



Land Trust News

The newsletter of the Westborough Community Land Trust

Trail Reporting Gets Easier

WCLT trail monitoring coordinator Scott Henderson aims to make it easy for WCLT members and trail monitors, as well as Westborough residents in general, to communicate with WCLT about the state of the trails they've walked. All anyone has to do is to send an email to Scott at scottmhenderson@gmail.com.

Scott plans to revitalize, reorganize, and expand WCLT's trail monitoring program, "Friends of the Charm Bracelet." This effort will involve categorizing both WCLT-owned properties (such as Jackstraw Brook Reservation, which includes Gilmore Pond) and other properties that WCLT monitors (such as the Headwaters Conservation Area and easements for Charm Bracelet trails) according to the level of monitoring that is desirable.

About 10 trail monitors currently participate in the program. These "Friends" already do different levels of monitoring. Some walk the trails and observe conditions. Others routinely carry trash bags with them when they walk, and still others take loppers when they go.

Scott intends to recruit additional trail monitors but says, "I'd like to make it easier for people to contribute reports without being official trail monitors. If you walk a trail somewhat regularly, send me an email about what you've seen."

What might people report? Scott wants to know about overgrown areas that need

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WCLT Honors Pam Resor

A little girl runs through wildflowers on a Nebraska prairie; later as a Smith College student, she discovers the beauty of the Berkshires. As one of Massachusetts' most effective legislators, Pam Resor transformed her early love of nature into a powerful commitment to protect the environment. For 30 years, the hallmark of her public service has been integrity, intelligence, and unswerving dedication to her values, especially safeguarding the environment.

For her legacy of environmental protection, WCLT has awarded Pam Resor the 2009 Pepper Award. The Pepper Award recognizes outstanding work in land conservation and preservation and advancing the WCLT mission.

It was in 1966, when Pam moved to Acton with her husband Griff and began to raise three children, that her interest took a political turn.

"When the Town of Acton discovered that W.R. Grace & Co. had polluted 40% of our town water supply, I became an instant activist," she says. "Although I had been interested in the environmental movement, this local issue made it my passion."

In 1981, Pam was elected to the Acton Board of Selectmen. "As a Selectman I was much involved in following up on the W.R. Grace cleanup," she says.

Pam moved on to become the Director of the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC). Seeking greater influence in shaping environmental policy, she won a seat in the State House of Representatives in 1990. Pam continued to serve four terms for the 14th Middlesex District.

As state representative, Pam was involved with environmental legislation, particularly passage of the previously stalled Rivers Protection Act in 1996. When Senator Bob Durand's seat became open in 1999, Pam ran and was elected State Senator for the Middlesex-Worcester District. During her decade in the State Senate, Pam served as Chair of the Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture; Vice-Chair of the Senate Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change; and a member of the powerful Senate Ways and Means Committee.

Pam played a key role in passing or strengthening far-reaching environmental laws, including the Community Preservation Act (2000), Mercury Reduction Act, the Five Chemical Review of the Toxic Use Reduction Act (2006), and the Oceans Act and Global Warming Act (2008). She also has been a tireless advocate for the protection of local conservation land and for the budgets of the state environmental agencies.

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WCLT Live Snake Program



At the WCLT-sponsored live snake presentation in March, children had the opportunity to touch all sorts of snakes, including this hognose snake, which is native to Massachusetts. Youthful members of snake expert Rick Roth's Cape Ann Vernal Pond Team carried both native and exotic snakes around the room for adults and children to view up close.

Rick's show-and-tell featured Massachusetts' harmless snakes, including a garter snake, ribbon snake, northern water snake, milk snake, ringneck snake, green snake, black racer, and black rat snake. Rick also presented Massachusetts' two venomous

snakes — the copperhead and the rattlesnake — in locked clear plastic boxes. They are very uncommon and not found in Westborough.

Later in the show he brought out many exotic snakes, including large boa constrictors from the Americas and pythons from the Old World. A grant from the Westborough Cultural Council made this exciting event possible.

WCLT Honors Pam Resor

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A fine negotiator respected for her listening skills and thorough preparation, Pam also worked behind the scenes. "Often my role was to stop anti-environmental legislation or to stop the erosion of the environmental budgets," she says. "We have great potential for a magnificent state park system, for example, but we have never invested enough to make this a reality. I am proud of having put Massachusetts back in the lead in many environmental areas, but there remains much to be done."

Pam continues to champion the environment. "There is no doubt that the actions you take — both in changing your own lifestyle to conserve resources, and by speaking out to challenge others to do the same — are the most effective ways to move our society toward sustainability," she says. "I am convinced that grassroots pressure is essential to moving our government at all levels toward more environmentally sound policies. Your voices as well as your actions will bring progress toward a more sustainable society."

WCLT salutes Pam Resor for being a compelling — and inspiring — voice for the environment.



Join us! Help protect Westborough Open Space by joining WCLT.

- \$35 Individual \$50 Family \$100 Sustainer \$250 Benefactor
 Other \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ Telephone _____

- My employer matching gift form is enclosed.
 I am interested in making a gift of land or real estate. Please contact me.

Make checks payable to the Westborough Community Land Trust
 PO Box 838, Westborough, MA 01581

2009 – 2010

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Indian Pond and Assabet River Views



Indian Pond is about 2 acres, slightly smaller than Gilmore Pond. WCLT volunteer Marge Fisher, who took these photos, has already been at work lopping and clearing. She has tidied about 300 yards along the shore. According to Stewardship chair Don Burn, “there are a lot of one- and two-person projects that can be done on a summer evening.”



A knoll on WCLT's recently acquired Indian Pond land offers this view of the Assabet River in early spring. Much of the land is wetland and contains wetland plants such as skunk cabbage, false hellebore, and spicebush. Plans for improving the area include removing invasive burning bush shrubs.

Anyone interested in helping out should contact Don at: stewardship@westboroughlandtrust.org.



Kathy Leblanc presents a WCLT nature program to children at the Congregational Church Preschool. Kris Allen, Barbara Muise, Elaine Moore, and Annie Reid also participated. The children made clay impressions of animal tracks and took home WCLT nature passports.

WCLT 2009 Earth Day Town Clean-up

Bruce Tretter and Doug Mosher coordinated WCLT's 11th annual Town-wide clean-up. Forty-six volunteers removed more than 70 bags of trash. Thanks also go to Elaine Moore, Sharon Williams, Warren Anderson, Kris Allen, Ed Beauchemin, and the DPW, especially Don Gale and his crew. WCLT's litter clean-up emphasizes the importance of personal responsibility for our environment.



Maureen and Liam Johnson sign up with Ed Beauchemin for a site to clean up at Earth Day.

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mowing, places that look great, muddy patches of trail that are either passable or impassable, bog bridges that need repair, fallen trees across the trail, inaccuracies on maps, instances of dumping or vandalism, parking lot problems, and more.

Trail reporting will be aided by two Eagle Scout projects that produced maps and photos showing both points of interest and problem areas along 28 miles of Charm Bracelet trails.

What are the rewards of monitoring or maintaining trails? They include “a sense of proprietorship and the pleasure of having ‘your own’ little piece of nature to keep attractive,” says WCLT member Al Sanborn. “I know that's how I feel, and it's what keeps me coming back.”

Walking and reporting on the trails also makes a great outdoor family activity, Scott says, “and a way to introduce kids to volunteering.”



Calendar of Upcoming WCLT Events

For meeting places and details about these events, check the WCLT web site at www.westboroughlandtrust.org

Saturday, July 11

9 am – noon (Rain date July 18)

Gilmore Pond Work Party

Bring loppers and work gloves.
Gilmore Farm Road. Contact:
stewardship@westboroughlandtrust.org

Wednesday, July 15

6:45 pm

Willows WCLT Benefit Concert

Westwood Swing Band at The Willows

Saturday, August 15

9 am – noon

(Rain date August 22)

Gilmore Pond Work Party

Bring loppers and work gloves.
Gilmore Farm Road. Contact:
stewardship@westboroughlandtrust.org

Sunday, August 16

1:30 pm

Garden in the Woods Field Trip

Enjoy meadow flowers and butterflies
at N.E. Wild Flower Society,
Framingham. Carpool from
Westborough Library at 1:30 pm.
Contact: lmleslie@charter.net

Sunday, September 13

1:30 pm

Tree Tales

Discover the stories that trees tell, with
retired forester Bill Carr and Kris Allen.
Bowman Conservation Area.
Contact: krisallen@charter.net

Sunday, October 18

1:30 pm - 4 pm

(Rain date October 25)

Gilmore Pond Work Party

Bring loppers and work gloves.
Gilmore Farm Road. Contact:
stewardship@westboroughlandtrust.org

Saturday, October 24

1 - 3 pm

Fall Foraging

Find edible and useful wild plants with
Arthur Haines of N.E. Wild Flower
Society. St. Luke's field.
Contact: anneareid@aol.com

Saturday, October 31

9 am – noon

(Rain date November 1)

Indian Pond Trail Building

Bring loppers and work gloves.
Contact: stewardship@westboroughlandtrust.org

Saturday, November 7

9 am – noon

(Rain date November 14)

Gilmore Pond Work Party

Bring loppers and work gloves.
Gilmore Farm Road. Contact:
stewardship@westboroughlandtrust.org

Sunday, November 8

1:30 pm

(Rain date November 15)

Rock It!

Examine local rocks with geologist
Andy Koenigsberg.
Lee Property, Headwaters
Conservation Area.
Contact:
andrew.koenigsberg@verizon.net



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