

## Welcome to the Thompson Family “Forever Wild” Preserve,

a conservation area owned and stewarded by the Opacum Land Trust. The purchase of this 40-acre parcel by the Nature Conservancy and Opacum Land Trust was made possible through a generous bargain sale (sale at less than fair market value) by Clyde Thompson, who, with his siblings, inherited the 90-acre Mapleshade Dairy Farm from their parents Roger & Elinor Thompson.

Opacum maintains a one-mile loop trail so the public may enjoy its scenic and habitat values. The trail is marked with yellow blazes, and begins directly across the old pasture from the parking area.

As you walk, you will see evidence that this land was once used for farming: stone piles and walls, cedar fence posts, barbed wire and massive old maple trees. Over time the open fields have gradually returned to forest through the natural process of succession.

Growing up on the farm gave Clyde a sense and appreciation of the natural world: “There is a lot of habitat being lost to development and I think it’s important, and I hope other large landowners will see the importance of keeping woodland as habitat. We’re looking forward to keeping this segment woods forever, so future generations will be able to enjoy the natural habitat and be able to see the wildlife at different times.” (Clyde Thompson, 2003)

## 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.

### Directions

The Thompson Family Forever Wild Preserve is located on Eastford Road (Route 198), just south of Dennison Drive in Southbridge, MA. Parking is limited and along the edge of the road. Please use extra caution when entering and exiting your vehicle.



P.O. Box 233, Sturbridge, MA 01566  
(508) 347-9144

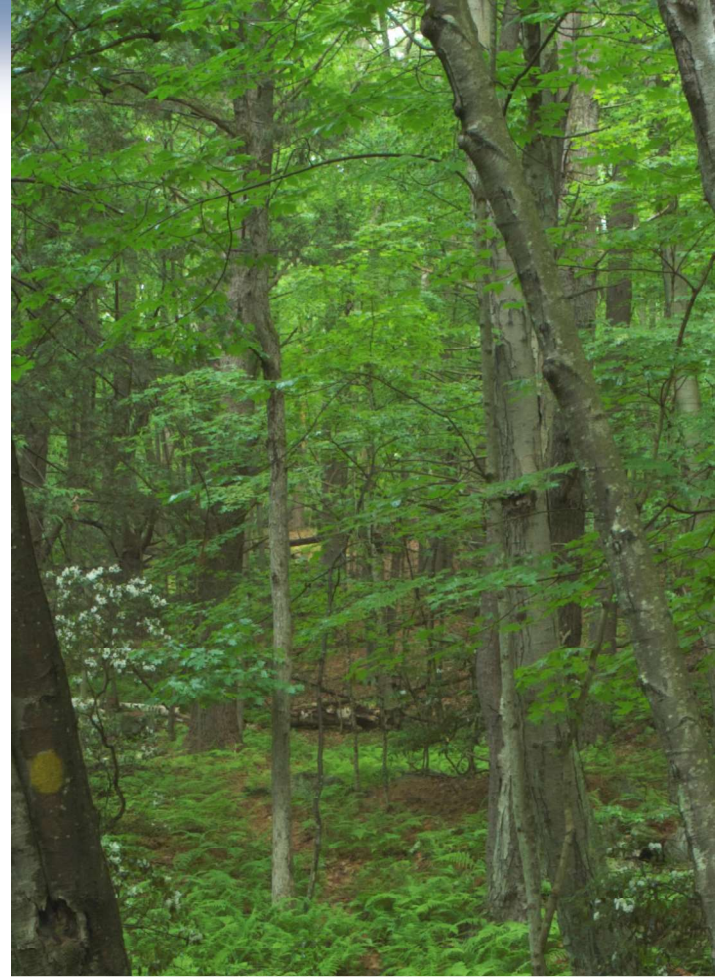
[www.OpacumLT.org](http://www.OpacumLT.org)

*Opacum Land Trust is a non-profit organization.  
All donations are tax deductible.*

*Contributions to The Thompson Family Forever Wild Preserve Stewardship Fund are welcome and help us maintain this unique property.*



Thank you to Savers Bank for  
sponsoring the preserve!



# THE THOMPSON FAMILY FOREVER WILD PRESERVE

Southbridge, Massachusetts





# THOMPSON FAMILY FOREVER WILD PRESERVE

Vernal Pool

To Southbridge

Eastford Rd / Rt. 198



Trailhead and parking  
for 1-2 cars



1-mile loop trail



Steep Uphill

200 feet

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