

# Land Trust News

The newsletter of the Westborough Community Land Trust

2011



## Remembering WCLT Founding Director Ellen Lutz (1955-2010)

Ellen Lutz, a founding director of the Westborough Community Land Trust and its first vice president, lost a valiant battle with cancer and died in Cambridge at age 55 last November.

As a member of the Town's Open Space Preservation Committee from 1995-2002, Ellen championed and guided the Town's acquisition of the Headwaters Conservation Area. The preserved open lands there are a testament to her foresight, persistence, and negotiating skills.

She also served the Town on the Walkup Robinson Fund Committee 1997-2004 and the Chapter 61A Study Committee 1998-2000.

While she was an exchange student in Uruguay in high school, Ellen experienced the beginning of the state-sponsored "Dirty War." That experience led to a life-long dedication to the international rights movement. She earned a B.A. from Temple University, an M.A. in anthropology from Bryn Mawr, and a law degree in international law and human rights from the University of California-Berkeley. From 1989-1994 she directed the first

Continued on page 4

## Warren Anderson Receives WCLT President's Award for Scout Work



*WCLT president John Metzger congratulates award recipient Warren Anderson, joined by Tim Roth (Scoutmaster of Troop 100) at far left and Frank Yeung (Scoutmaster of Troop 382) at far right.*

Warren Anderson received the Westborough Community Land Trust's 2011 President's Award, presented by John Metzger to recognize a WCLT member who has given exemplary service to the land trust. This year the award was given for extraordinary work by all the Boy Scout troops in Westborough in their service project to clear invasive plants around Gilmore Pond.

"Receiving this award was an unexpected surprise," Warren says. "I see the award more as recognition for the many environmental projects that the town's Scout organizations have performed."

Continued on page 3

## WCLT Recommends Making a Public Park on Westborough State Hospital Land

The Westborough Community Land Trust (WCLT) recommends that a public park be created on the northern shore of Lake Chauncy on a portion of the former Westborough State Hospital land owned by the state.

"This area is one of Westborough's greatest natural resources. The beauty and bounty of Lake Chauncy have sustained Town residents from its earliest settlement in the 17th century to the present day," explains WCLT president John Metzger.

Responding to state plans to sell the Westborough State Hospital property (in the north end of town, off Lyman Street) for re-use and development, with no asking price yet given, WCLT made a three-part recommendation:

- 1) That the Great Lawn and northern shore of Lake Chauncy be permanently protected as a public park, and that existing open space on the property continue to be preserved as a public natural area;

Continued on page 2



- 2) That all retail and residential construction be restricted to restoration or re-use of existing buildings, where possible, and otherwise, that all new construction take place within the limits of the existing built area;
- 3) That existing trails on the property remain open to the public (as they currently are under a working agreement that WCLT has with the state Division of Fisheries and Wildlife) and that WCLT be allowed to develop a new trail that was approved in 2006, with all land involved to remain as open space.

Speaking for the WCLT Board of Directors in a letter to the state's Westborough State Hospital Reuse Commission dated March 21, 2011, John put forward this recommendation, noting that WCLT "supports the idea of reuse of the Westborough State Hospital for an appropriate level of mixed residential/retail and open space uses."

He also pointed out the importance of the area to the region's wildlife:

"Westborough State Hospital's natural spaces are also an integral part of the largest contiguous wildlife corridor in the region, nearly 1200 acres, reaching from Westborough to Framingham. For these reasons, it is imperative that this wildlife corridor not be fragmented. Open space of such vital importance to humans and wildlife is rare and, once developed, can never be regained."

John concluded, "Our recommendation would accomplish both goals of adaptive reuse and land preservation. This would bring revenue to the Town without losing one of its most beautiful natural places to development."

## Returning Raptors to the Sky



At WCLT's live-animal Earth Awareness event in April, wildlife biologist and licensed rehabilitator Tom Ricardi introduced rescued birds of prey, including this peregrine falcon and an owl, to more than 150 children and adults. This event was supported in part by a Westborough Cultural Council grant.



Photos by Jeff Kimball

## 2011 – 2012 Board of Directors

John Metzger, *President*  
 Sharon Williams, *Vice President*  
 Allison Johnson Hall, *Treasurer*  
 Steven Rowell, *Assistant Treasurer*  
 Marjorie Fisher, *Secretary*  
 Sue Abladian, *Member at Large*  
 Scott Shumway, *Member at Large*

Mary Casey  
 Mark Fox  
 Maureen Johnson  
 Garry Kessler  
 Vivian Kimball  
 Rickey Lopatin  
 Elaine Moore  
 Kelly Thomas

### 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

Westborough Community Land Trust is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.



### Westborough Community Land Trust

The *Land Trust News* is published by the Westborough Community Land Trust, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization working to preserve open space in Westborough.

WCLT is a member of: the Land Trust Alliance, the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition.

The *Land Trust News* is printed at Curry Printing, Westborough, MA, an FSC Certified Green Printer.

# Successful 2011 Earth Day Town-wide Clean-up



Westborough is greener and cleaner thanks to more than 110 citizens who took part in WCLT's 2011 Earth Day Town-wide Clean-up. They filled 105 bags with litter from roadsides and public lands. Thanks to volunteers of all ages, including work teams from Ted's Montana Grill and H&S Environmental, a New Hope Chapel church group, the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church youth group, Cub Scout Packs 4 and 33, and Explorer Post 85, as well as families and individuals. Congratulations to coordinator Bruce Tretter and his team, Kelly Wilcox, Vivian Kimball, and Kris Allen.

*Vivian Kimball, Kris Allen, Bruce Tretter (clean-up coordinator), Sharon Williams, Elaine Moore, Kathy Leblanc, and Barbara Muise. Photo by Megan Parks, courtesy of the Westborough Patch.*

## “Wild in Westborough”

### Photo Contest Celebrates Our Environment

What better time than summer to take or sort through photos to submit to “Wild in Westborough” in the fall? This juried photo contest celebrates the natural environment of Westborough that the Westborough Community Land Trust has worked for nearly 15 years to preserve.

Awards will include Best of Show (1st, 2nd, and 3rd), plus a Popular Vote Award.

Deliver up to two photos of natural subjects in Westborough to Tatnuck Bookseller on October 13 or 14, 6 – 8 p.m., or October 15, 10 a.m. – 12 noon. For contest details and entry forms, visit [www.westboroughlandtrust.org](http://www.westboroughlandtrust.org) or email [photocontest@westboroughlandtrust.org](mailto:photocontest@westboroughlandtrust.org).



## WHS beetle ranchers

For a third year, Anita Lotti's environmental science students at Westborough High School were “beetle ranchers,” raising *Galerucella* beetles to feed on invasive purple loosestrife in WCLT's purple loosestrife biocontrol project in Westborough's wetlands.

### President's Award Continued from page 1

Warren organized the service project at WCLT's Gilmore Pond to mark the 100th anniversary of Boy Scouts in the United States in 2010. He coordinated a training session for leaders on invasive honeysuckle removal, followed by three scout work parties, assisted by WCLT stewardship volunteers. More than 60 boys from Cub Scout Packs 4, 100, and 3033 and Boy Scout Troops 4, 100, and 382 worked with enthusiasm to uproot and remove honeysuckle shrubs on three weekends in October 2010.

Warren, who is an electrical engineer at AMD in Boxborough, was introduced to the wonders of nature through family outings and Boy Scouts in Minnesota. “My grandfather had a vacation house near Lake Superior, and it was fun to hike the trails there,” he says. “I also had a summer internship at Yellowstone National Park while I was at Carleton College. I hiked well over 100 miles that summer.”

It is no surprise that Warren and his wife Janet, who shares his love of nature, hiking, and Scouts, chose a home on the shores of Lake Chauncy in 1997. Warren has been involved in local Boy Scouts since 2006 and active with the land trust. “Over the last ten years, I've been happy to see the Charm Bracelet trail system grow and more land being preserved by the land trust,” he says. He notes that Boy Scouts use the Charm Bracelet trails for activities.

The massive invasive removal project at Gilmore Pond is a tangible testament to the scouts' commitment to combine community service with improving the environment. The Westborough Community Land Trust has greatly benefitted from its long-time relationship with the Boy Scouts of Westborough, with both aiming toward a shared goal: to preserve our town's natural heritage.



## WCLT nature sightings page

Check or contribute to WCLT's new wildlife sightings page at [www.westboroughlandtrust.org/sightings.php](http://www.westboroughlandtrust.org/sightings.php)

### Calendar of Upcoming WCLT Events

For details and updates, visit us on the web at [www.westboroughlandtrust.org](http://www.westboroughlandtrust.org) or [www.facebook.com/westboroughlandtrust](http://www.facebook.com/westboroughlandtrust).

For questions contact: [events@westboroughlandtrust.org](mailto:events@westboroughlandtrust.org)

**Wednesday, July 13**

**6:45 pm**

**Willows Concert to Benefit WCLT**

Westwood Swing Band at the Willows

**Saturday, August 13**

**9 am – 1:30 pm**

**Field Trip: Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge, Sudbury**

Explore this new refuge with Jill Phelps Kern, author of *Hiking the SuAsCo Watershed*. Carpool from Westborough Library.

**Sunday, September 18**

**1:30 – 3:30 pm**

**Gilmore Pond Program & Walk**

Discover WCLT volunteers' progress over the last five years in creating our Gilmore Pond Woodland Park and learn future plans.

**Sunday, October 9**

**1:30 – 3:30 pm**

**Autumn Hike to Indian Pond**

Join Marge Fisher on the newly created trail to Indian Pond.

**Sunday, October 23**

**2 – 5 pm**

**"Wild in Westborough" Photo Contest Open House**

Tatnuck Bookseller  
Celebrate our nature photography entrants and winners! Exhibit runs through November 6.

**Wednesday, November 9**

**7 – 8:30 pm**

**Earthquakes in New England**

Westborough Public Library  
Geologist Andy Koenigsberg talks about earthquakes in New England.

Remembering Ellen – Continued from page 1

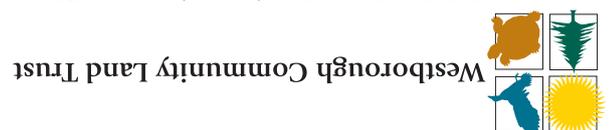
California office of Human Rights Watch. During this time, Ellen exposed extensive human rights abuses in Mexico and co-counseled two ground-breaking human rights cases, against Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos and Argentine general Suarez-Mason. After moving to Westborough with her family in 1994, she focused on setting up and directing the Center for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution at Tufts University. She also taught international law, human rights, and mediation at Tufts, Harvard, and the University of Massachusetts. Her co-edited books, *Prosecuting Heads of State* and *Human Rights & Conflict Resolution in Context: Colombia, Sierra Leone & Northern Ireland*, were published in 2009.

Ellen became executive director of Cultural Survival in Cambridge in 2004. She concentrated on increasing the participation of indigenous people in Cultural Survival and broadening its human rights initiatives. One of her colleagues wrote, "It would be difficult to quantify Ellen's passion for justice. Her zeal and natural warm-heartedness combined with a legal rigor that made her a truly formidable advocate."

Ellen Lutz was a tireless advocate not only for human rights, but also for preserving open space in our town. She leaves a lasting legacy of natural beauty and inspiration to the residents of Westborough.



PO Box 838 • Westborough, MA 01581



Non Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 418  
Westborough, MA