



Land Trust News

The newsletter of the Westborough Community Land Trust

June 2016

Targeted Giving Benefits Both WCLT and Scouts

What could be better than a donation that benefits two organizations instead of just one? Such a donation can now take place when someone makes a donation to Westborough Community Land Trust (WCLT) that is targeted for scout projects. These targeted donations go toward defraying the cost of WCLT-sponsored scout projects — Boy Scout Eagle projects, Girl Scout Gold projects, and others. These scout projects typically further WCLT's work in stewarding the trails and open spaces in town. WCLT president Scott Shumway notes that many scout projects cost \$500 – \$1,000 for materials, supplies, and tools.

"WCLT currently averages 10 Boy Scout Eagle projects per year plus a growing number of Girl Scout projects," Scott said. "Dozens of youth engage in these service projects each year, making it possible for people to enjoy the outdoors on safe, well-maintained trails and to be educated about the nature surrounding the trails."

The WCLT web site Hall of Fame lists 67 Boy Scout Eagle projects and 3 Girl Scout Gold projects that have benefited WCLT through 2015 (www.westboroughlandtrust.org/hall-of-fame). Recent scout projects include building outdoor staircases and bog bridges, creating trails, removing acres of invasive plants, raising biocontrol beetles to combat invasive purple loosestrife, blazing and

Continued on page 2



photo by S.W. Shumway

EMSEAL Earth Day clean-up team, including CEO Lester Hensley (sixth from left)

WCLT Welcomes EMSEAL as Its First Business Partner

The Westborough Community Land Trust (WCLT) is pleased to welcome EMSEAL as its first and founding business partner in the land trust's new business partnership program. EMSEAL is a Founder and Heritage Business Partner in the program.



The partnership got off to an impressive and visible start at WCLT's annual Earth Day Clean-up when a crew of 13

EMSEAL employees, including CEO and Westborough resident Lester Hensley, teamed up with three members of WCLT's board of directors to clean up Bridle Lane. Besides 20 bags of trash, this team removed a child's stepstool, one carburetor, three automobile tires, vinyl siding, and more.

Tucked away in a cul-de-sac at the end of Bridle Lane, just a few hundred yards from a segment of Charm Bracelet trail and a nearby vernal pool, EMSEAL's Westborough headquarters has 35 employees, part of a total of about 100 people world-wide.

What sort of company is EMSEAL? It designs and manufactures joints and seals used in large building projects. EMSEAL's customers are other businesses in the construction industry. For example, Yankee Stadium, Gillette Stadium, Fenway Park and the

Continued on page 3

Stock Donation to Support Open Space Is a Win-Win for Everyone

By Judy Powell

photo by Judy Powell



Karen and Mark O'Connell discuss their family's commitment to open space and their recent stock donation to WCLT.

For Karen and Mark O'Connell it was an embarrassment of riches. A gift of stock that had ballooned in value left the couple with an unexpected asset. What they chose to do next by donating the stock created a windfall for the Westborough Community Land Trust (WCLT) and outdoor enthusiasts throughout town.

"We consider open space a community treasure," said Karen. "We wanted to give back, and this option was available to us."

The O'Connells said WCLT knew how to receive the stock donation, which can be bureaucratically tricky for a non-profit.

"This is another way to give and you don't need to pay a capital gains tax," Mark explained. "The land trust

receives the full donation amount and we, as donors, get credit."

The couple, both scout leaders and avid hikers, have lived in town six years. They passed on their commitment to all things outdoors to their children, John, 17, and Lydia, 15.

In fact, John, an Eagle Scout, created a full entrance trail at the Libbey Conservation Area. This entailed a boardwalk and bog bridge on paths that can become quite

wet, depending upon the season. According to WCLT president Scott Shumway, when John hiked the trail after its completion, he discovered another wet area and extended the boardwalk during his free time.

"No one has ever done that before," said Scott. "John completed his Eagle project and then returned for more."

Lydia, a Girl Scout, constructed "You Are Here" signs throughout the Charm Bracelet trails for her Silver Award. She and Karen are also heading to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico with the Venture Crew this summer.

"As scout leaders, we view open space as a great way of developing leadership potential locally," said Karen. "We would encourage other residents interested in preserving land to consider a stock donation. It's win-win for everyone."

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Targeted Giving Benefits Both WCLT and Scouts, Continued from page 1

labeling trails, and planting wildflowers.

"This donation is a two-fer. It helps both WCLT and the Scouts," said Jim Rhein, who recently made a donation targeted for scout projects. "I wanted to 'feed it forward.' In 2009 my son Noah of Troop 100 benefited by doing his Eagle project with WCLT, and now this donation will help other scouts do theirs in the future."

Noah's Eagle project involved fixing and adding new bog bridges on the Malley Trail and in the Town's Headwaters Conservation Area.

"I also like to see where my donation goes," Jim said. He knows his donation not only will get put to work locally, but also will directly benefit Westborough's environment and its scouts.

WCLT director Tim Foley recently made a targeted donation on behalf of the consulting business he built.

"Contributing to an Eagle project and helping a young man reach his goals were important to me as I have had mentors and benefactors who helped me achieve my own goals," he said. "Becoming an Eagle Scout is a tremendous accomplishment and pinnacle achievement of the dedication, persistence, and community service ethic for a Boy Scout. These values reflect my own values, and I wanted very much to be able to help an Eagle Scout candidate realize his dream."

To make a donation targeted for scout projects, simply let WCLT know your wishes by sending a note with your check or a follow-up email when you use the "Donate" button on the WCLT web site.

WCLT preserves, protects, and promotes Westborough's open space.

Meadowlands all contain expansion joints manufactured by EMSEAL. EMSEAL also sealed all 6,514 windows on the Empire State Building in a retrofit project that yielded a 38% energy saving for the 102-story skyscraper. The company's products are also used in the Prudential building in Boston, Logan Airport, and the Providence Place Mall. In addition to making products that are key to the safety, sustainability, and energy efficiency of massive building projects, EMSEAL has a track record of supporting sustainability and green business practices right at home in its own Westborough headquarters. In 2012 EMSEAL was certified as a Sustainable Business Leader by the

chemicals in its outside lawn care and landscaping and in the cleaning and maintenance of its interior facility and manufacturing equipment. The company is also a proud member of the US Green Building Council.

Its emphasis on sustainability in its products and business practices has been part of EMSEAL's success in recent years. The company did not have to lay off anyone or reduce benefits as it dealt with the economic downturn of the past several years, which hit the construction industry hard.

With EMSEAL's record of leadership and success in embracing sustainability and green business practices, a business

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Central Massachusetts Sustainable Business Leader Program™ (SBLP). To earn this designation, EMSEAL implemented several measures to conserve energy and materials. For example, the company installed the latest energy-efficient lighting systems in its factories and corporate offices, established a recycling system for manufacturing and office waste materials, and began using cleaner, more environmentally-friendly

partnership with WCLT is a natural fit for EMSEAL. CEO Lester Hensley notes that sustainability and preservation are core to the company's mission and values. Aligning with WCLT's mission of preserving, protecting, and promoting the natural environment was a fit that could benefit all. EMSEAL sees a great opportunity to leverage the WCLT partnership as a platform to further its sustainability and employee engagement



initiatives. Earth Day 2016 proved the perfect opportunity for the kick-off.

WCLT's newly inaugurated business partnership program includes six possible levels of mutually beneficial partnership with local businesses of different types and sizes and involving donations ranging from \$100 to more than \$10,000. A partnership with WCLT can easily align with company values and initiatives, especially in the areas of employee wellness and engagement, sustainability initiatives, community support, and company product placement and service offerings.

“WCLT looks forward to building productive partnerships with local businesses and their employees, most of whom work or live within a few steps of one of our properties or Charm Bracelet trails,” said WCLT president Scott Shumway.

Businesses that become partners this year will be recognized as partnership Founders. WCLT invites local businesses to find out more about partnering with WCLT by contacting WCLT president Scott Shumway (president@westboroughlandtrust.org or 508-836-2756) or WCLT board member Polly Pearson (pearsonpolly@gmail.com or 508-314-7628).

Board of Directors 2016 – 2017

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Calendar of Upcoming WCLT Events

For details and updates, visit us on the web at www.westboroughlandtrust.org or www.facebook.com/westboroughlandtrust

For questions contact: events@westboroughlandtrust.org

Sunday, June 12

RAIN DATE Sunday, June 25

9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

National Trails Day Hikes

WCLT and Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT) jointly sponsor two hikes along the Charm Bracelet — a 3-mile loop and a 7.5-mile walk. **Meet at** Fish & Wildlife headquarters, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough.

Wednesday, August 3

6:45 p.m.

Willows Concert to Benefit WCLT

One Lyman Street, Westborough

Sunday, September 11

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Nourse Farm Ramble

Jon Nourse, owner of Nourse Farm, will take us on an informative and delicious farm tour. We will learn about the wide variety of food produced at Nourse Farm, the property's history, and what the future holds. On our tour we will sample some "pick your own" raspberries. We will finish up at the Farm Store where ice cream can be purchased and we will finish our talk about Nourse family history and the farm as it relates to the environment. **Meet at** Nourse Farm, 70 Nourse Street, Westborough.

Sunday, September 25

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (rain or shine)

Find Fascinating Fall Fungi

Look for mushrooms and other fungi with mycologist Larry Millman, author of *Fascinating Fungi of New England*, focusing on mushroom identification and ecology.

Meet at Headwaters Conservation Area (Mill Pond School parking lot). Slow walk on woodland trails with mild hills. Space is limited to 18, so please let us know if you are interested.

Contact: events@westboroughlandtrust.org

Sunday, October 16

1:30 – 4 p.m.

Sandra Pond Then & Now

Celebrate the 16th anniversary of the first Charm Bracelet walk with this 3.25-mile hike through Bowman Conservation Area and Bowman West with Derek Saari and Don Burn. **Meet at** Minuteman Park on Upton Road, Westborough.



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