

Fall 2007



www.westfordconservationtrust.org



Beaver Brook near Concord Rd.

Join us for the Trust's Annual Meeting

*Editor
Diane Duane*

When: Thursday, November 1st at 7:30pm

Where: Parish Center for the Arts, Westford Common

Westford Wildlife: Our Mysterious Neighbors

This year, **Marian Harman**, President of the **Westford Conservation Trust**, will present information, photos and descriptions of the last 7 years of Wildlife reporting in Westford. Marian will discuss many trends, interesting sightings as well as mysterious happenings! These reports have come from our many local wildlife reporters which have also been published in the Westford Eagle's Wildlife Watch column.



*Westford Conservation Trust
President and Guest Speaker
Marian Harman*

Conservation Trustee Award

This year, the Trust will be awarding the **Conservation Trustee Award for 2007** to **George Fletcher**. Over the years, George has had a long career of service to the Town of Westford, as well as working tirelessly to protect Westford's environment. George was also a founding board member of the Westford Conservation Trust. Please join us as we celebrate the accomplishments of this wonderful 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 2008 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!

Fall Walk

**Saturday,
October 20th
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. Wear sturdy shoes as the area 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. For more info call Marian at 978-692-3907

Winter Walk



**Saturday, January 5th
10am - noon**

Richard Emmet Conservation Land, Trailside Way

Enjoy the beauty of this Conservation Land in the Silent Season with Trust member **Kate Hollister**. **Sociable dogs on leashes are welcome.** Be prepared for snow! Please park at the end of Trailside Way, off Powers Rd., in the Emmet Land parking lot. For more info, call Marian at 978-692-3907.
***All walks are free, no signup required.**

Project Bird Sleuth



The Trust continues to support the school bird feeder program developed by Cornell Labs. Feeders are up and running at all Westford schools, and speakers are setting up times to present to all 4th grades classes. We now have a wonderful cleared trail adjacent to Abbot school for science walks - we need volunteers to help with these walks. If interested, please call Marian at 978-692-3907.

Dick S. Emmet 1924-2007

“Go forth, under the open sky, and list to Nature’s teachings, while from all around-- Earth and her waters, and the depths of air-- comes a still voice”. – ***Thanatopsis by William Cullen Bryant***



In memory of Trust member and Vice President Emeritus Dick Emmet, we mourn the passing of such a wonderful intelligent, talented and engaging naturalist and human being. Dick was a friend, lawyer, veteran, coach, philanthropist, teacher and loving husband and father. An enduring part of his legacy remains his preservation of many acres of land in Westford. As Vice President and founding member of the WCT, we will always remember his calming and sage advice and hard work on may conservation and town environmental issues.

An excerpt from his book, **Westford Bird Notes, 1951-2002**, advises us to stay vigilant about declines in our local bird populations, and how we plan for the future: “The general pattern is clear enough. The increase in the number of houses has led to a corresponding increase in the number of domestic cats and raccoons that prey on ground-nesting birds. The reduction in the number of orchards has led to a corresponding shrinkage in the number of holes for cavity-nesting birds. The loss of dairy farms has brought about a corresponding loss of barns and sheds and pasture land and hay meadows, the nesting sites and feeding grounds for many species. The fragmentation of woodlands has had a very negative effect on species that can raise their young successfully in large, uninterrupted blocks of deep woods”. He further reflects that we need to “stimulate the interest and awareness of Westford’s present and future residents in the local natural surroundings that remain”.

Special Town Meeting - Monday, October 22nd Abbot School 7:30p.m. & 9:00 p.m.

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

East Boston Camps

Article 11– Land Use/Land Transfers - This article asks that care, custody and control of the East Boston Camps property be transferred from the Board of Selectman to the Conservation Commission. This is the recommendation of the East Boston Camps Master Plan Committee.

The Trust has voted unanimously to support this article.

Article 1 - Special Town Meeting at 9pm - Citizens petition that would authorize the Board of Selectman and/or Conservation Committee to enter into a lease or license to allow summer camp operations at East Boston Camps.

The Trust has not taken a position on this article but encourages members to attend Town Meeting to discuss this very important issue.

Trail Stewards Gathering Saturday, October 27th

At this time of year, the **Tom Paul Trail** is particularly beautiful. To celebrate the occasion we are planning an **on-the-trail gathering of the Westford Trail Stewards**. Meet at 10am where the Tom Paul Trail crosses Graniteville Road, parking will be along Ledgewood Drive. We will be walking on the trail toward the west, and toward the Stone Arch Bridge. Just after crossing Cold Spring Road, we will have a stop for hot cocoa and ginger snaps, and a short address by **Tom Paul**, who is visiting from Connecticut. Please contact Bill Harman at 978-692-3907 to let him know if you are coming. It might also be a good idea for each steward to bring along a lunch, and if so we could have lunch around the Stone Arch Bridge -- one of the prettiest places in Westford.

This would also be a good time to make a brief trail report. The reports will be summarized at the annual meeting of the Westford Conservation Trust on the following Thursday evening. - *Bill Harman*

Trail Clearing Projects



l to r: Steve Smith, Shelagh Brady (front); Bill Harman, Paul Cully, Bob Murphy (back)



Bog Bridges being built by Trust members Steve Smith and Paul Cully at Swedes Crossing

Trust members have been hard at work clearing and upgrading many of our town and trust owned trails. Many trails have been worked on this spring, summer and fall by a dedicated trail crew whose names include **Steven Smith, Lenny Palmer, Paul Cully, Shelagh Brady, Bob Murphy, and Bill Harman**. Recent trails cleared include the Abbot School trail, Swedes Crossing which included bog bridge installation, Lower section of the Tom Paul Trail—also work on bog bridges; trail behind Town Hall; the Peace Trail which had

several loads of woodchips applied to the beginning of the trail; Snake Meadow Brook Trail and Beaver Brook trail. Check out our website or our trail book for more info about trails in Westford..

Congratulations Marian and Bill Harman! Congratulations are in order for their recent award of the **Sudbury Valley Trustee's Lewis Conservation Award for 2007**. This award is in recognition of their many contributions in the conservation field. Marian writes a regular Wildlife Watch article that is published in the Westford Eagle documenting flora and fauna over the past seven years. Bill is a past member of the Westford Planning Board and Conservation Commission. Marian, President of the Trust, and Bill have been involved in many political issues pertaining to land purchases or management by the Town. Bill and Marian have given countless hours of time and energy to various projects and important conservation issues. They were instrumental in initiating a partnership with SVT for CR's on the Prospect Hill and Frances Hill Conservation Land.

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 1st Annual Meeting at the PCA). You can contact us at info@westfordconservationtrust.org or 978-692-3907.

2008 Trust Calendar - The Westford Conservation Trust calendar which features photographs of Westford's open space is now on sale! You can purchase this for \$15 at Roudenbush Community Center, Stony Brook Acres farm stand, as well as on our website and at our annual meeting.



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Westford, Ma

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