



# Trail Markers



See our home page at <http://www.westonforesttrail.org>

## Trail Walk and Annual Meeting Sunday May 3, 2009

Our 64th Annual Meeting will take place at 4:00 p.m., at the Weston Scout House on School Street, across from the Weston Public Library. You can park in front of the Scout House or in the Library parking lot (at the back, please, to leave room for the normal library patrons). At 2:00 p.m. prior to the Meeting, our usual Sunday guided walk will take place, led by Meg Kelly. This year it will cover the Case Estates. For the walk, meet at the Recreation Building (barn), near the COA door on the lower level.

Refreshments will be served at the Scout House afterwards, as part of the Annual Meeting.

Our speaker will be **Craig Della Penna**, and the topic will be  
**The Rail-trail initiatives in Massachusetts**

**Craig Della Penna** has been an advocate for the development of rail trails and greenways in New England – and beyond – for over 12 years. In fact, in their 10th Anniversary issue, ***the Ride Magazine*** named him the most effective advocate for rail trail and bicycle issues on the eastern seaboard.

He is a realtor affiliated with The Murphys Realtors, Inc. in Northampton, MA -- with an innovative practice. He specializes in houses near to [or next to] rail trails, bike paths and other greenways or conservation lands. This niche is so innovative and in-tune with sustainable living and other environmental issues that it has been featured in several national oriented 'smart growth' magazines, a

**Boston Globe** editorial, the ***Wall Street Journal*** and even United Airlines in-flight magazine—**Hemispheres**.



He is a nationally known and in-demand public speaker with nearly a thousand lectures around the U.S. on the tough issues surrounding the creation of walkable/bikeable communities. He serves on the Massachusetts Governor's Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Board, is Co-chair of MassHighway's Trails & Greenways Taskforce, and is a member of the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals, Congress of New Urbanism, and both the National and Massachusetts Associations of Realtors®. Additionally, he and his wife Kathleen operate Sugar Maple Trailside Inn an award-winning Bed & Breakfast in Northampton that sits 8 feet from the first municipally-built rail trail in New England.

See <http://www.sugar-maple-inn.com> for more details.

## **The Weston Land Trust is a key partner for our Association**

The Weston Land Trust works with other private and public organizations and interested citizens to monitor the remaining tracts of open space in Weston and encourage preservation of the rural character of our town. Through our annual town-wide mailing and annual meeting (both in the spring), as well as other special events, the Land Trust works to educate the community on current land-related issues, such as the Community Preservation Act, the Case Estates, and the town's proposed storm water bylaw. Michele Grzenda, the new Conservation Commission administrator, will be the featured speaker at the **Land Trust's annual meeting to be held Monday, April 27 at 7:30 PM** in the High School media room. Michele, who often skied to work at Town Hall this winter, will be speaking on the role of the Conservation Commission, the proposed storm water bylaw, and stewardship opportunities for Weston. Michele is a tremendous asset to this town -- please join us in welcoming her to Weston!

Meg Kelly, President



## **Dog-walking on Weston trails has become an issue of concern**



Currently, the recommendation covering the Town and WF&TA lands is: "For anyone walking more than 3 dogs, all must be leashed". Largely because adjoining towns have severely curtailed access to dog-walking services, Weston has seen many more commercial dog-walkers, often with large numbers of dogs..not always under full control of their handlers.

Last fall, the Selectmen appointed a "Dog Committee" with representation from a number of Town committees and organizations to make recommendations for updating Weston's formal regulations and by-laws regarding the use of Weston Trails and open space for walking dogs, so that enforcement — and fines for violators— can take place . It is expected that these revised regulations will be included in the warrant for the Town Meeting in May.

## **Operating Fund needs more help**

The Operating Fund, established a few years ago, has been essential in supplementing the annual income from dues, so as to enable the Association to pay for the maintenance and upkeep of the trails and outlooks in Town. Currently, the Operating Fund has received most of its support from our 29-member Board of Trustees. We now want to extend this opportunity to other generous members of the Association, so that the ever increasing demand for care and management of our Trail system can be met. The Budget allocated by the Selectmen to the Conservation Commission is limited, and our efforts in picking up the slack is vital to keeping our trails the wonderful amenity that they are. Members are encouraged to send contributions to the Operations Fund, in any amount, to our Treasurer at 266 Glen Road.



## **Thanks to Land's Sake for keeping trails open**



This year, we have paid nearly \$ 40,000 to the Land's Sake team for work to clear and maintain our trail system. The stewardship committee of the Association has been monitoring the trail system throughout the Town, and calls upon Land's sake as needed to keep the trails open, to repair bridges and culverts, and make sure that the trails are safe and passable for everyone. We greatly appreciate all their help and effort. Anyone who notices the need for trail work should contact George Bates, head of the Stewardship committee at 781 821 0400 in order to have the matter dealt with.

We also commend the Land's Sake Operation under Grey Lee for their continuing work at the Farm, and especially for their active involvement with the Weston schools, in developing interest and respect for the natural environment we all share. Our pancakes

would not be the same without the delicious maple syrup produced and sold each year by Land's Sake .



## Weston Forest & Trail Association, Inc. Operations – 2008

Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents 1/1/08

\$ 49,007.69

**Receipts:**

Dues	\$ 22,937.60	
Gifts	4,689.00	
Map sales	960.00	
Book sales	694.00	
Interest	3015.21	
Operations Fund	25,853.00	
Stewardship Fund	125.00	
Weston Reservoir Fund	3,918.00	
Miscellaneous	<u>7.50</u>	
<b>Total Receipts</b>		62,199.31

**Disbursements:**

Office Expense	\$ 9,206.94	
Insurance Expense	2,427.36	
Accounting	2,000.00	
<b>Maintenance:</b>		
Land's Sake	\$ 44,793.00	
Other	<u>4,640.00</u>	
		49,433.00
Weston Reservoir Fund	4,311.50	
Stewardship	5,386.60	
Real Estate Tax	<u>2,229.57</u>	
<b>Total Disbursements</b>		(74,994.97)

**Cash and Cash Equivalents 12/31/08****Unrestricted:**

Checking Account	\$ 15,250.80
Vanguard GNMA Fund	<u>20,961.23</u>

**Total Cash and Cash equivalents****\$ 36,212.03****Restricted:**

Stewardship Fund	\$ 923.40
Operations Fund ( for 2009)	2,600.00
Weston Reservoir Fund	3,979.68
Case Estates Fund	<u>2,000.00</u>

**Total Restricted****\$ 9,503.08**

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### Weston Forest & Trail Association, Inc. Endowment Fund - 2008

Balance 1/1/08

\$ 854,357.89

**Receipts & Disbursements**

Contributions	\$ 22,262.00
Income and Capital Gains	<u>(149,804.09)</u>
	<u>(127,542.09)</u>

Net

change in Value of fund

**Balance 12/31/08****\$ 726,815.80\***

The average market value of the Fund in 2008 not including contributions received during the year was \$779,455.85. The Cost of Living Index for all Urban Consumers in the Boston Area increased 0.7% during the year ended November 2008. 0.7% of \$ 779,455.85 is \$ 5,456.19. Real income from the Fund in 2008 is calculated as follows:

Income and Capital Gains	\$ (149,804.09)
Less inflation adjustment	<u>(5,456.19)</u>
<b>Real Income or (loss)</b>	<b><u>\$ (155,260.28)</u></b>

\$ (155,260.28) is minus 19.92% of the average market value of the Fund in 2008. The average real rate of return on the Fund starting in 1989 is 2.16%.

\* This amount includes \$22,262.00 which was deposited to the Endowment Fund at year end.





Weston Forest and Trail Association, Inc.  
266 Glen Road, Weston, MA 02493

**Annual Meeting Sunday May 3, 2009**  
4 P.M.

*The Scout House, School Street*

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Boston, MA  
Permit No. 59119



### Please Join the Association:

- ☐ Individual membership      \$ 25
- ☐ Family membership      \$ 50 or more
- ☐ Supporting membership\*      \$ 100 or more\*
- ☐ Leadership Support      \$ 1000\*
- ☐ Life Membership\*\*      \$ 2,000 or more\*\*

**Note that all membership contributions are fully tax-deductible**

\* If you wish to receive the exclusive, unique WF&T coffee mug, please check here ☐

\*\* Life Members will receive a framed certificate of appreciation, unless checked here ☐

Also, please send me ☐ copies of **"Walks on Weston Conservation Land"** by Elmer E. Jones @ \$ 15.00 each, plus \$ 2.00 for postage and handling. This book is also available at Dragon Books in the Town Center. **Maps of the Weston Trail System** are available for \$ 10.00 at the Conservation Commission office, in the Town Hall. **All can also be purchased on the WF&TA website at [www.westonforesttrail.org](http://www.westonforesttrail.org)**

**CHECK HERE ( ) TO GET IT ALL:**

**Supporting Membership + Trail Map + Trail Guide for \$ 125.00**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to the **Weston Forest and Trail Association, Inc.**  
and mail, together with the above form, to Mr. George Bates, Treasurer, 266 Glen Road, Weston, MA 02493.

