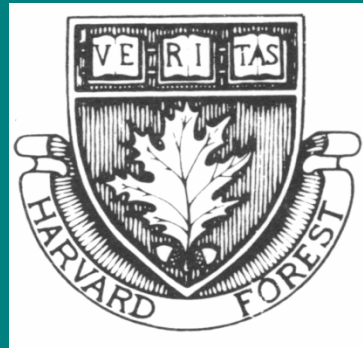


FORUM ON THE FORESTS OF MASSACHUSETTS

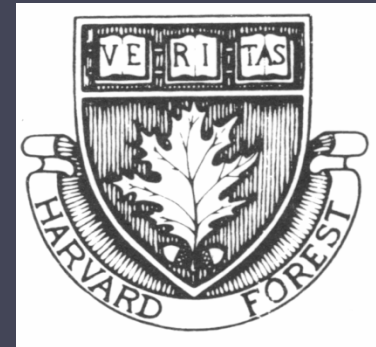


MASSACHUSETTS' ROLE AS A CONSERVATION LEADER

Some Historical and Present-Day Context

James N. Levitt, Director
Program on Conservation Innovation
at the Harvard Forest, Harvard University

Presentation to
The Forum on the Forests of Massachusetts
Harvard Forest, Petersham, MA
May 18, 2009



Massachusetts' founders were early conservation innovators



John Winthrop, first Governor of Massachusetts and author of "A Modell of Christian Charity"

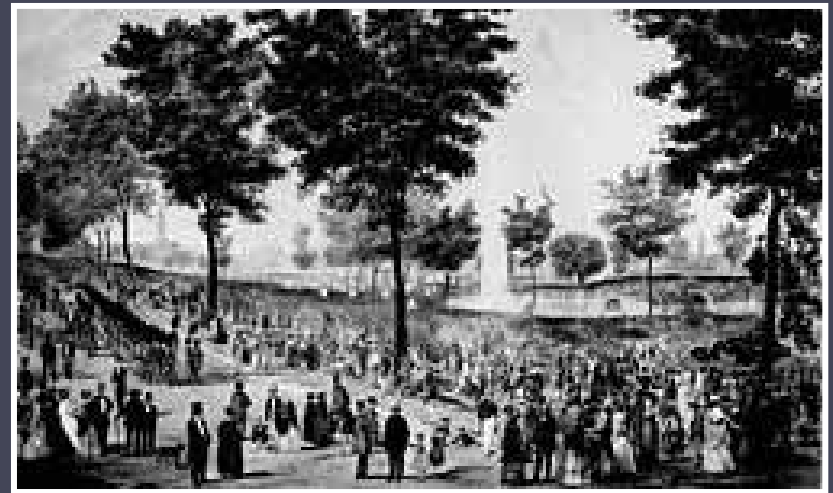
- In 1634, the freemen of Boston, led by John Winthrop, were the first self-governing people in English-speaking North America to **tax themselves** to raise money to buy open space – that land became the Boston Common
- “We must be knit together in this work as one man... We must uphold a familiar commerce with one another... For we must consider that we shall be as a city upon a hill. The eyes of all people are upon us.”

To borrow from Abraham Lincoln, the Common is *of, by, and for* the people

- *A creation of the people*: Boston's freemen taxed themselves in 1634 to buy Blackstone's land for a Common; it was used to pasture *privately* owned cows, for a *common* military training ground, and soon thereafter for *public* recreation
- *Regulated by the people*: in 1640, Bostonians passed the first of a series of ordinances regulating the use of the Common, avoiding any "tragedy of the Commons" (a phrase born in the 1960s)
- *Managed for the people*: by the 1660s, town constables were sending the "local gallants and their marmalet-madams" home from evening strolls by 9 pm

The Boston Common, since its beginning, has been a multiple use landscape

- Originated as cow pasture and military training ground
- By the 1660s, it had become an important recreational space
- It has also remained, for nearly four centuries, a key place for civic events and political expression



Following from the experience with the Common, conservation innovation is a hallmark of Massachusetts history

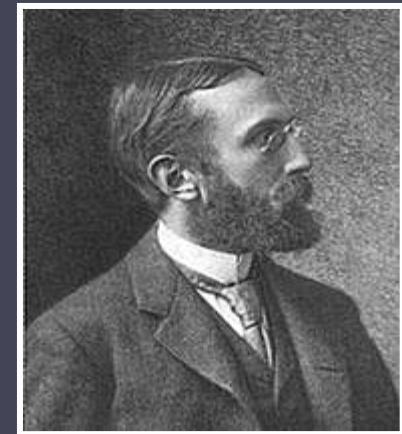
In the period before the American Civil War Massachusetts created:

- The nation's first garden cemetery (Mt. Auburn, 1831)
- The nation's first Public Garden (in Boston, 1836)



The tradition continued into the late 19th century, with Massachusetts women and men creating:

- One of the first conservation advocacy groups (Appalachian Mountain Club, 1876)
- The world's first regional land trust (The Trustees of Reservations, 1891)
- The nation's system of metropolitan parks (the Metropolitan Parks Commission, 1893, predecessor to the MDC and the DCR), and
- The nation's oldest Audubon Society (Mass Audubon, 1896)



Landmark conservation innovations, such as the land trust idea, are marked by five characteristics

- Creativity and novelty in conception
- Public significance
- Measurable effectiveness
- Global transferability, and
- An ability to endure across generations

- These ideas resonate long after their initial creation, from the Czech Republic to Chile

En buenos tiempos y en los otros:

Siempre hay recursos para la naturaleza

Con la UACH como escenario, la Universidad de Harvard y el Lincoln Institute congregaron a expertos conservacionistas con ideas para proseguir en su tarea.

NICOLÁS GUTIÉRREZ

VALDIVIA.— Financiar iniciativas conservacionistas puede sonar *a priori* como una tarea difícil en épocas "normales". Hoy parece casi titánica.

En la Conferencia de Ideas para el Financiamiento de la Conservación de la Naturaleza en las Américas, organizada por la Universidad de Harvard y el Lincoln Institute en la Universidad Austral (UACH), aseguran que el panorama no sólo permite mirar el futuro con optimismo; se avecinan oportunidades.

Son unos cien. Discuten cómo lograr financiamiento ligado a la conservación para pequeñas y medianas empresas.

Para James N. Levitt, director del Program on Conservation Innovation, en el Harvard Forest de la Universidad de Harvard, "hoy sabemos que Barack Obama está preocupado del cambio climático global. Además, en tiempos como éste emerge la creatividad financiera".

Recordó que la iniciativa precursora de los parques nacionales nació en plena guerra civil en



ES POSIBLE.— Ayer, un grupo internacional aseguró en Valdivia que las dificultades pueden servir para preservar el ecosistema. Compensar los servicios que la naturaleza presta y dar franquicias tributarias pueden ser el camino.

EE.UU., cuando el Presidente Lincoln creó Yosemite.

En Chile no existe una estructura para las iniciativas de conservación que asuman los privados, los grandes llamados a cola-

borar en este tema, según Antonio Lara, decano de Ciencias Forestales de la UACH.

"En épocas como ésta existen nuevas formas de plantear que se invierta a largo plazo. Los te-

rrenos están más baratos. Las inversiones de conservación en Chile tienen una alta participación de fundaciones privadas. Pero lo más importante tiene que ver con los incentivos tribu-

tarios para quienes se interesen en la conservación", señaló Lara.

Lo anterior debe ir acompañado del pago por servicios ecosistémicos entregados por el bosque nativo, como el alza de caudales en las cuencas. "Si no se paga, ese servicio puede ser destruido", aclara.

Ejemplos americanos

Los líderes admiraron la restauración del sitio arqueológico de Caral en Perú, uno de los ejemplos de civilización más antiguos en el continente; Chocó-Manabí en Colombia y Ecuador un corredor binacional de 192 mil km² de conservación, y las iniciativas chilenas de Karukinka, 270 mil hectáreas en Tierra del Fuego, en la que se invierten unos 300 mil dólares anuales, y la Reserva Costera Valdiviana 60 mil ha de bosque y costa.

Precisamente con una visita a dicha zona, Ideas para el Financiamiento de la Conservación de la Naturaleza en las Américas culminará hoy. Quedaron tejidas las redes para poder replicar las ideas presentadas y poder comenzar a trazar el destino de la conservación en tiempos que, ¿decir de sus líderes, no asombran tan difíciles.

Massachusetts has continued as a conservation innovator into the 20th and 21st centuries

- Fred Winthrop, as Commissioner of Agriculture, helped to create the nation's first APR program (Massachusetts Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program, 1979)
- Bob Durand, as Secretary of the Environment, helped to create Community Preservation Act in 2000

We also are pioneers in
landscape-scale conservation



The Tully Initiative is a notable example of a cross-sectoral, multi-purpose conservation innovation

- Imagined by a field representative of TTOR (*statewide non-profit*)
- Lead implementation by the Mt. Grace Land Trust (*local*)
- Key landscape analysis at the Harvard Forest (*academic*)
- Political and financial capital invested by the State (*public*)
- Private sector and private citizen participation throughout the planning and implementation of the entire plan (*private*)
- Tangible results in the protection of tens of thousands of acres
- Exemplary public access via the Tully Trail
- Matrix of conservation land continues to grow in 2009 with the innovative use of Forest Legacy funds

4/3/09 headline on the Land Trust Alliance website:

“Forest Legacy Project Knits Together Thousands of Acres”

The partnership helping to protect these lands involved private landowners, Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, Harvard Forest, the Massachusetts Audubon Society, two towns, two state agencies - the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, and the United States Forest Service, was funded in part by a \$3,000,000 grant from the federal Forest Legacy Program. Forest Legacy underwrites up to 75% of project costs.

The over 1,000 acres of new protected lands in the Quabbin Corridor Connection contribute to an interconnected network of 80,000 acres of protected habitat interlaced among the rural homes and farms of Phillipston, Petersham, and Barre.



What we do here matters, perhaps well beyond the Commonwealth's borders

- We have a history of innovation which extends across: the public, private, non-profit and academic sectors; jurisdictional boundaries; and generations
- We have an opportunity to help write the next chapter of that history



“Great Oaks from Tiny Acorns Grow”

Photo credits

- John Winthrop: <http://www.csustan.edu/english/reuben/pal/chap1/winthrop.html>
- Boston Common, Water Festival, 1842: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston_Common_\(park\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston_Common_(park))
- Boston Public Garden: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston_Public_Garden
- Charles Eliot: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Eliot_\(landscape_architect\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Eliot_(landscape_architect))
- Harriet Lawrence Hemenway (Painting of Mrs. Augustus Hemenway by John Singer Sargent): http://www.the-athenaeum.org/art/by_artist.php?&sort=&id=368&p=3
- Scanned image of story from *El Mercurio*, Santiago, Chile, circa January 20, 2009.
- Tully Trail logo from The Trustees of Reservations, http://www.thetrustees.org/pages/37_tully_trail.cfm
- Photo of the North Quabbin Landscape by David Foster, <http://www.landtrustalliance.org/LTA/www/community/Regions/northeast/success-stories/thousands-acres>