

Fall 2006



www.westfordconservationtrust.org



Beaver Brook near Forge Pond

Join us for the Trust's Annual Meeting

Editor
Diane Duane

When: Thursday, November 2nd at 7:30pm

Where: Parish Center for the Arts, Westford Common

Travel Back to the Future....Meet Mr. Thoreau!

This year, **Richard Smith**, historic interpreter at Concord Museum, Concord, Massachusetts, will present an "Evening with Henry Thoreau". Dressed in 1854 period costume, Smith will take the audience back in time and deliver words of wisdom from one of the nation's first environmentalists. Mr. Smith will also answer questions both in character as Thoreau, and also from a 21st century perspective. Here's your chance to kick back with the man himself! We invite you to question and enlighten Mr. Thoreau about some of his past behaviors and popular writings.

Conservation Trustee Award

This year, the Trust will be awarding the Conservation Trustee Award for 2006 to **Angela Harkness**. Angela was a co-chair of the Master Plan Committee, and is a hard working citizen representative on the East Boston Camps Committee. As a lawyer, she has lent invaluable legal assistance to the Trust for many years. Come join us as we celebrate and acknowledge Angela's hard work and dedication as an environmentally active citizen.

Business

The meeting will begin with the Trust's yearly business. It will be presented by the Treasurer, Secretary, and the Land/Trail Stewardship Committee. Our bylaws state that elections for Directors, Associate Directors, Clerk, and Treasurer be held at the Annual meeting as well. Our guest speaker will follow this brief business meeting. The new edition of Westford's Trail booklet and the 2007 Trust Calendar will be available at the meeting. Refreshments will also be served. For more information, call Marian Harman at 692-3907. Hope to see you there!



"If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer" -Thoreau (Walden)

Fall Walks



**Sunday,
October 22, 9-11am**

Richard Emmet Conservation Land, Trailside Way

Join Trust Directors **Lenny Palmer** and **Paul Cully** on an exploration of this beautiful area of protected open space. This should be a wonderful walk, at the height of fall foliage. Come and observe the changes in flora and fauna over the fall season. The walk will be about two miles long, and is relatively flat but rocky. This walk is appropriate for all ages, but area is not suitable for strollers. No dogs, please. Park at the Town parking area off the cul-de-sac at the end of Trailside Way. Trailside Way is off Powers Rd. across from Nardone Sand and Gravel Co.

Calendar



We are very excited to announce that our second annual calendar for 2007 will be for sale at the Trust's Annual Meeting on November 2nd. It is now available at the Roudenbush Community Center, Stony Brook Acres Farm Stand (3 Plain Rd.) and at various other locations around town. You can also order it online from our website at www.westfordconservationtrust.org. The calendar features photographs of Westford's open space by Trust member Frank Winters as well as photos by Trust President Marian Harman and other members of the Nashoba Valley Photo Club. Price is \$15 with proceeds to benefit the Trust. You can preview sample photos from the calendar on our website. This is a great way to support the Trust and enjoy our local conservation land year round!

A Ride on Westford's Wild Side

The Westford Conservation Trust, along with the Conservation Commission and Land/Trail Stewardship Committee, is partnering with WestNET for **WestNet's third annual Westford bicycle tour** on **Sunday October 8** to benefit Westford public schools. This year they are featuring stops at some of the conservation lands in town. At these stops there will be a table of snacks, and a Trust volunteer to help interpret the land, its history, available trail maps as well as points of interest for each particular area. One won't actually go on the land at that time, but will be able to learn more about it. There are two routes: a 12-mile route, which starts at 1:30 p.m., and a 30-mile route, which starts at 10:30 a.m. The whole thing goes to about 4:30p.m. The start and finish will be at Nabnasset School. The plan is to stop at three locations for each ride: Cider Mill Pond at Lowell Rd., Tom Paul Trail (stopping at Town Hall), and Stone Arch Bridge at Coldspring Rd. for the 12-mile route, and Cider Mill Pond, Tom Paul Trail, and Nashoba Brook Sanctuary (MA Audubon) for the 30-mile ride. If interested, please go to www.westfordnet.org/tour for more information.



Special Town Meeting - Monday, October 16th

The Trust urges you to attend Town Meeting and hear the discussions on these and other important articles.

Graniteville Woods (Cowdry Hill)

Article 9 (tentative) - To purchase Graniteville Woods - This article is sponsored by the Selectman. The town is asked to purchase all or part of the land using the process of a debt exclusion.

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money, for the acquisition of the so-called Graniteville Woods property , to be raised by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing, or any combination thereof;

Article 10- To purchase Graniteville Woods by petition - this asks the town to purchase the entire property for \$4 million through the process of bonding.

The Trust did take a vote on supporting the concept of the Town's purchase of the Cowdry Hill Land last year. Our President, Marian Harman also wrote a letter to the editor of the Westford Eagle to that effect.

Vernal Pool Amendment

Article 20 - The Westford Conservation Commission has placed an article on the warrant for the fall Town Meeting which increases protection for vernal pools.

Amend the Wetland Bylaw by expanding the jurisdictional boundary to 200 feet and changing the definition of vernal pool.

The Trust has not taken a position on this article, but is generally in favor of protection of vernal pool species as much as possible, particularly endangered species.

Winter Walk

Mark your calendars! Enjoy the beauty of the Emmet Conservation Land in the Silent Season with Trust member Kate Hollister. The walk will start at Trailside Way and go 2 to 3 miles, depending on conditions. Sociable dogs on leashes are welcome. Be prepared for snow! Please join Kate on **Sunday, January 21, 2007** at 1 pm. For more info, check our website or call Marian at 978-692-3907.



Reed Brook, part of the Living Lab at the Day School is a cold-water stream that supports native Brook Trout. These are now rare in Eastern Mass. According to Mass Wildlife, brook trout occupy less than half of their original range in Massachusetts



Join the Trust

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (optional)/Email _____

Check here if interested in volunteering for trail maintenance

Check here if interested in volunteering for educational efforts



Please make tax deductible check payable to : **Westford Conservation Trust**

Please mail to : **Westford Conservation Trust P.O. Box 255**

Westford, Ma. 01886

Or join online at www.westfordconservationtrust.org

\$15 Individual

\$35 Family

\$100 Friend

\$250 Patron

\$500+ Supporter

Other

Trust Meetings—Please join us for our monthly meetings. All members and other interested individuals are invited to attend the Westford Conservation Trust monthly meetings. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month and begin at 7:30 P.M. at the Rogers Fire Station (except the November 2nd Annual Meeting at the PCA). You can contact us at info@westfordconservationtrust.org or 978-692-3907 .



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Permit #86
Westford, Ma

Westford Conservation Trust
P.O. Box 255
Westford, Massachusetts 01886



Do you know who made these tracks? Go to our website to find out!