



# Trail Markers



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

## Trail Walk and Annual Meeting Sunday May 4, 2008

Barbara Zenker will lead our walk through the Chestnut Street and Woodland School areas adjoining the Case Estates. Meet in front of the Community Center at 2 p.m., and park at the Field School or the Scout House. At 4 p.m., the Annual meeting at the Scout House will follow the walk. As usual, refreshments will be served, and the brief meeting will be followed by a presentation on the State of Massachusetts' New Commonwealth Heritage Land Initiative

### Speaker: Robert O'Connor

Director of Land and Forest Conservation for  
the State of Massachusetts Environmental Agencies



**Bob O'Connor** is the Director of Land and Forest Conservation for the state environmental agencies of Massachusetts. He coordinates land conservation efforts among five state divisions and works with the state's 140 land trusts. He also coordinates the forestry and forest conservation efforts among environmental agencies. Previously, he was Director of Natural Resources for the agency that supplies drinking water to the Boston Metro area where he coordinated the land acquisition program that was a key element in the waiver of water filtration that Boston received. Prior to this, he was the Superintendent of Quabbin Reservoir and South Regional Director for the Metro Boston Parks system. He has a B.S. in Forestry from S.U.N.Y. Syracuse and an M.B.A. from the University of Massachusetts.

## Membership

Our total membership stands at 510, made up of 57 Life Members, 115 supporting memberships, 214 Family members and 124 individual members. We're always looking to increase membership, and your help is needed and very welcome.

## The Commonwealth Land Initiative

- The New Commonwealth Heritage Land Initiative will significantly increase spending on protecting land with a new focus on increasing the quality of life in our cities, protecting our last remaining large, intact habitats and protecting and supporting our best “working forests and farms”.
  - The Commonwealth Heritage Land Initiative includes four key areas:
    - **Commonwealth Urban Parks** – visionary new large urban parks in 10-15 cities located in neighborhoods with few existing parks, as well as a new urban park in all 51 of our cities over the next 4 years and a streamlined approach to cleaning up contaminated “brownfield” sites for new parks;
    - **Commonwealth Habitat Reserves** – working with land trusts and communities, protect ten premier large unfragmented ecosystems across the state to protect our most unique large habitats for future generations and as a destination attractions to boost our emerging “green tourism” industry. These ten landscapes include mountain tops, wilderness areas, sustainably managed forests and forest reserves, and wild rivers. The state will also focus land protection efforts to complete the protection of these landscapes and also facility improvement and habitat restoration efforts on these ten areas.
    - **Commonwealth Working Landscapes** – prime agricultural and forest lands that support our local, sustainable agriculture and forest industries – together contributing over \$1 billion per year to our rural economies. Expanded funding for existing and new innovative programs including the Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program, the Farm and Forest Viability Programs, Forest Stewardship Program, a new “Working Forest Easement Program”, a new Estate Planning Assistance Program and a new program to help forest landowners committed to sustainable management with carbon inventories so that forest carbon growth can be sold on the Chicago Climate Exchange . These programs purchase land protection easements, covenants and agreements and help farmers and foresters develop and implement sustainable business plans to keep farming and forestry vibrant in our rural regions.



## Thanks to the generosity of our membership:

WF&TA acquisitions during 2007:

Trail easements from Weston Highland Meadows, LLC which make a wonderful connection between the south and north sides of Town.

Trail easement off Church St. from Weston Affordable Housing Foundation, Inc. which connects with land recently acquired by the Town for Conservation Purposes.

3.28 acres of land with frontage on the Boston Post Road from John G. Brooks and Jaybrook Realty Trust. This land includes a lovely field which will be maintained with the income from an endowment fund that was created by John Brooks for that purpose.

The Town acquired a small parcel of land (500 square feet) from the Heirs of Margaret B. Owen off Church St. which fills in a missing link in Conservation Land that had been previously overlooked.

## Officers and Board of Trustees - 2007-2008

President: Tom Selldorff  
 Vice President: Bill Stevenson  
 Treasurer: George Bates  
 Clerk: Leon Cohen

## Board of Trustees:

Ted Alfond	until 2008	Lisa Larkin	until 2009
Paul Arkema	until 2008	Kay McCahan	until 2010
George Bates	until 2010	Winky Merrill	until 2008
Louisa Birch	until 2009	Dave Ogens	until 2009
Roger Burke	until 2009	Mary Ann Pappanikou	until 2008
Fred Cabot	until 2010	Ned Rossiter	until 2010
Marty Carlock	until 2010	Bernard Scozzafava	until 2010
Lee Cohen	until 2010	Tom Selldorff	until 2009
Brian Donahue	until 2009	Meg Steiner	until 2010
Marcy Dorna	until 2008	Bill Stevenson	until 2010
Linda Duhms	until 2009	Jacques Wajsfelner	until 2009
Lelia Elliston	until 2008	Peter Wheeler	until 2008
Katie Fagan	until 2008	Jonathan White	until 2009
		Barbara Zenker	until 2010



## Weston Forest & Trail Association, Inc. Operations – 2007

**Cash & Cash Equivalents 1/1/07** **\$33,529.21**

**Receipts:**

Dues	\$ 25,366.24	
Gifts	5,650.00	
Endowment (3% of Endow. Fund)	23,579.49	
Map sales	1,445.00	
Book sales	152.57	
Interest	1,614.41	
Operations Fund	20,234.80	
Stewardship Fund	346.15	
Weston Reservoir Fund	4,765.00	
Miscellaneous	<u>16.35</u>	
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>83,170.01</b>

**Disbursements:**

Office Expense	\$ 9,456.20	
Insurance Expense	2,427.36	
Accounting	1,600.00	
Legal Expense (Litigation)	1,324.49	
<b>Maintenance:</b>		
Land's Sake	\$41,310.00	
Other	<u>1,212.00</u>	
	42,522.00	
Map Expense	1,921.50	
Weston Reservoir Fund	3,069.55	
Stewardship	2,580.43	
Web Site Expense	<u>2,790.00</u>	
<b>Total Disbursements</b>		<b><u>(67,691.53)</u></b>

**Cash and Cash Equivalents 12/31/07**

**Unrestricted:**

Checking Account	\$ 10,185.46	
Vanguard GNMA Fund	<u>25,218.75</u>	
<b>Total Unrestricted</b>		<b>\$35,404.21</b>

**Restricted:**

Stewardship Fund	\$ 6,185.30	
Operations Fund (2008-2009)	3,200.00	
Weston Reservoir Fund	<u>4,218.18</u>	
<b>Total Restricted</b>		<b><u>13,603.48</u></b>

**Total Cash and Cash Equivalents** **\$49,007.69**

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### Weston Forest & Trail Association, Inc. Endowment Fund - 2007

Balance 1/1/07		\$757,697.61
<b>Receipts &amp; Disbursements</b>		
Contributions	\$68,205.85	
Income and Capital Gains	52,033.92	
Disbursement to Operating Account	<u>(23,579.49)</u>	
Net change in Value of fund	-	<u>96,660.28</u>
<b>Balance 12/31/07</b>		<b><u>\$854,357.89</u></b>

The average market value of the Fund in 2007 not including contributions received during the year was \$783,714.57. The Cost of Living Index for all Urban Consumers in the Boston Area increased 3.4% during the year ended November 2007. 3.4% of \$783,714.57 is \$26,646.30. Real income from the Fund in 2007 is calculated as follows:

Income and Capital Gains	\$52,033.92	
Less inflation adjustment	<u>(26,646.30)</u>	
<b>Real Income or (loss)</b>		<b><u>\$25,387.62</u></b>

\$25,387.62 is 3.24% of the average market value of the Fund in 2007. The average real rate of return on the Fund starting in 1989 is 3.33%.



## Membership Application:



- 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 do not 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.

## Our Mission and Plans for the future

During more than 50 years of operation, the Weston Forest and Trail Association has been a strong advocate for maintaining the rural character of Weston.

Going forward, Weston Forest and Trail Association will continue to play an important role in keeping Weston’s natural and rural nature as attractive as possible. Weston’s proximity to Boston, its scenic roads and open spaces, and the Town’s good schools have contributed to high real estate values. As a result, there is a strong economic incentive for development in Weston, and this could easily change the rural character of the town.

In addition to our monthly trail walks, stewardship responsibility for existing trails and easements on conservation land is a very important task in which Weston Forest and Trail plays a lead role. This includes identifying encroachment on trails or Association-owned conservation land and seeking remedy, including the use of legal action when necessary, which is vital for preserving our conservation land, trail easements and conservation restrictions.

There remain almost 800 acres of developable land in Weston. The WFTA works in conjunction with the Town’s Community Preservation Committee and other Town organizations in identifying opportunities to preserve woodlands and open space, and to help shape any development in a way consistent with the town’s character. The Association’s role here includes providing information and support for land owners seeking to preserve undeveloped land, fund raising for specific projects, and advocacy within the town government.

We have created an Operating Fund ( to complement our Endowment Fund, but with more of a near-term focus) to which all the Trustees have made 5-year pledges. We hope many more Weston residents will also participate in this endeavor. For more information, or to volunteer to help, please contact Bill Stevenson or one of the Association officers.





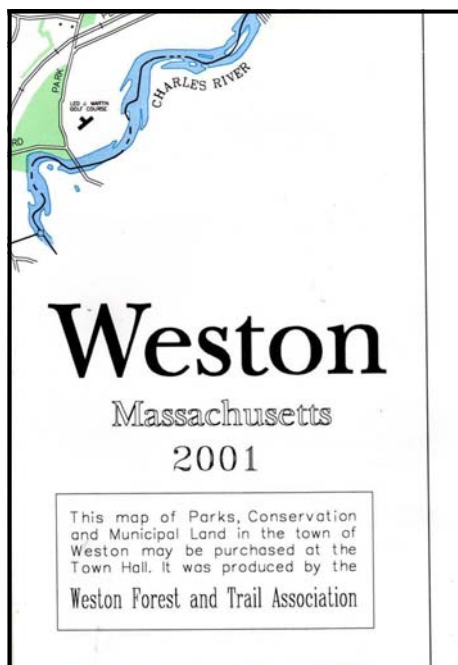


Weston Forest and Trail Association, Inc.  
266 Glen Road, Weston, MA 02493

Annual Meeting Sunday May 4, 2008  
4 P.M.  
The Scout House

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

**Featuring Robert O'Connor**  
Director  
Land and Forest Conservation for  
the State of Massachusetts



The Weston Trail map (left) is published by the Association, and gives details and directions on approximately 100 miles of marked and maintained trails on Weston Conservation Land. It can be purchased for \$ 10 at the Conservation Commission office in Town Hall, or on the Association web site at [www.westonforesttrail.org](http://www.westonforesttrail.org)

The book "Walks on Weston Conservation Land", by Elmer E. Jones, contains natural and historical details on 18 walks through our Town's Open Space can be obtained at Dragon Books in the Town Center for \$ 15, or on our website. It makes a great complement to the WF&TA Trail map, which can be purchased at Conservation Commission office at the Town Hall for \$ 10.

