

President's Message, January 2016

Happy and healthy New Year to everyone! Every January, I am excited to announce plans for the upcoming year, and 2016 will be a busy one.

In Wilbraham, we are proceeding with the preservation of Mt Marcy, one of the highest points in Wilbraham and a critical environmental resource. Last year, this project never made it to Town Meeting for approval, because some members of the Community Preservation Committee oppose use of CPA funds for land protection (ironic, because CPA was approved to save Rice Farm!). This second time around, we have worked harder to inform residents about this important project. We expect that this year, the fate of Mt Marcy can rightly be decided by voters at Town Meeting. We know from our many MLT members that our mission is supported by a large majority of our residents, and it is a shame that a few loud voices have made our work harder. A letter or email to town officials in support of this project would help!

Another successful Run for Rices held last October, raising needed funds to mow fields and maintain the property.

In Hampden, we will be going before the CPC and on to Town Meeting to preserve Mt. Vision, a 39 acre parcel nestled against the Wilbraham Town line, with a narrow main entrance on North Rd and a right of way from Burleigh Rd. Conservation of this land will contribute to the North-South wildlife corridor, and provides connection to nearby conservation lands in both towns.

We are pleased to report that trail use is up at both Rice Nature Preserve and MacDonald Farm in Wilbraham, as well as at Minnechaug Mtn, Goat Rock, and West Brook in Hampden. As always, I close this letter with appreciation to all of you, who support our goals of preserving the most special places in our communities to benefit our environment, our native wildlife and for future generations to enjoy. Please help us continue this important work with your votes at Town Meeting, your help during trail work days, and with your membership dues. With your help, 2016 will be the best year ever!

Sincerely,

Sherry Himmelstein

Please detach and send with your annual tax-deductible membership dues

Name _____	\$15 Member _____
Address _____	\$25 Donor _____
email _____	\$50 Sponsor _____
	\$100 Patron _____
	Other _____

_____ I would like to receive notifications of hikes and trail work days