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# Princeton Land Trust

P.O. Box 271 Princeton MA 01541



## PLT Founders Award 2007

I would like to take a moment to tell you about a person who has helped the Land Trust from its very beginning. I think you all know him – he’s sitting out there wondering why his wife insisted on coming here tonight, never imagining that he would be singled out for public recognition, and right now likely wishing he could just disappear.

For the past 17 years, Bob Mason has given generously of his time and his equipment to help the Trust cut fields, clear trees, burn brush, move stones and breach stone walls.

He annually brushes out the stone walls around Russell Corner, as well as the falling down stone wall that runs across the Triangle; the property would quickly become very shabby without his work. In addition he has cleared trees from the lower McElroy field twice, and been the supply house and repair shop for the Land Trust’s old yellow tractor. (I say Land Trust’s tractor, but actually it has been the common property of several Trustees; it may one day be owned outright by the Trust, but for now it seems we hold a sort of Conservation Restriction on the tractor without actually owning it.)

Connections with the Land Trust run in Bob’s family. His uncle, Rocky Mason, was our first land donor. He gave the small triangle of land on Route 31 between Merriam and Mirick Roads that the trust has come to call Mason Rock.

Bob has shown us how to burn brush without setting the surrounding woods ablaze, and cheerfully moved our monument stones into place – several of them twice, when on further reflection we thought a different spot might work better.

He has told us stories of Princeton in bygone days, when dairy farms dotted the town’s landscape and far fewer people lived here. He has been a good neighbor, and a friend, and we have named him the first recipient of the PLT Founders Award, created this year to remind us of the reasons the Trust was founded by Dick Mirick, Stacey Poor, Wye Garfield, Paul Schlaikjer and Wells Dow.

Thank you, Bob, for everything you have done, and still do, to help the Trust preserve the rural character and natural beauty of Princeton.

Roger Leo  
President/PLT  
Nov. 8, 2007