

Land Trust News

The newsletter of the Westborough Community Land Trust

June 2014

Welcome New Members!

The Westborough Community Land Trust welcomes 67 new memberships!

The 67 new memberships represent a 25 percent increase in Westborough Community Land Trust's (WCLT) membership, making a larger and stronger WCLT. Many thanks go to Kate Donahue who ran the successful 2014 membership drive and to everyone who played a role in it.

"As we all know, WCLT is an all-volunteer organization. Whatever we accomplish is made possible by the hard work of our members," said WCLT president Scott Shumway.

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The Nature of My Backyard



Fisher in the wild (photo by Garry Kessler)

All eyes were focused on the sleek brown fisher held by naturalist Rick Roth of Teacher Creatures as he described the predator's behavior. Most of the multigenerational audience of more than 200 had never seen this elusive member of the weasel family alive. In fact, Rick Roth is the only person in New England licensed to do outreach programs with a fisher.

The March 29 live animal event was part of WCLT's annual Earth Awareness Program to connect children with nature, supported

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Bluebirds For Marty

By Judy Powell

A bluebird trail is coming to Westborough thanks to the persistent prayers of a senior citizen and the Boy Scout who answered them.

Marty Newark spent his retirement years trying to lure the eastern bluebird back to town by building, setting up, and maintaining nesting boxes on public open spaces. He also wrote numerous columns for the local newspaper in order to generate interest and support.

The species, once plentiful, had plummeted in number due to a shortage of natural cavities, among other factors, he explained.

But at 89 and suffering from Parkinson's disease, Marty had nearly given up hope that his vision of installing 100 nesting boxes would ever reach completion, until Matthew Buffo came to visit.

The Gibbons Middle School eighth grader met Marty in February at home as part of a hospice visitor's program through St. Luke's Parish.

The 14-year-old Boy Scout listened to Marty painstakingly describe his dream of establishing a bluebird trail, and offered to help.



Matthew Buffo and other members of Boy Scout Troop 100 hold up some of the many bluebird boxes they built as part of the Marty Newark Legacy Birdhouse Project using Marty's special design for the nesting boxes.

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"We are currently welcoming new members to all of our committees! WCLT is run by a Board of Directors and a group of committees. Please let me know if you are interested in joining a committee or attending a meeting to learn more about a committee."

The **Stewardship Committee** takes care of trails and WCLT property. Stewardship Committee Chair: Marjorie Fisher

The **Education Committee** is responsible for most of WCLT's programming, such as walks and talks. Education Committee Co-Chairs: Kristina Allen, Vivian Kimball

The **Land Preservation Committee** works with landowners to protect or acquire open space. Land Preservation Committee Chair: Randy Waterman

The **Membership Committee** recruits and communicates with members and friends of WCLT. Membership Committee Chair: Maureen Johnson

The **Nominating Committee** finds people to serve on the Board. Nominating Committee Chair: Warren Anderson

The **Outreach & Publicity Committee** helps to publicize our events and get the word out about WCLT. Outreach Committee Chair: Sue Abladian

The **Finance Committee** works with the treasurer and assistant treasurer to make sure WCLT is in compliance with state and federal regulations. Finance Committee Chair: Kelly Thomas

To email Scott or a committee chair, see the Contact page or Volunteer Opportunities page on the WCLT web site. Also, whenever you walk a trail, you can help by reporting any problems you notice to WCLT by emailing trailproblems@westboroughlandtrust.org.

Board of Directors 2014 – 2015

- Scott Shumway, *President*
- John Metzger, *Vice President*
- Marge Fisher, *Secretary*
- Kelly Thomas, *Treasurer*
- Steve Rowell, *Assistant Treasurer*
- Robert Nolan, *Member at Large*
- Warren Anderson, *Member at Large*
- Sue Abladian
- Vince Aquilino
- Bridget Behringer
- Neil Feldman
- Stephanie Garrett
- David Jablon
- Darcy Lane
- Adam Last
- Christopher Sassetti
- Carolyn Spring

2014 Earth Day Clean-up



Volunteers from Explorer Post 85 cleared trash from Rt. 30 at Rt. 9

Rain and cold weather did not deter 48 stalwart volunteers from clearing more than 100 bags of trash from local parks and roadsides at the 2014 WCLT Town-wide Earth Day Clean-up. Bruce Tretter, WCLT clean-up coordinator, once again did an outstanding job identifying major locations for clean-up and overseeing the volunteer activity. To tackle the most litter-strewn areas, he recruited several teams from local businesses and community groups, including Explorer Post 85, Westborough Civic Club, Westborough High School Student Council, Mugford's Flower Shoppe, H & R Environmental, and EFI. Thanks to the dedication of public-spirited volunteers, Westborough looks cleaner and more scenic for summer's outdoor living.



Wilderness Treasure Hunt *Using their GPS and map reading skills on the trails, about 20 children and parents enjoyed discovering hidden caches together, collecting swag, and stamping their passports at the Headwaters Conservation Area in WCLT's Wilderness Treasure Hunt on May 18. Shown are Jack Squires, Luke Squires, and Jerry Breecher. Photo by Chris Sassetti.*



Ten Eagle Scout Projects Benefit WCLT

During the past year, the Westborough Community Land Trust (WCLT) benefitted from ten Eagle Scout projects that have been completed or are in progress. They included work at Bowman Conservation Area, Headwaters Conservation Area, Hidden Meadow, Indian Pond, and Upper Jackstraw Brook, as well as the Marty Newark Legacy Birdhouse Project:

- **Bradley Whitehall, Troop 100**, steps to Piccadilly Brook at Bowman
- **Nathan Adduci, Troop 100**, removal of 3600 feet of barbed wire and 200 feet of heavy cable from Hidden Meadow
- **Jack Howarth, Troop 100**, steps and trail work at Bowman (off Bowman St.)
- **Tim Askew, Troop 382**, steps and trail work at Bowman (off Bowman Street)
- **Sean Travers, Troop 4**, invasive removal along Malley Trail
- **Ethan Brush, Troop 4**, invasive removal and trail relocation on Malley Trail
- **Matthew Wolohan, Troop 4**, bog bridge and stile on Upper Jackstraw Brook
- **Daniel McKay, Troop 382**, invasive removal at Hidden Meadow
- **Matthew Buffo, Troop 100**, construction and placement of bluebird houses
- **Dan Boucher, Troop 382**, trash removal from both woods and pond at Indian Pond

"We are ever grateful for the interest these young men show in working with WCLT and for their effort," said Marge Fisher, WCLT Stewardship chair.

10 Years of "Nature Notes"

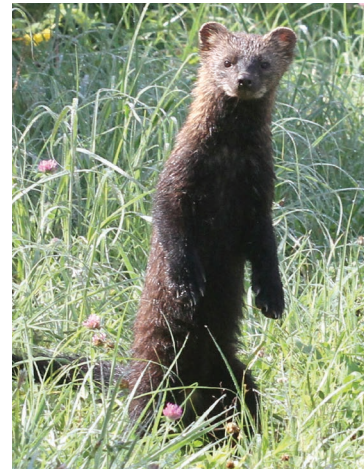


(photos by Garry Kessler)

WCLT's 200th "Nature Notes" column recently appeared in the Westborough News. If you'd like to read any of the columns from the past 10 years, you can find them on the WCLT web site through the Nature Notes page. They are indexed by publication date and by the common name, scientific name, and category (wildflowers, mammals, birds, fungi, etc.) of the topic.

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in part by a grant from the Westborough Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state



Fisher in the wild
(photo by Garry Kessler)

agency. To the children's delight, the program also introduced a flying squirrel, a groundhog, a gray fox, a snapping turtle, and a skunk.

"We try to get across the importance of every single one of these animals to its environment. Every animal has a role—if one animal is removed, it affects the entire ecosystem," Rick noted.

Bluebirds for Marty Continued from page 1

"Once he told me about the bluebirds and how he had already built and installed 48 houses, I thought, yeah, I could help him. I could build the other 52," Matthew said. The work will be part of his Eagle Scout project, sponsored by the Westborough Community Land Trust (WCLT).

Marty was overjoyed by the offer.

"I've been trying to do this for so long, and to think it is a boy who will make it happen, is the answer to a prayer," he said.

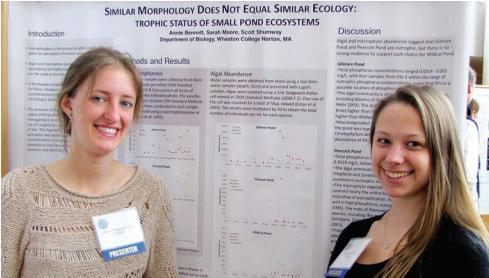
The bluebird population has increased significantly along the routes

where nesting cavities have been built. Marty chose 100 boxes as the number to commemorate the upcoming 2017 anniversary of Westborough's incorporation as Massachusetts's 100th town in 1717.

WCLT has embraced the goal. Thanks to the Knox Trail Council Troop 100, Garner Girls Sawmill on Flanders Road, and support from Westborough's Garden, Rotary, and Civic clubs, Marty's bluebird trail was well on its way by his 90th birthday on June 9.

Anyone interested in supporting the Marty Newark Legacy Birdhouse Project may contact Matthew Buffo at 508 366-8142.

Gilmore Pond water quality study – Two Wheaton



College honors-
student researchers,
Annie Bennett (left)
and Sarah Moore
(right), attended an
academic conference
and presented the

results of their study of water quality at WCLT’s Gilmore Pond and two
other similarly sized ponds. They found that Gilmore Pond is not in
imminent danger, and although runoff from nearby construction is of
concern, chemical intervention is not needed at this time. The research
was sponsored by IBM and WCLT.

Keep after that invasive garlic mustard! Following

up on last year’s garlic
mustard pull at Bowman
Conservation Area,
volunteers including
Ben Anderson (left) and
Ken Prince (right) rooted
out more of the invasive
plants at a young stage
in early April. Photo by
Janet Anderson



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

Wednesday, August 6 • 6:45 p.m.

Willows Concert to Benefit WCLT — The Reminiscents

Sunday, September 14 • 8 - 9:30 a.m.

Lake Chauncy Bird Walk

Meet at the Lake Chauncy boat ramp parking lot to look for
resident and migrating birds around Lake Chauncy.

Sunday, October 12 • 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Gilmore Pond Hike

Enjoy the glories of fall foliage around WCLT’s Gilmore Pond.

Sunday, November 2 • 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Mill Pond North Hike

Explore the trail along the north shore of Mill Pond and enjoy
views of the water.



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