

News

and

Views

Spring 2002
Editor, Kathy Deschenes



Westford Land Stewardship Committee News Contributor, Kate Hollister

2001 Projects

The Town trail system benefited from several Eagle Scout projects last year. Anthony Capriccio constructed a boardwalk near a beaver dam within the Emmet Conservation Land. It's nice to not get wet feet anymore. Steven Sears constructed and installed wood duck and bat houses along Stony Brook. Matthew Davies designed and blazed a new trail along Snake Meadow Brook, across Gould Rd. from the other trail. The landscape is different from what's along the other town trails. Robert Silva recently refurbished the John Gagnon Nature Trail on Kissacook Hill. Although the trail is short, you'll be happy to rest on his granite benches at the top of the steep hill.

2002 Projects

The Westford Garden Club has developed a plan to clean up the Slifer garden next to Keyes Pond. This is a lovely area. The short trails and grassy slope are an ideal place for a stroll with youngsters.

The Westford Conservation Commission plans to refurbish the trail around Kennedy (Nashoba) Pond. Clean gravel, provided from the Rte. 3 project, will be used to fill in eroded and low areas.

Your expertise needed for Boundary Marking effort

The Westford Conservation Trust has embarked on an effort to determine and mark the boundaries of all its properties. This will be useful for a variety of reasons including evaluating potential encroachments, resource inventory, and trail creation. To make this happen, we need to draw on the expertise and experience of our members. If you have a GPS and/or experience surveying - we need you! Optimally, if a surveyor could volunteer one day to train the group in charge of this effort, the group could then mark boundaries independently.

Please contact Tom Spuhler (tspuhler@yahoo.com, 392-1456) for more information or if you want to help out with the WCT boundary marking effort, have surveying experience, have thoughts on how boundaries should be marked, or anything else.

A generous donation

The Trust wants to thank Dick Emmet for his incredibly generous donation of 6 acres of land. The property is next to Mass Audubon land near Kennedy Pond. It is at the top of a hill overlooking one of the most beautiful areas in town. Dick has led many bird walks in this area and enjoys the natural beauty of this tranquil spot. We, as a Trust and as citizens of Westford, are honored to receive Dick's gift. He continues to be an inspiration for conservationists and the community-minded. Thank you, Dick, for all of your gifts.

Biodiversity Days

Once a year, the Massachusetts Office of Environmental Affairs sponsors Biodiversity Days. This program began in 2000 with the State's enlisting the help of volunteers in cities and towns across the state. The data that was gathered focused on visible signs of life forms. Today, the program has grown to include microscopic life forms. The program now has regional organizers who help coordinate and lead nature walks. These organizers come from groups such as the Mass. Audubon Society, nature clubs, and watershed councils.

One of the objectives of this event is to collect flora and fauna reports around the state. For our part, we would like to encourage our members to participate by venturing out into town (even just your own back yards) and note plants, birds, and animals that you see from May 31st through June 3rd. All you need to report is what you saw (species), where you saw it (address), and when you saw it (date). It's that simple.

Please send your reports to Marian Harman via email to MarianHarman@aol.com or mail them to her at 10 Chamberlain Road, Westford.

Town-wide Mailing

The Trust has just completed the production of an Outreach letter to the residents of Westford. In this letter, we explain who we are and what we offer the community. We are regularly confused with the Conservation Commission which is a town commission appointed by the Selectmen. We hope that our letter will 'get the word out' to the townspeople and increase our membership.



It's time once again for.....

SPRING WALKS!

Bird Walk (AS23-BWA)

Saturday, May 11, 7 - 9 AM

Join Westford's foremost birder, Dick Emmet, for a bird walk on Audubon and Town Conservation land. Walk is mostly flat but rocky, about 2 miles. Wear appropriate footwear and socks for poison ivy protection. Bring binoculars but not dogs! This walk is limited to a maximum of 30 people. Meet at Audubon parking lot on Concord Road across from Banbury Drive.

Wildflower Walk (AS23-WFW)

Sunday, May 19, 1 - 2 PM

Elana Schreiber will lead us on a hike on the beautiful John Gagnon Nature Trail at Kissacook Hill. The walk is short but steep. Elana is Westford's foremost wildflower expert and we should find many flowers in bloom. Wear long pants and socks (there's that poison ivy warning again). Meet at Day School parking lot on North Main Street. For the whole family - even the dog (as long as he/she is on leash).

Biodiversity Walks

Stream Critters (AS23-SC)

Saturday, June 8, 9 - 11 AM

Join wetlands biologist, Peter Severance, for a look at what's living in Vine Brook. Wear sneakers and pants that can get wet. We will wade into the brook to find the critters. Great fun for the whole family (even with more poison ivy to warn you about!). Meet at the Audubon parking lot on Concord Road across from Banbury Drive.

Ponding and Plants (AS23-PP)

Sunday, June 9th, 10 -12 AM

Another wonderful adventure with Peter Severance. He will lead us in discovering what lives in a pond. We will also catalog wildflowers and other plants living at Grassy Pond with naturalist, Marian Harman. Wear clothes and shoes that can get wet. You may want to bring field guides and binoculars for the walk. Dogs on leash are okay. Meet at Grassy Pond parking lot, Plain Road.

Bird Walk (AS23-BWB)

Sunday, June 9, 7:30 - 9:30 AM

Join Westford birder, Lisa Clark, for a leisurely stroll searching for birds in the Forge Pond area. Bring binoculars and dress for (you've got it!) poison ivy. No dogs please. Meet at Forge Beach parking lot, Pleasant Street.

All walks are FREE. Please call Roudenbush to register (692-5511) and reference the corresponding code for the walk. If you want further information, call Marian Harman at 692-3907 or email her at MarianHarman@aol.com

SEE YOU THERE!!!!

Check out our new website!

The Trust has a new website. We lost our previous site due to TownOnline's discontinuing their web hosting service. So now we have a site of our own with our own name. Check it out and let us know what you think!

www.westfordconservationtrust.org

Send us your email addresses!!!

In order for the Trust to contact you when there is an important issue, we could do so more efficiently by email. Our policy is to not supply our member lists to outside organizations. Please help us update our database by sending your email address to:

MarianHarman@aol.com

Westford Bird Notes

Dick Emmet's popular book on birding in Westford is being revised to include an addendum of his observations through the year 2001. Dick's book is a must read for bird lovers of all towns (not just Westford). *Westford Bird Notes* is available through Roudenbush.



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Westford, MA

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