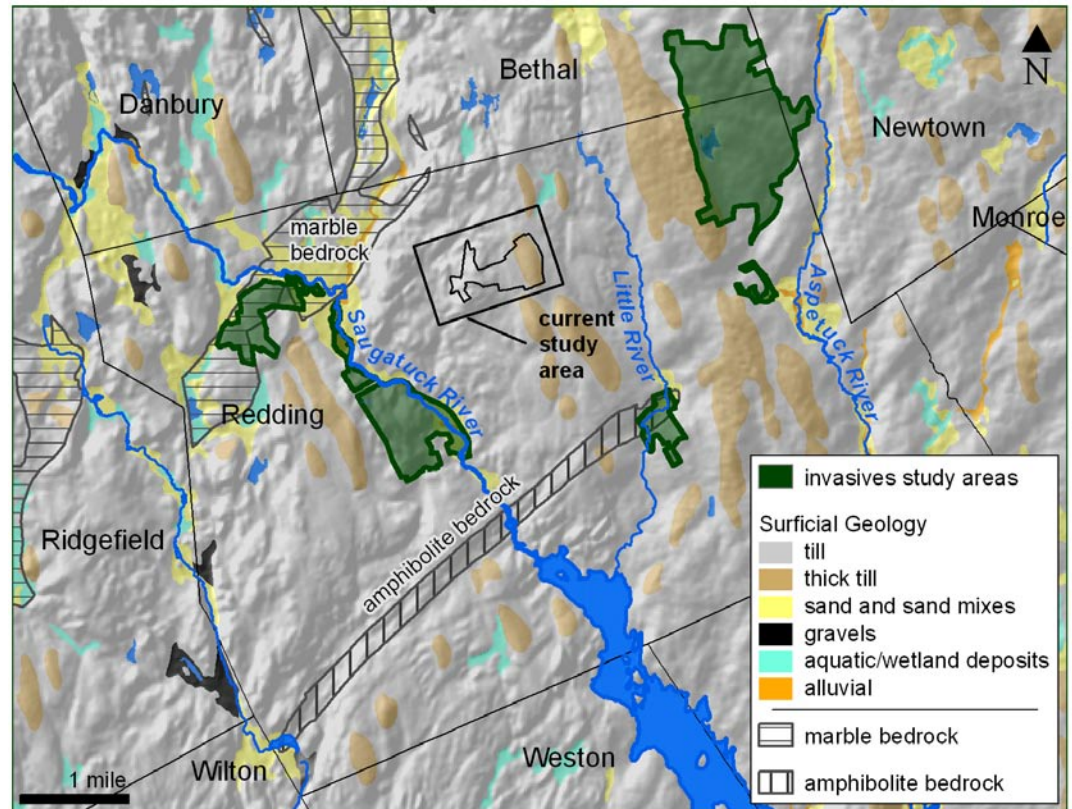


To the Members and Friends of Highstead

As we are beginning to enjoy the first hints of spring we invite you to learn more about our expanding efforts in southern New England through this newsletter and to join us in Redding at one of our numerous programs, interpretative walks and lectures. This year we will host another group of college interns working with Ed Faison on a range of ecological studies and will also be advertising a new position in regional conservation. Meanwhile, Kathleen Kitka will be finalizing the management plan for our collections and landscape and will be working with Darel Peck and other staff to enhance our many trails, plant collections, and vistas. We hope that you enjoy learning about these activities and can find time to visit during the coming months.

David Foster is Director of the Harvard Forest at Harvard University and Chair of the Highstead Board.

Ecological Studies – Forest variation, deer impacts, and invasive plants



Map showing the 2007 proposed invasive, exotic study sites overlaid on major geological features of Redding. Proposed vegetation sampling will occur on Town of Redding, Connecticut DEP, Redding Land Trust, Aquarion Water Company, and private lands

Forest ecologist Ed Faison will work closely this summer with two students in Highstead's intern program to broaden his studies of the role of invasive plants and deer browsing in southern New England forests. To expand previous work on invasive exotic plants, Ed will sample forests occurring in the major river valleys of Redding where alluvial and sandy soils and calcium and magnesium-rich bedrocks support diverse vegetation assemblages not found on Highstead and its adjacent properties. Invasive species research across Redding will be complemented by new observational and experimental research on deer impacts in the region's oak forests. The experiment will be modeled after Highstead's Woodland Demonstration in

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Ecological Studies: Examining Forest Variation and the Impact of Deer and Invasive Plants

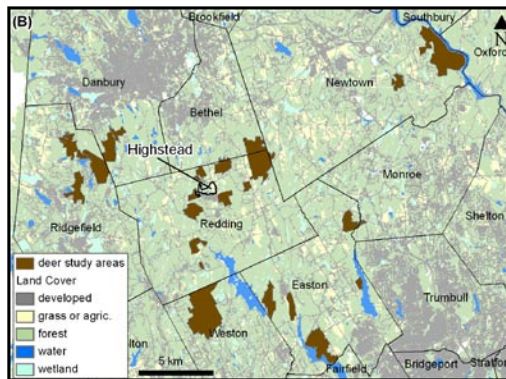
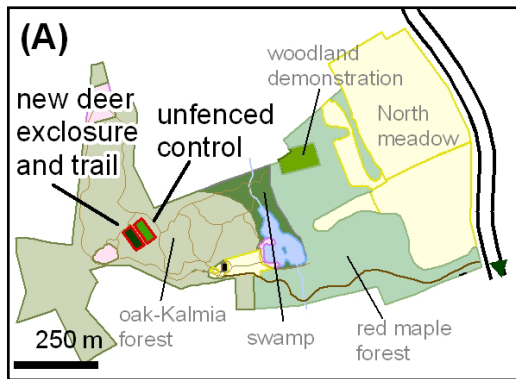
Ecological Studies

continued from page 1

which 8-foot tall fencing excludes deer from some forest areas while adjoining areas remain open to deer. Spanning Redding and seven adjoining towns, the observational study will compare the abundance of tree seedlings and herbs in hunted versus unhunted forests on Highstead, Connecticut DEP, Aquarion Water Company, Nature Conservancy, private, and municipal properties. Ed's group will also establish permanent plots in properties where hunting was initiated in 2006 to measure forest changes as the deer population is reduced. Lastly, Ed plans to compare the growth rates of trees that have been exposed to very different deer densities by examining annual growth rings.



Ed Faison is the Forest Ecologist at Highstead.



Study area for the 2007 deer-forest regeneration study including (A) Highstead's landscape with the woodland demonstration and the proposed deer enclosure with access trail in the oak woodland. The new trail will connect the cultivated Kalmia Collection and the east Loop Walk and provide a panoramic overlook of the enclosure experiment and surrounding oak woodland. An interpretive panel will provide information on the forest and research, and a spur trail will allow for closer observation and entry to the enclosure. Map B shows the proposed study sites of the broader comparative study of forest regeneration in hunted and unhunted properties of Redding and surrounding towns. Proposed vegetation sampling will occur on Connecticut DEP, Aquarion Water Company, Municipal, and Private Lands.



Highstead's Mission:

To inspire curiosity and build knowledge about plants and wooded landscapes in order to enhance life, preserve nature and advance sound stewardship practices.

A New Position at Highstead

Peter K. Nelson,
Scientist, Teacher and
Botanical Illustrator

Highstead

Contents and Contributors:

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– Examining forest
variation and the
impact of deer and
invasive plants**

**Regional
Conservationist
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Highstead**

**Summer Program
2007**

**Highstead Board
Member Receives
Japan Prize for
Tropical Ecology**

News

Regional Conservationist –

A New Position at Highstead

This spring Highstead will be advertising a new position – Regional Conservationist – focused on increasing regional-scale forest conservation and land protection through research, outreach and collaboration with groups across southern New England. The main responsibilities of the Regional Conservationist are to advance landscape scale conservation, enhance the regional role of Highstead by building partnerships with individuals and organizations focused on forest conservation, and expand Highstead’s education and communication programs.

Today there are many local, regional and state efforts to protect and manage forests across southern New England. The new position at Highstead seeks to aid these efforts by identifying existing regional and national models for achieving landscape- and regional- scale forest conservation and communicating this information to landowners, organizations, the media and general public.

It is anticipated that the new staff member will be hosting workshops, meetings and educational programs at Highstead and across the region and providing outreach through web-based products, publications, and public events. Additional information about this position is available at <http://www.highstead.net>.

Highstead Board Member Receives Japan Prize for Tropical Ecology

Peter Shaw Ashton, a major force in the launching of Highstead in 1982 and a founding board member, Professor and former director of the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University, was awarded the prestigious Japan Prize in March 2007 for his “significant contributions towards solving the conflict between human beings and the tropical forest ecosystem.”

The award, by the Science and Technology Foundation of Japan, honors individuals whose original scientific and technological achievements have advanced knowledge and served the cause of human peace and prosperity.

Co-founder of the Center for Tropical Forest Science at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Ashton developed and promoted a network of “Forest Dynamic Plots” to examine tropical forest diversity, biological productivity, and role in stabilizing global climate. The network has grown to encompass three continents,



*Peter Ashton, his wife Mary,
and Ed Faison at Highstead.*



Highstead

Early Morning Birdwalk

Sunday, May 13th

7:00 am

Milan Bull, Senior Director of Science and Conservation, Connecticut Audubon Society

Accompanied by Miley, the sights and sounds of nature on a spring morning will lead us through woodland, wetland, field, and pond habitats at Highstead as we identify birds.

Reservations Required: Attendance is limited, and is first-come first-served. Please call Highstead at 203-938-8809.

About the Speaker

Milan Bull is Senior Director of Science and Conservation for the Connecticut Audubon Society and Editor-in-Chief of the Connecticut State of the Birds Report. He is a long-time expedition leader to destinations throughout the Americas, Australia, Antarctica, Borneo, and Africa. Miley serves on many conservation Boards and Committees throughout the State and is the President of the Connecticut Ornithological Association. He is an alumnus of the University of Connecticut.

Highstead Portfolio

Sunday, May 13th

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Birgit Freybe Bateman

As we welcome Birgit back to Highstead, this slideshow and talk will take us beyond her previous Highstead exhibit and behind the camera, as she shares her experiences in creating this delightful and artistic collection.

As space is limited, please call Highstead for a reservation at 203-938-8809

About the Speaker

Birgit Freybe Bateman is a photographer based on Saltspring Island, British Columbia, Canada. Her work explores the variety of shape, form, texture and pattern of man-made and natural worlds. Birgit's desire is to discover the extraordinary in the ordinary. Her photographs have been placed in international publications and calendars, a recent book ENDS OF THE EARTH written by noted American travel writer, Peter Matthiessen, published by The National Geographic.

Art Exhibit:

“Butterflies, Moths and Pollinating Insects of the East Coast”

May 09 – June 22

Guild of Natural Science Illustrators, Greater New York Chapter

Forty original works will be on display at the Highstead Barn. The exhibit is open for viewing Monday thru Friday 8:30 am – 4:00 pm by appointment.

Open Day at Highstead

Saturday, May 19

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Artists' Reception

1:00 pm

Join us at a reception for members of the Greater New York Guild of Natural Science Illustrators whose works are on display. Stay and enjoy the art and discussions with the artists.

3:00 pm

Ecology and Natural History — A Guided Walk with Ed Faison, Highstead Ecologist

Ed will introduce the different forest communities at Highstead, discussing how these vary in relationship to the geology, soils and history of the land. The walk will focus on interpreting the processes that have shaped the land, how the forests have changed over time, and how they fit into the larger landscape of southwestern Connecticut and New England. Part of the walk will be off-trail - appropriate footwear is advisable. Group size limited to 15 people.

Highstead's trails will be open to visitors throughout the afternoon for unescorted walks

While enjoying a leisurely stroll through the woodland, take in the fragrance and color of the North American Azalea Collection. Fenced for protection from deer, this two-acre site showcases fourteen species of deciduous azalea growing in harmony with a fascinating assemblage of native companion plants.



Program



Brave New Ecology: Nature in a Changing World

Sunday, June 10

10:00 am

Slide Lecture

Dr. Peter del Tredici, Senior Research Scientist, Arnold Arboretum and Highstead Board member

Peter Del Tredici will explore the nature of the urban/suburban environment and the ways it is changing in response to a growing population and global economy. He will show how the spread of invasive species across the landscape is a symptom of on-going environmental degradation rather than its cause. He will also attempt to define an approach to the problem that focuses more on rebuilding ecological function than restoring past ecosystems.

As space is limited, please call Highstead for a reservation at 203-938-8809.

11:00 am

Interpretive Walk

Building on his talk, Peter del Tredici will lead us on an exploration of the Highstead landscape where he will examine the range of exotic and native plants in their landscape context.

About the Speaker

Peter Del Tredici has worked at the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University since 1979, as Plant Propagator, Editor of *Arnoldia*, Director of Living Collections, and, most recently, Senior Research Scientist. Since 1984, he has been the Curator of the famous Larz Anderson collections of bonsai plants, housed at the Arboretum. Dr. Del Tredici has been a Lecturer in the Department of Landscape Architecture since 1992, with a strong interest in urban ecology. He is the winner of the Arthur Hoyt Scott Medal and Award for 1999, presented annually by the Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College “in recognition of outstanding national contributions to the science and art of gardening.”

Dr. Del Tredici received his Ph.D in Biology from Boston University in 1991. He holds a BA degree in Zoology from the University of California, Berkeley, and a MA degree in Biology from the University of Oregon.

Open Day at Highstead

Highstead’s trails will be open to members and friends for unescorted walking.

Saturday, August 4
9:00 am – 2:00 pm

10:00 am

A Guided Tour the Clethra Collection

Kathleen Kitka, Highstead Collections Manager

The sweet smell of swampland? A magnificent natural stand of sweet pepperbush fills the air with its summer scent. Nearly three acres of this unusually late native bloomer is made accessible by boardwalk for a dry-footed discovery of the swamp habitat at Highstead. This habitat is one of several at the Arboretum maintained to allow the appreciation of the native plants, birds, and wildlife dwelling there. The one-hour guided walk will lead us to the pond where selected cultivars of this shrub display the attributes that make the sweet pepperbush a welcome addition to home landscapes and natural areas.

Highstead

THANK YOU!

The Board and Staff of Highstead would like to express great appreciation and gratitude to each of you who has supported our goals by renewing your membership. We also would like to acknowledge below the special generosity of those who have voluntarily made contributions of \$50 or more, furthering Highstead's mission as it pursues its newly-broadened role locally, regionally and nationally. We thank you all!

Mrs. E.H. Ahrens
Mr. & Mrs. Chip Anderson
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Mr. & Mrs. James E. Bacon
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Barnes
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Beekman
Roger M. Bowman
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Mr. & Mrs. Richard Wastrom
Helene A. Weatherill
Stephen & Ann White
Dr. & Mrs. Philip Wiedel
Judith D. Zuk

Peter K. Nelson

Scientist, Teacher, and Botanical Illustrator, 92 years

With regret we note the death of Dr. Peter K. Nelson in Brooklyn, N.Y. Peter was a good friend of Highstead, who kindly lent us some of his remarkable botanical art for a very special exhibit in 2002.

His interest in the natural world extended well beyond plants. Remembered as a teacher of immense unpretentious intellect, he shared his love of plants with students and colleagues alike. He was well versed in the fields of astronomy, mineralogy, and natural history, a highly sought-after speaker, an accomplished photographer, musician, editor and cook, as well.

Dr. Nelson retired from the faculty of the Brooklyn College Biology Department in 1985 and became a volunteer Garden Guide at Brooklyn Botanic Garden for 20 years, where until his death, he curated the moss collection at BBG's herbarium. He also served as a Trustee of the NY Botanical Garden.

Peter will be missed by a multitude of friends.

Peter Ashton

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sixteen countries and 18 plots holding 6,000 species and 3 million individual trees. Each plot is subject to a census every five years.

In its award statement the foundation wrote that "Dr. Ashton...has brought us enormous biological and ecological knowledge indispensable for establishing the technology of the conservation and restoration of tropical forests."

At Highstead Dr. Ashton has been a strong advocate for long-term studies. Currently these include the woodland demonstration deer enclosure and the array of more than 100 permanent vegetation plots that extend across the forest landscape at Highstead and adjoining properties owned by the Redding Land Trust, Town of Redding and The Nature Conservancy.



www.higheast.net

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