



Land Trust News

The newsletter of the Westborough Community Land Trust

June 2015

WCLT Pursues a Partnership Path

This year the Westborough Community Land Trust (WCLT) has been on a path toward a growing number of partnerships with local businesses and other organizations. WCLT president Scott Shumway intends to continue to lead the land trust in that very productive direction.

WCLT has increasingly benefited from help by employees of local businesses. This spring both Arbor Day and Earth Day brought out teams from local businesses to help WCLT build a new trail and remove a long winter's accumulation of litter from around town.

"It's a pleasure to have local businesses join in productive partnerships with the land trust," said Scott.



Photo by Marge Fisher

Arborist Dan McCarthy from Mayer Tree Service cuts up a felled tree.

On Arbor Day (April 24), arborist Dan McCarthy and a three-member team from Mayer Tree Service of Worcester did major work in the woods to create a new trail on

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Tracking and Maple Syrup in the Hard Winter of 2015



Photos by Kris Allen

Janet Anderson drills into a back-yard sugar maple as Brownies of Troop 41061 look on (left photo). Brownies watch and wait to sample the results as Janet Anderson pours maple syrup into a pan of fresh snow to make "maple on snow" (right photo).

The historically hard winter of 2015 dumped more snow on Westborough than even long-time residents remember, but that didn't stop the Westborough Community Land Trust (WCLT) from helping people enjoy our outdoor environment with two classic winter activities. One was a tracking walk in the snow and the other was a maple syrup workshop.

After a one-week postponement due to winter's first major snowstorm, tracking expert Paul Wanta came to Westborough to lead a late January tracking walk at Bowman Conservation Area. Near Piccadilly Brook, the group saw evidence of mink, as well as squirrels and, of course, dogs. Everyone was especially interested to learn how tracks differ when animals move slowly and when they run, and when they drag their tails.

As a tracker for 25 years, Paul noted that "when you get hooked on tracking, it becomes a lifetime passion."

For anyone curious about making maple syrup at home, WCLT member Janet Anderson's



Photo by Kathy Leblanc

Tracker Paul Wanta (in the blue cap) discusses animal tracks.

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WCLT's recently acquired Orchard Swamp property (behind the Haskell Street ball fields). On behalf of the Massachusetts Arborists Association, Mayer Tree Service donated this work to WCLT as a service project to commemorate Arbor Day.

Wielding chain saws, the four professionals cut down trees and cleared brush along a route connecting the Haskell Street ball fields with East Main Street. The new trail will be part of the Charm Bracelet network. Its opening will be announced in the future, after additional work has been done to finish the trail.



Volunteers from Energy Federation Inc. (EFI) at the WCLT Earth Day Clean-up

On April 25, as part of WCLT's annual town-wide Earth Day Clean-up, volunteer teams from several businesses turned out to help clean up some of the most challenging litter-strewn spots in town. Mugford's Flower Shop encouraged the clean-up work by offering a free bouquet of flowers to all participants. Volunteers from local businesses came from H&S Environmental, Conservation Services Group (CSG), Energy Federation Inc. (EFI), Harvey's, Berkshire Bank, Crossfit, and 3-C Electric. They were among the 120 people who turned out for the clean-up, which removed 150 bags of trash from 44 sites.

Many partnerships are ongoing. Every summer the Willows at Westborough invites WCLT to collect donations at one of the Willows' popular free outdoor concerts. This year WCLT will benefit in this way from the concert featuring music from the 1950s through the 1990s by the Reminisants on Wednesday, August 5.

Besides local businesses, many other organizations work in partnership with WCLT. The Westborough Civic Club has long been a partner. The Civic Club provides volunteers for the Earth Day Clean-up and has given financial support for WCLT projects at Gilmore Pond and for the purple loosestrife biocontrol project. For many

years, the Westborough Cultural Council has contributed key support for WCLT's popular annual live animal event, as have the Knights of Columbus, and for the first time this year, the Newcomers Club. The Westborough Cultural Council also supported WCLT's two bus tours of Westborough's conservation areas, offered at the 2014 Arts in Common festival last fall.

Every year the Department of Public Works (Don Gale and his crew) picks up the bags of litter from the Earth Day Clean-up. Groups from Westborough High School do significant work. They include the National Honor Society, which sent volunteers to the clean-up, and the WHS Character Education through Service class, which is building bridges for the new trail on WCLT's Orchard Swamp property. Explorer Post 85 regularly helps with the Earth Day Clean-up.

Groups from churches and synagogues in town often send volunteers to the Earth Day Clean-up and at other times help with outdoor work on open space areas such as Gilmore Pond and Charm Bracelet trails. This spring Congregation B'nai Shalom and Beth Tikvah Synagogue sent 18 volunteers to work on trail maintenance and improvement at Bowman Conservation Area as part of the Mitzvah Day of Service.

Boy Scout troops have been valuable partners over the years. In 2012 WCLT presented its Pepper Award collectively to the Boy Scout troops of Westborough (Troops 4, 100, and 382) in recognition of their work in conservation. On behalf of WCLT, Boy Scouts from these troops have invested hundreds of hours creating hiking trails, maintaining trails, repairing bridges, and removing invasive plants from conservation land in Westborough. Since 2001 more than 60 Eagle projects have focused on helping WCLT accomplish much-needed work. In this past year, WCLT benefited from 11 recently completed and ongoing Eagle projects.

In recent years, Girl Scout troops have become increasingly involved in outdoor projects with WCLT. Two Gold Award projects with WCLT have been completed in the past, and several Gold, Silver, and Bronze Award projects are now under way.

On a regional level, WCLT finds important partners in other conservation organizations, especially Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT), which also owns open space areas in town.

WCLT values all of these partnerships, which not only help WCLT care for and preserve our natural environment, but also foster community connections and a spirit of cooperation.





Photo by Jim Kirk

WCLT's Sightings Now on Facebook



Remember that WCLT's wildlife sightings are now on Facebook! Check the WCLT Facebook page to find out what animals, plants, insects, and other sights people have been seeing around Westborough — and share your own sightings.

There are two ways to post your sightings:

- 1. Post right on the WCLT Facebook page** (<https://www.facebook.com/westboroughlandtrust>). If you belong to Facebook, you can just go ahead and post your sightings. Don't forget to upload a photo if you have one!
- 2. Send an email** (sightings@westboroughlandtrust.org). If you don't belong to Facebook, or don't want to do your own posting, send us an email with your story (and photo) and we'll post for you.

2014 - 2015 Boy Scout Eagle Projects Completed with WCLT

Year	Troop	Scout	Description
2014	382	Shawn McElligott	Cleanup of Blue Flag trail eastern end and bog bridges
2014	382	John O'Connell	LCA trail reroute
2015	4	Logan Garber	Gilmore Invasive Removal – south side

See the Boy Scout Eagle Project Hall of Fame on the WCLT web site for a complete listing of more than 60 Eagle projects that have benefited WCLT since 2001.

Board of Directors 2015 – 2016

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Tracking and Maple Syrup in the Hard Winter, Continued from page 1

Maple Syrup Discovery workshop in late February supplied a wealth of information and advice. Janet has been tapping maple trees in her own back yard and making syrup every spring for years. She presented her program twice, first for a group of adults and families, and then for the third-grade Brownies of Troop 41061.

Key topics included ways of identifying a sugar maple tree in all seasons and the equipment needed for tapping (readily available in the plumbing supply section of hardware stores) and cooking (a good meat or candy thermometer recommended). The various goodies that people can create at home from maple sap were on hand for sampling: maple syrup, maple cream, soft maple candy, and maple on snow.

Janet demonstrated how to tap a tree, and several people tried their hand at drilling into a tree. Janet showed how to boil sap to the proper temperature and consistency. She also described ways of processing and storing the results.

These two activities added some fun to the hard winter of 2015 and certainly made the season more interesting.



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

Saturday, July 25

9 a.m. – noon

Stewardship Work Party

Trail work at Bowman Conservation Area.

Meet at Bowman Street parking lot.

Contact:

stewardship@westboroughlandtrust.org

Wednesday, August 5

6:45 p.m.

Willows Concert to Benefit WCLT

The Reminisants

Contact:

events@westboroughlandtrust.org

Saturday, August 22

9 a.m. – noon

Stewardship Work Party

Trail work at Bowman Conservation Area,

Meet at Bowman Street parking lot.

Contact:

stewardship@westboroughlandtrust.org

September

Date to be announced

Bowman Conservation Area

Grand Reopening

Details to come.

Contact:

events@westboroughlandtrust.org

Sunday, October 18

1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Fall Foliage Hike at Gilmore Pond & Libbey Conservation Area

2.5-mile hike with Marge Fisher.

Meet on Quick Farm Road at the new Gilmore Pond access gate.

Contact:

events@westboroughlandtrust.org

Sunday, November 8

1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Shaped by Ice: How the Ice Ages Created Westborough's Landscape

Walk at Headwaters Conservation Area with geologist Andy Koenigsberg.

Meet at Mill Pond School parking lot.

Contact:

events@westboroughlandtrust.org



Photo by Scott Shumway

25 people get ready for WCLT's hike led by Don Burn from Sawink Farm to Cedar Hill on National Trails Day, June 6, 2015.



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