm – 7pm**

### 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. Pre-registration is required by Friday, March 27. \$10 Donation per family or \$5 per person.

## Adult Programs

**Saturdays, 1pm**

### ADULT WALKING CLUB

Individuals 16 and older are welcome to enjoy guided hikes as we explore the trails of Hale. Walks are normally two to five miles. Meet at Cat Rock Parking Lot. FREE

**Sundays, 1:30pm**

### TRAIL MAINTENANCE CREW

Join volunteers as they maintain Hale's trails and help with projects. A wonderful way to help out at Hale! Meet at Cat Rock Parking Lot.

(continued on page 6)

## Letting Go Is Hard!

By Sam Ronan, Head Water Safety Instructor

**D**URING THEIR two summers at Membership Beach, the Peterson family of Foxborough, Ben, Reka, and their children, Enek (age 14), Kethrellan (12), Corwynne (5) and Izidor(3), made an effort to participate in every activity offered: swimming and boating lessons, arts and crafts activities, campouts, luaus, and hikes with Nature Jay filled the four children's daily schedules. I was fortunate enough to have taught Corwynne last summer as she was just beginning to swim. She was nervous, as should be expected, but even as I goaded her into the deep end she could not stop grinning because she was so determined to learn. This summer I saw her leaping fearlessly into the water and smiling through some of this season's chillier days, attending her lessons regardless of the weather. It is of little surprise, then, that the family's decision to move to Western Mass this fall has left Corwynne undaunted by the task of entering a new

school and yet heartbroken in leaving Hale behind. "She cried for half an hour," her father explains, recalling the afternoon when he described the changes their move would require. Children like Corwynne—who are itching to learn every stroke and eager to experience all that Membership offers—remind me daily of why I have spent my summers waist-deep in the same pond where I once learned how to swim. As I look back on seven years as a gate guard, lifeguard, and swimming instructor (on top of eight previous summers

as a member) I, too, begin to wonder what life after Membership will be like. The opportunity to learn how to swim without fear, to try one's hand at boating, to explore the woods, and to eventually hand on these lessons to children is one that is unique to our small beach. At Membership, children play and learn in an incomparably pure, family-centered setting and the benefits of this wholesome environment, abounding in opportunities that are rare in our forward-moving society, are clear in Corwynne's (and my) reluctance to ever depart.

Sam Ronan: Member 1993–2003, Arts and Crafts Assistant, 2001 - 2002, Lifeguard, 2003, Water Safety Instructor, 2004–2007, Head Water Safety Instructor 2008.



*The Peterson Family relaxing after setting up their tent for a campout at Membership Beach. Clockwise from left: Enek, Corwynne, Ben, Izidor and Kethrellan.*

## Learning from Each Other

By Adrienne Farfalla, Education Director

**T**HROUGHOUT the summer the Education Program sees a total of 2,250 participants who take part in one or more of the following activities: environmental education, ropes and teambuilding, archery and outdoor living skills or a Summer Adventures Day Trip. These participants experience many memorable moments at Hale, such as getting through a "poisonous peanut butter pit," learning about snakes, and building a shelter. It is amazing how much campers develop during the 8 weeks.

The majority of our participants are from urban areas and have had limited experiences with the great

outdoors. I had the good fortune of working with a group of girls from Dorchester's Bird Street Community Center and one particular day really stood out for me. I was assisting with outdoor living skills and this group arrived to see a campfire ablaze. The girls quickly sat down around the fire, without any direction. I asked them to



*Campers enjoying "S'mores."*

collect sticks to make "S'mores." The quizzical looks on their faces were absolutely priceless. Some girls had never had a "S'mores" before. The notion of not knowing about this delightful camping treat was as surprising to me as the treat itself was to these girls. As we all sat around the fire, I suggested another traditional camping staple—the camp fire song. Immediately the girls began to sing in unison a song I had never heard but they were thrilled to be able to teach me. After a few minutes, I caught on, and the roasting of the marshmallows continued.

I can't quite remember my first ever "S'mores" but I will never forget the Bird Street girls and the delight that we all had that day learning from each other.

## Hale Offers Scholarship Opportunity

**P**ERHAPS YOU were a camper here and learned some new skills. Maybe your first job was as a counselor and you loved the experience. Surely there are members who have some of their best childhood memories learning to swim or boat at the beach. Whatever your Hale story, we'd love to hear it.

Hale Reservation means so much to so many and we'd like to know exactly what it means to local students. In honor of our 90th year, we'd like to hear about your favorite Hale memory. We are offering a \$500 scholarship, thanks to the generosity of Roche Bros. Supermarkets, to the student whose essay best captures the essence of Hale. If you are a high school or college student and you have a Hale story or experience you would like to share, please send it along to: 80 Carby Street, Westwood, MA 02090 or email it to [info@HaleReservation.org](mailto:info@HaleReservation.org). All entries will become property of

Hale and the winning entry will be published in a future edition of the Powissett Press. Please no more than 700 words. Entries must be received by December 31.

## Keeping Hale Healthy— The Importance of a Capital Campaign

**I**N DECEMBER of 2006, when Hale launched our \$2,000,000 capital campaign there were many goals - improve facilities, provide a modest

increase to our endowment, expand programming, offer more to children, etc. But ultimately, the goal of all our fundraising efforts is to keep Hale Healthy.

Camp, Family Membership, hiking trails, undisturbed land, free public access are things that make Hale so special and they continue with ease when we are fiscally secure. The capital efforts that have created the spectacular, new Trading Post and will improve so many other structures and program areas. At the same time, our annual "Friends of Hale" appeal insures that Hale can continue with programs that benefit tens of thousands of people every year.

As we close out this capital campaign, we must sincerely thank our donors who have been so generous. If you have not yet participated in this effort, but would like to help us reach our goal, please contact Executive Director, Eric Arnold at 781-326-1770.



### HALE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(continued from page 4)

## Youth Programs

**Tuesday, February 17, Wednesday,  
February 18, Thursday, February 19  
8:30am – 3pm**

2009 FEBRUARY VACATION PROGRAMS  
Pre K – 5th Grade. Pre-registration is required by Wednesday, February 11. Cost: \$60 per day. Call for more information or check out our website. *Save the date for our April Vacation Program on Tuesday April 14, Wednesday April 15, and Thursday,*

*April 16. Pre-registration is required by Wednesday, April 8. Cost: \$60 per day.*

## 2009 Summer Programs

### HALE DAY CAMP

Registrations open January 1. Early incentive rates end January 30, 2009. Brochures will be mailed to 2008 campers in December.

### MEMBERSHIP BEACH

Registrations open January 1. Early incentive rates end February 27, 2009. Brochures will be mailed to 2008 families early January.



### VOLUNTEER SERVICE PROJECTS

If your youth group or corporation would like to do a service project at Hale, contact Jay Walsh at 781-326-1770 Ext 17 or [jwalsh@HaleReservation.org](mailto:jwalsh@HaleReservation.org).

# Reasons to Give

AS YOU READ the letters and articles in this issue of the Powissett Press, you might ask yourself, how does all this happen? Camps, educational programs, the maintaining of valuable beautiful open space—Hale is a wonderful place. But, maintaining a healthy and viable Hale, takes a healthy and viable budget and that is only possible with donor support. How does that happen? Why do people choose to give to Hale? We asked a few donors to tell us in their own words, why Hale is important to them.



*“I’ve always loved hiking, camping, summer camps or any fun experience in a natural setting. And I see what a great effect it has on people of any age or background. I’m happy to help Hale provide that kind of experience, and the Hale crew makes it a very pleasant and engaging experience to do so.” —Myles Collins*

*“Hale is a wonderful place for walks, bikes and bike rides. Hale is a jewel in the great towns of Westwood and Dover.” —Jim Blue*

*“It always amazes me that a space this beautiful and serene is just a short walk from our home.” —Luanne Rich*

*“Hale is a fantastic community resource to have so close by. We have enjoyed walking through the woods, helping out with community projects, and Boy Scout overnights. Most importantly, the work the staff does with children in camps and education programs is invaluable.” —Joe Dello Russo*

## Meet the Board

Westwood’s Dave Liebrock joined the board earlier this year. He has years of experience working in finance and is currently a V.P. with Cap Trust Advisors. He is married and has four children.

*“Having been a neighbor for the last 14 years, I have gotten to know the trails and enjoyed the open space at Hale. As a parent, I have appreciated that all my children have been able to partake in education programs as part of the Westwood School’s curriculum. Now I’m looking forward to learning even more about this wonderful community resource and finding a way to put my skill set to use as I serve on the Hale Board of Directors.” —Dave Liebrock*

Nancy Newark lives in Medfield and works as an attorney with Burns and Levinson. She joined the Hale Board in 2006. In addition to being involved with Hale, Nancy spends a considerable amount of time mentoring students at Brighton High School.

*“Hale Reservation provides the best and largest opportunity for me to rejuvenate my mind and spirit on a regular basis. I love running, biking and walking with my dogs for hours through Hale’s miles of trails during all four of New England’s seasons. My work on the Board of Directors helps Hale function not only for me and my dogs, but for the thousands of children it serves each year in its camps, the hundreds of regular visitors to its trails, and the wildlife that calls it home.” —Nancy Newark*

### DONATION INFORMATION

  
**Hale  
 Reservation**  
 80 Carby Street  
 Westwood, Massachusetts 02090  
 (781)326-1770 fax (781)326-0676  
 www.HaleReservation.org

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PLEASE SEND ME INFORMATION ON MAKING A GIFT TO THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN.

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.

## Fox Spotted at Hale!

**Y**ES, INDEED the rumors are true—Fox was spotted at Hale. No, not the animal, but the TV station. In late August, just before the last of the campers were leaving, Fox 25 did a Zip Trip to Westwood. Of course any trip to 02090 would not have been complete without a visit to Hale Reservation.

Joining us at Hale was morning anchor, Gene Lavanchy who was not content to just hear about all the things we do at Hale, he wanted to experience them himself. What he got was a morning full of fun. He enjoyed a campfire sing-a-long with some Bird Street campers, took a kayak out on Noanet Pond and even cooled himself off with a dip in the water. But the highlight for Lavanchy was his time spent on the ropes course.

Greeted by an enthusiastic group from the West Roxbury YMCA, Lavanchy worked on his teambuilding skills on the Nitro Crossing and then



*Campers cheer on Fox 25's Gene Lavanchy as he does a cannonball at North Beach.*

put his faith in his fellow campers as he took a thrilling ride on the Giant's Swing yelling, "Can I come back next week?" We have a feeling, we'll be seeing more of Gene now that he's got a taste of Hale.

To watch the piece about Hale on line, go to <http://media.myfoxboston.com/ziptrips/2008/westwood.html> and then click on "Gene Visits Hale Reservation."



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