

## The Claire Birtz Wildlife Sanctuary, 116 acres tucked away

on the west side of the Designated Scenic Byway, Route 169, in Southbridge, MA, contains upland hardwood forest, a red maple swamp and vernal pools, as well as the Sanctuary's most striking feature: the 40-acre Morse Pond and the adjacent five acre freshwater marsh.

The trailhead is located on Tipton Rock Road, a short distance from the MA/CT border. One and a half miles of hiking trails wind along the shore of Morse Pond, through stands of beech and hemlock, and along old stone walls.

A small parking area for launching non-motorized boats onto Morse Pond is located on Route 169 just north of the state line.

Ms. Claire J. Birtz was an artist and an art teacher in the Southbridge school system



*Ms. Claire J. Birtz from the 1957 edition of The Crimson & Gray, the yearbook from the Mary E. Wells High School in Southbridge.*

for many years and a lifelong conservation supporter.

The Claire Birtz Wildlife Sanctuary was made possible through the successful partnership between Opacum Land Trust, The Trustees of the Claire Birtz Estate and The Town of Southbridge. The property is open to the public for activities that bring people closer to nature, such as bird-watching, hiking, painting, drawing, and kayaking.

## About Opacum Land Trust

Opacum Land Trust was formed in 2000 to conserve land of high ecological and historical interest in South Central Massachusetts. We focus on preserving priority habitat and ecosystems, working woodlands and agricultural land, historic and pre-colonial archaeological remains, and scenic land for outdoor recreational activities.

**The Sanctuary trailhead** is located off of Rt. 169 (North Woodstock Road) on Tipton Rock Road, in Southbridge. Use GPS address 444 Tipton Rock Road. *Please beware that sections of Tipton Rock Road west of the sanctuary are impassable! Do not approach from Blackmer Rd. or Lebanon Hill. Take Rt. 169!*



Opacum Land Trust  
P.O. Box 233, Sturbridge, MA 01566  
Phone 508-347-9144  
[www.opacumlt.org](http://www.opacumlt.org)

*Opacum Land Trust is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.  
All donations are tax deductible.*

*Contributions to help care for and maintain the  
Claire Birtz Sanctuary are welcome,  
and can be sent to Opacum Land Trust.*



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Southbridge, Massachusetts





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