



# Land Trust News

The newsletter of the Westborough Community Land Trust

Summer 2018

## WCLT appreciates business partners

**EMSEAL Corporation, Pearson Advisory Investor Relations, Thomas Financial Associates, Arturo's Ristorante, and Julio's Liquors** help us to preserve and protect more land and to offer trails and educational programs. Find out how your organization can be a WCLT business partner by contacting: [bizpartners@westboroughlandtrust.org](mailto:bizpartners@westboroughlandtrust.org)



ARTURO'S  
RISTORANTE

Julio's  
LIQUORS



Photo by Janet Anderson.

*Painted turtles sun themselves at Gilmore Pond on an early spring day.*

## Gilmore Pond water quality report

As part of its stewardship of the 53-acre Upper Jackstraw Brook Reservation, WCLT obtains water quality reports for Gilmore Pond, the former farm fire pond that is a popular attraction in the Reservation. The most recent (2017) study of the pond was done as an honors thesis project by Kristy Sullivan, a Wheaton College biology student who was mentored by former WCLT president Dr. Scott Shumway. Kristy also received training during the Semester in Environmental Science at the Marine Biological Lab at Woods Hole followed by a summer internship there. Overall, the water quality is healthy and normal.

"The oxygenation, relatively neutral pH, and algal biodiversity indicate that the pond ecosystem is healthy and normal," said WCLT president Gillian Beamer. Water testing found 46 species of algae in the pond, a healthy biological diversity, and cyanobacteria. Cyanobacteria are normal inhabitants of water. Some species are beneficial; most are harmless; and few produce toxins under bloom conditions. The water in the pond will continue to be monitored.

People who walk the easy Gilmore Pond Loop trail loop (0.3 mile) around the pond can enjoy seeing evidence of the pond's health in the animals that use the pond, including bullfrogs, turtles, water snakes, fish, and a diversity of birds.

Although people sometimes wonder about the brownish color of the water, Gillian notes that the report indicates that this color is normal and natural. It is typical of small woodland ponds. "The brown color of the water is a normal byproduct of leaves decomposing in the water, from the trees that line the pond."

Upper Jackstraw Brook [trail map](#)  
[Try a Trail Close to Home](#)

## Board of Directors 2018 – 2019

Gillian Beamer, *President*  
Christopher Sassetti, *Vice President*  
Marjorie Fisher, *Secretary*  
Kelly Thomas, *Treasurer*  
Neil Feldman, *Assistant Treasurer*  
Warren Anderson, *Member at Large*  
Adam Last, *Member at Large*  
Sue Abladian  
Vince Aquilino  
Ellen Bishop  
Pete Dunbeck  
Michelle Scerbin  
Karen Yeowell

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

# WCLT President Gillian Beamer: Turning Curiosity into Conservation

By Nancy Wright



Surrounded by the beauty of Acadia National Park, Gillian Beamer grew up on Mount Desert Island in Maine. With this stunning national coastal treasure as her backyard, it's no surprise Gillian grew to love the outdoors and all it has to offer. Combine this love with her scientific curiosity as a faculty member at Tufts University's School of Veterinary Medicine, along with her work in health

sciences and biomedical research, and it's easy to see why Gillian is committed to conserving the land of Westborough and protecting its wildlife.

"While my education and career have brought me to Pennsylvania, Ohio and Massachusetts, Maine will always be my home. I remember distinctly attending summer day camp as a 10-year-old, hiking along trails and the famous carriage paths — built and donated to the National Park System by the Rockefellers — and as a high school student, leaving my house at 6:00 a.m. to bike the Park Loop Road of Acadia National Park," says Gillian. "And it wasn't just the beauty of the land that captivated my attention, but the plants, animals and their habitats, too, especially the soil and the ocean." To this day, Gillian remains connected to nature with her scientific curiosity, as an avid observer of all small creatures.

A veterinary degree from the University of Pennsylvania served as the forerunner to her advanced degrees from Ohio State University (OSU), including a doctorate of veterinary medicine, followed by board certification as a veterinary pathologist. After eight years of research and clinical instruction at OSU, in 2012 Gillian joined Tufts University as an assistant professor in the Department of Infectious Disease and Global Health (IDGH). She has over a decade of experience studying *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the bacterium that causes tuberculosis (TB).

Gillian notes, "My motivations are to improve our understanding of TB at a fundamental level that in the future will improve human health, and to mentor young investigators to do the same by pursuing careers in research."



A Westborough resident since 2012, Gillian lives with her husband, Orin Parvin, and their two children, her daughter Madeline and her son Atley.

"Here in Westborough," she says, "I feel strongly about maintaining a mindset focused on conservation. It takes a community effort to instill an appreciation for conservation. I want residents to be curious and explore the trails, the bodies of water, the wooded areas. Conserving these gems will enrich our lives, our children's lives, and all future generations. The land and trails are in our backyards, waiting to be appreciated and used. All it takes is 20 minutes of walking each day."

Gillian joined the WCLT Board of Directors in 2014 and was voted president of WCLT in 2017. She continues to serve on the education committee. She is passionate about creating awareness of environmental issues, the wonders of nature and Westborough's open space, and the importance of preserving land for current and future residents.

"One of my priorities as WCLT president is to build the number of active volunteers we have, so we foster an appreciation of nature and conservation in the next generations," says Gillian. "I encourage anyone who values the beauty of Westborough to please reach out to us and get involved: [president@westboroughlandtrust.org](mailto:president@westboroughlandtrust.org)."



# EARTH DAY VOLUNTEER POWER CLEANS UP WESTBOROUGH



*Hardworking volunteers enjoy results.*



*All these young people were only some of the record number of volunteers who picked up litter at this year's town-wide WCLT Earth Day Clean-up.*



*WCLT Earth Day Clean-up volunteers relax and enjoy a picnic lunch on Bay State Commons Green after a job well done.*

Photo credits: left & right-Warren Anderson;  
center- Kelley Petralia

**JOB WELL DONE!** A record number of volunteers turned out for WCLT's annual town-wide Earth Day Clean-up on April 21 to spruce up Westborough after a long and messy winter. At least 285 people picked up litter to fill hundreds of bags, which were collected by the Town DPW. For the second year in a row, volunteers were then able to enjoy a picnic lunch at Bay State Commons Green. Food was generously donated by Arturo's Ristorante, Dunkin' Donuts on Route 9, Tavolino Italian Gourmet, Roche Bros., and both Westborough Stop & Shops. Mugford's Flower Shoppe also offered

free bouquets of flowers to volunteers. Thanks to Bruce Tretter, Janet Anderson, Kelley Petralia, and Rachel Radin for organizing the clean-up and picnic.

Many of the day's hard-working volunteers came from families and from Westborough Civic Club, Westborough Rotary Club, all four elementary schools, Westborough Lacrosse and Youth Soccer, Explorer Post 85, CCR Wealth Management, CrossFit Prototype, E.L. Harvey, EMSEAL, and several Cub Scout, Boy Scout, and Girl Scout troops.

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## Stewardship: Busy with bog bridging



*Keith Martin,  
Stewardship chair*

The Stewardship Committee and its volunteers — including many scouts — got off to a busy and ambitious start this season with a work session to install bog bridges in the wet areas of the Malley Trail between Mill Road and Veterans Freedom Park. This strenuous project involved disassembling, transporting, and reassembling bog bridges from the 17 that recently became available from a now-closed trail in another location. Stewardship chair Keith Martin reports that the committee plans other new bridging work in wet areas in the Libbey/Wile Conservation Area and near Baker Way.

Click [Malley Trail](#) map.



*Malley trail bog bridging*

# 2018 Live Animal Show

## NATURE OF MY BACK YARD



## AUDIENCES ENJOY BACKYARD ANIMAL SHOW

An annual family attraction that has grown in attendance to the point where two showings are routinely offered, WCLT's spring live animal show in March featured "The Nature of My Backyard" presented by Rick Roth of Creature Teachers.

Nearly 300 children and adults enjoyed a close-up view of some animals they might see but wouldn't approach, including a skunk and a porcupine. The audience also got to see a couple of animals that live in our local woods but are rarely even glimpsed: a flying squirrel and a grey fox.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Westborough Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. Thanks also for support from the Westborough Newcomers Club and the Knights of Columbus.

If you missed the show, you can watch it on Westborough TV's full-length video of the event — [Full Length Video](#) — or view Westborough TV's short slide show — [Short Slide Show](#).



Photos by Jon Lukey

*Rick Roth of Creature Teachers feeds a banana to a porcupine. In the second photo he cradles a skunk.*

## Calendar of Upcoming WCLT Events

For details and updates, visit us on the web at [westboroughlandtrust.org](http://westboroughlandtrust.org) or [facebook.com/westboroughlandtrust](https://facebook.com/westboroughlandtrust)  
For questions contact: [events@westboroughlandtrust.org](mailto:events@westboroughlandtrust.org)

### Wednesday, August 8, 7:00 pm

#### Willows Concert to Benefit WCLT

Riverboat Stompers Jazz Band  
1 Lyman St, Westborough

### Sunday, October 7, 1:30-3:30 pm

#### Family Hike and Scavenger Hunt

Come on a kid-length hike for youngsters and their parents to learn about nature, followed by a fun scavenger hunt for ages 6 and up to practice their new skills. Meet at Gilmore Pond Trail Entrance, 19 Quick Farm Rd.

### Saturday, October 20, 5:30-7:30 pm

#### Twilight to Moonlight Walk

Enjoy the sunset across Lake Chauncy, then walk by the light of the nearly-full moon to get in the Halloween spirit. Will we hear owls? Take Fuller Way/Hospital Road off Lyman St. to the old State Hospital land. Meet at the lake edge, at the yellow gate between Hospital land and the Fish and Wildlife land, past the Chauncy Soccer Fields.

### Sunday, November 11, 1:30-3:30 pm

#### Eskers, Moraines, and Drumlins: The Glacial Geology of Westborough

The Ice Age isn't just a Disney Movie! Learn how rocky, hilly, pond-filled New England was sculpted by a mile-thick sheet of ice over 10,000 years ago. Led by Andy Koenigsberg. Meet at Haskell Street Fields parking lot.

### Sunday, January 27, 2019, 1:30-3:30 pm

#### Who Made Those Tracks?

Tracking expert Paul Wanta will introduce us to this fun and fascinating hobby. We may see evidence of beaver, deer, coyotes, bobcats, and many other animals. Meet at the MassWildlife headquarters, 1 Rabbit Hill Rd.

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