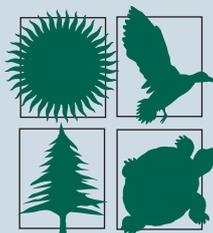
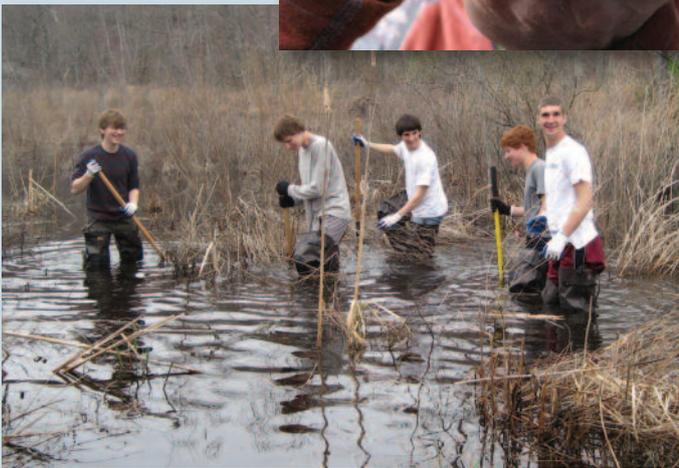


# Westborough Community Land Trust

## 2011 Annual Report





*Westborough High School senior Nicole Benoit received the 2011 WCLT Scholarship.*

## WCLT 2011 Scholarship Awarded

As the winner of WCLT's Earth Day essay contest, Nicole Benoit of 9 Brady Road Ext. received the 2011 Westborough Community Land Trust Scholarship at graduation. This award recognizes a deep appreciation and concern for the natural environment on the part of a graduating Westborough High School senior.

Nicole's essay focused on growing up in the out-of-doors and the need to protect Westborough's backyards and open space.

In the fall Nicole plans to attend the University of Delaware to study business, hospitality, and environmental science to become a "green" event planner.

Another senior, Christopher Smith of 16 Butterfield Drive, received honorable mention for his essay about the lifestyle and other changes that people of his generation can make to live more sustainably on Earth.

The Scholarship Committee enjoyed reading all the Earth Day essays and thanks the WHS seniors who entered the contest for their skill and commitment in communicating their feelings and concerns about Westborough's environment.



Dear Members and Friends,

During the 2010-2011 season, the Westborough Community Land Trust (WCLT) has continued to schedule projects and run informational programs that enrich our community.

Our Stewardship Committee continues to focus on improvements at Gilmore Pond, part of the 66-acre Upper Jackstraw Brook reservation. We had major support from all the Boy Scout troops and Cub Scout packs in town with a month-long effort to remove invasive plants from additional areas. We are also making good progress on opening up an end-to-end trail system at the 26-acre Indian Pond reservation off Maynard St.

Our Education Committee continues to schedule a full calendar of events year round, inside and out. We celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Charm Bracelet, a vision championed by long-term open space champion and WCLT member Don Burn. There have been talks on butterflies, raptors, invasive plants, and foraging for wild food. We continue to support an annual town-wide Earth Day clean-up and coordinate a purple loosestrife biocontrol project with the high school.

WCLT is reaching out to the town and to other land organizations. Several WCLT members attended and one of our directors presented at the Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference in Worcester in March. Other members have been working with organizations such as Sudbury Valley Trustees, the Trustees of Reservations, and the Department of Conservation and Recreation on issues of mutual interest, including a cooperative invasive species management area (CISMA) alliance centered around the Sudbury-Assabet River watershed. WCLT took an active role in alerting the officials and residents of Westborough to the opportunities and challenges for the town in the Westborough Hospital Reuse Study being conducted by the State this year.

I hope that each of you is finding a broad set of WCLT endeavors that interest you. And please do not hesitate to contact us if you believe that there are other projects or activities that we should undertake.

John Metzger, President





# WCLT 2011

## Committee Reports

### Acquisitions Committee

The Acquisitions Committee is pleased to report that it has completed the recording of several new trail easements. At Milk Street, we negotiated and obtained a multiple trail easement agreement with Kevin Giblin, the owner of the Uno's and Outback Restaurant. In conjunction with previous easements we obtained in this large commercial project, this agreement allows a connection to existing WCLT property and the abutting Oak Bluffs subdivision open space. We have prepared a new written procedure for the Transfer or Sale of Land or Easements to guide WCLT in its future transfer decisions. In addition, we have begun to examine the possibility of establishing a bicycle path on suitable portions of our existing and future trails.

Much of our recent efforts have involved the ongoing work at the Gilmore Pond Woodland Park property. While the Stewardship Committee has been active in the field removing invasive plant species, we have commenced a master planning effort to formalize the tasks and associated costs that will be required to advance this property to its full potential. We have also been involved in reviewing the State's progress on the disposition of the Westborough State Hospital property to ensure that the open space/aesthetic qualities of the property are protected.

We are sorry to report that Kris Allen, a founding member of the land trust, has stepped down from the Acquisitions Committee to pursue numerous other volunteer opportunities with WCLT and beyond. We thank her for her tireless efforts on so many different project assignments and wish her the best in her new endeavors. We are also pleased to report that Sharon Williams has joined and become an active member of the committee.

As always, we encourage the involvement of other boards and committees, particularly any suggestions and feedback, as we look for more opportunities to protect the natural resources of the town for the enjoyment of all.

*Randy Waterman, Chair*

*Craig Richov, Jim Tashjian, Don Burn, Jon Nourse, Sharon Williams*

### Education Committee

The Education Committee hosted a series of intergenerational programs about Westborough's wilderness and wildlife, including: walks led by Barbara Muise, Debbie Okita, and Annie Reid at the Headwaters Conservation Area for September's Charm Bracelet 10th anniversary celebration; a walk led by WCLT president John Metzger at Walkup-Robinson Reservation and nature games at the Girl Scout Outdoor Day at Freedom Park in October; a "Fall Ramble" at Lake Chauncy led by Kris Allen and Janet Anderson in November; a butterfly presentation by Madeline Champagne of the Mass Butterfly Club in March, followed by a June butterfly walk at the Westboro Management Area with Barbara Volkle and Steve Moore of the Mass Butterfly Club; and spring foraging with Arthur Haines of the New England Wild Flower Society in May, attended by 60 people. At Spring Festival, we supplied brochures, crayons, paints, and stamps at the Civic Club's Fishing Challenge.

In April our live-animal program with Tom Ricardi of the Mass Birds of Prey Rehabilitation Facility drew more than 150 children and adults to see live raptors. (Made possible by a Westborough Cultural Council grant and the generosity of the Knights of Columbus.)

Our annual Earth Day Town-wide Clean-up, coordinated by Bruce Tretter and Kelly Wilcox, rallied about 110 volunteers who picked up more than 105 bags of trash. The Department of Public Works provided and picked up trash bags.

Peter Alden, world-renowned naturalist and ecotourism guide, joined WCLT's Annual Meeting to discuss changes in New England's flora and fauna since Thoreau's time.

Our ongoing purple loosestrife biocontrol project is in its third year. Westborough High School students help preserve biodiversity by raising loosestrife-eating *Galerucella* beetles, which WCLT volunteers release in local wetlands. Thanks to Sharon Williams, Annie Reid, Vivian Kimball, Janet Anderson, and Debbie Okita for their work with the next generation of environmentalists. (Supported by a Staples Education Grant, Westborough Civic Club grant, and a Westborough Education Foundation grant for teacher Anita Lotti.)

*Kristina Allen and Vivian Kimball, Co-chairs*

*Janet Anderson, Susan Barnhart, Kathy Leblanc, Leslie Leslie, Elaine Moore, Doug Mosher, Barbara Muise, Debbie Okita, Annie Reid*



# WCLT 2011

## Committee Reports

### Membership Committee

WCLT has more than 250 memberships, including 375 individual members and seven new memberships. Membership renewals, in June of each year, are a critical source of funds and human resources. Membership dues totaled over \$3,700. The 2010-2011 Annual Appeal raised \$8,000.

Active members are crucial to our success in protecting open space and preserving the natural beauty of Westborough. We encourage everyone to participate in WCLT-sponsored events and to get involved in committees and stewardship projects.

Membership renewal letters have been mailed. The Annual Appeal will take place in November to coincide with year-end giving. Thanks to all WCLT members and friends for their loyal support.

*Maureen Johnson, Chair*

### Outreach Committee

The mission of the Outreach Committee includes stimulating community awareness of the educational programs, stewardship work plans, and benefits of joining WCLT. We welcome the community to take part in WCLT's work.

This year we are running "Wild in Westborough," WCLT's second nature photo contest. It will culminate in awards and an open house in late October at Tatnuck Bookseller.

We held the Charm Bracelet 10th anniversary celebration, featuring Don Burn, "father of the Charm Bracelet," talking about how the trail system has evolved over the last ten years. We included walks on nearby Charm Bracelet trails.

This past year we had a table at all Town meetings offering information about joining WCLT, making contributions, and printing and using our trail maps.

We joined with the Membership Committee to keep members informed by email about what's happening. We are making ongoing improvements to WCLT's web site, arranging information to be easy to find, and making trail maps available to print out. Look for WCLT news on Facebook, too. Check it out and let us know what you think.

We joined with the Education Committee at the Civic Club Fishing Festival to promote WCLT membership.

At our request, a donation was made to the Good Scout Dinner in honor of work done by Warren Anderson and Mark Fox. They coordinated large Boy Scout projects to rid WCLT's Gilmore Pond area of invasive plants.

*Sue Abladian, Chair*

*Kris Allen, Maureen Johnson, Vivian Kimball, Rickey Lopatin, Rachel Radin, Annie Reid, Sharon Williams*

### Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee cares for WCLT properties and designs and maintains trails to encourage public enjoyment of local open space.

We made significant progress this year in turning the Gilmore Pond portion of our Upper Jackstraw Brook reservation into a woodland park. Through the combined efforts of all the Boy Scout troops and cub packs in Westborough in October 2010, we cleared many areas of invasive plants. The catalyst behind this happening was Warren Anderson, an adult volunteer with Troop 100. Warren had the idea to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Boy Scouting in North America with an all-Westborough project and he chose Gilmore for that focus. Warren worked with Mark Fox from Stewardship to coordinate four work days involving over 100 scouts and adults. Warren was awarded the WCLT President's Award for this outstanding contribution.

We are continuing to improve public access at the new Indian Pond reservation by building a trail system from the Maynard Street entrance around the pond to the Meadow Road entrance.

WCLT completed an important agreement with the Massachusetts Division of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) allowing us to maintain trails on property controlled by DCR, including several Charm Bracelet trails. I thank Don Burn for his perseverance over the years to make this happen.

WCLT also benefited from several Eagle Scout projects, including trail and clean-up work by Sam Mayo, Mike McElligott, and Erik Brandt, and invasive plant removal by Dan Buess, Zach Brush, Dan Murphy, David Whalen, and Brian Coutinho.

We thank all volunteers who work on projects and maintain trails. Without their support, we could not do our work.

*John Metzger, Acting Chair*

*Don Burn, Marge Fisher, Mark Fox, Scott Henderson, Garry Kessler, Hank Rauch, Steve Rowell, Sharon Williams*

*Associate members: Kris Allen, Barry Hall, Andy Koenigsberg, Doug Mosher, Harry Newell, Al Sanborn, Kim Simpson, Sue Wells*