



Trail Markers



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

Trail Walk and Annual Meeting Sunday May 7, 2006

Elmer Jones will lead the Monthly Trail Walk covering the Case Estates and Land's Sake Farm, starting at 2 p.m., and preceding the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting and Lecture of the Weston Forest and Trail Association will begin at 4 P.M., at the Weston Scout House on School Street. The meeting features a slide presentation (see below) and refreshments will be served.

Hear Bob Wilber speak about Mass Audubon's land protection program

Across the Commonwealth, unprecedented rates of development are resulting in accelerated habitat loss and fragmentation. In much of the state, the "window of opportunity" to make a meaningful difference in the conserved landscape is only 10 -15 years. In order to meet this challenge and effectively advance its mission of Protecting the Nature of Massachusetts, Mass Audubon has been actively implementing a new Land Protection Strategy to guide its future land protection efforts. The foundation of this plan is a new Geographic Information System data layer that will which allows Mass Audubon to be focused, selective and proactive in its land protection work.

Bob Wilber, the Director of Land Protection for Mass Audubon and author of this program will describe the success of this initiative in a number of locations in Massachusetts.

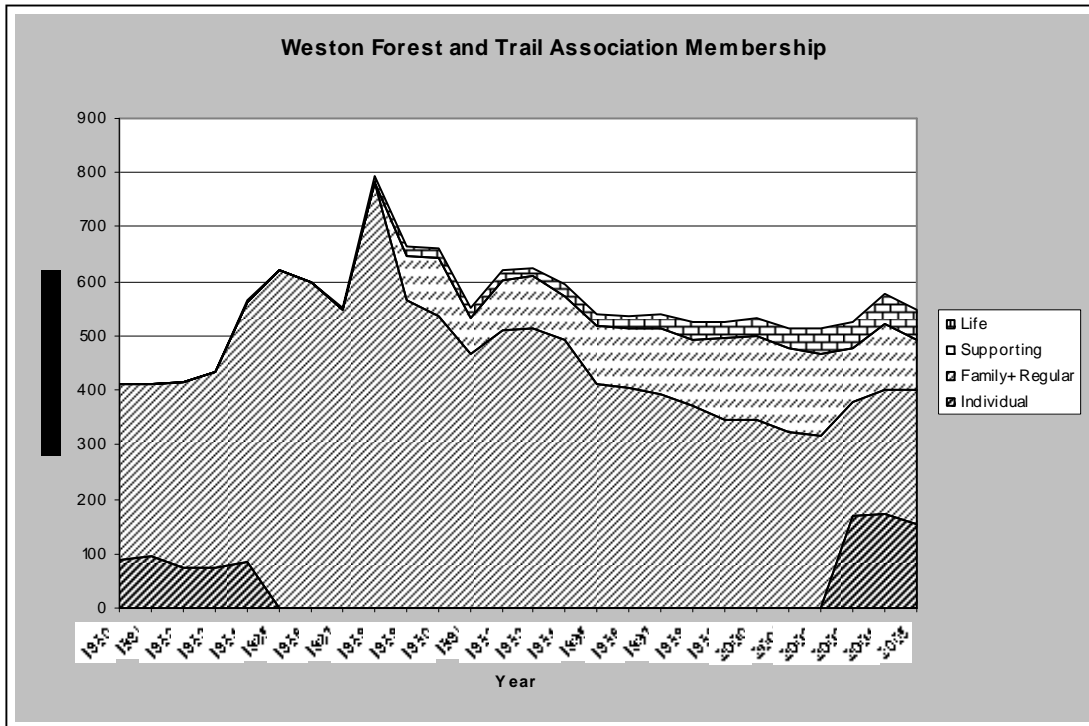
Bob began his career in 1983 with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management's Land Acquisition & Protection Program, where he worked until 1996, serving as director for the last seven years with that state agency. He served for three years in a similar capacity with the Massachusetts Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, prior to joining the Audubon staff in July of 2000. Bob is a lifelong Massachusetts resident, and resides in Stow with his family, where he is a current member of the town's Conservation Trust and Open Space and Community Preservation Committees. During his 20 year career in land conservation, Bob has been directly involved in the permanent protection of more than 25,000 acres in Massachusetts.



Membership:

Membership in 2005 was 547, with 55 Life Members, 93 Supporting Members, 246 Family Members and 153 Individual Memberships.

A recent review of our membership rolls since 1980 indicated that overall participation of Weston households has been roughly stable since 1996. Even though we now have the largest membership among Weston conservation organizations, With over 3000 families in Weston, the challenge — and the opportunity — is to grow our membership to include at least a third of Weston households, or 1000 members.



Monitoring and Stewardship obligations

As a private, non-profit conservation organization, we have been given responsibility for nearly 150 parcels of land, conservation restrictions and trail easements, on over 200 acres of land in Town, protected for conservation in perpetuity. Maintaining the integrity of these covenants is an important part of preserving Weston's rural character, and we need to become more cognizant of the responsibilities inherent in our stewardship obligations. To that end, we will be adding to our operating fund budget a stewardship component.



This barn, on Concord Road was built on land covered by a Conservation restriction held by the Weston Forest and Trail Association. We have been forced to file a lawsuit to have the barn moved to an adjacent unrestricted area.



Additions to Conservation Land in Weston

We are most grateful for the following conservation land and trail easements, which were donated to WF&TA during 2005:

1. From the Kovar Family Realty Trust, 5.19 acres and a trail easement on Merriam St.
2. A trail easement from the Red Barn Nursery School which will provide an important link from a proposed trail in the Highland Meadows development to the Jericho Town Forest.
3. From Polly Dickson, 3.11 acres off Highland St.

The following conservation land and trail easements were obtained by the Town during 2005.

1. From Clover Nicholas (part gift and part sale), 4.9 acres and trail easements which provide a permanent connection to other Town owned conservation land from Church St.

Plans for 2006 Fiscal Year

Our budget for FY 2006 calls for Expenses of \$ 95,000, about half of which will go for Trail maintenance, 20% is slated for stewardship costs, and the remainder for office expenses, accounting and other support activities. In addition to dues, a major portion of the income is planned to come from an Operations Fund Drive, needed to build up the financial reserves to cover potential stewardship, membership development and other costs. The small gain in 2006 will just about offset the loss incurred in 2005, maintaining the organization at breakeven over the long run. The litigation involving the Fishman Barn violation will have cost more than \$ 60,000 before it's all done, and we need to have the resources and credibility to discourage potential abusers in the future. Thanks to the generous support from our Trustees, from the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition, and from more than 140 townspeople the case will (by the time you receive this Annual Report) have been argued before the Court of Appeals, and hopefully the decision will go in our favor and the Barn will be moved off the restricted area.

For the WF&TA, our main mission is helping to preserve the rural character of Weston throughout the Town, both in maintaining what we already have and facilitating additions, such as the 13 acres received this year from generous donors. With a number of land issues facing the Town in the coming months, the Association is also participating actively in the Town committees to insure that land conservation is given full consideration.

Officers and Board of Trustees - 2005-2006

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

Trustees

Ted	Alfond	Until	2008	Kay	McCahan	Until	2007
Paul	Arkema	Until	2008	Winky	Merrill	Until	2008
George	Bates	Until	2007	Benjamin	Nye	Until	2006
Louisa	Birch	Until	2006	David	Ogens	Until	2006
Roger	Burke	Until	2006	Mary Ann	Pappanikou	Until	2008
Marty	Carlock	Until	2007	Robin	Reisman	Until	2006
Leon	Cohen	Until	2007	Ned	Rossiter	Until	2007
Brian	Donahue	Until	2006	Bernard	Scozzafava	Until	2007
Marcy	Dorna	Until	2008	Tom	Selldorff	Until	2006
Linda	Duhms	Until	2006	Meg	Steiner	Until	2007
William	Ebsworth	Until	2007	Bill	Stevenson	Until	2007
Lelia	Elliston	Until	2008	Jacques	Wajsfelner	Until	2006
Katie	Fagan	Until	2008	Peter	Wheeler	Until	2008
Elmer	Jones	Until	2006	Johnathan	White	Until	2006
Lisa	Larkin	Until	2006	Barbara	Zenker	Until	2007



Weston Forest & Trail Association, Inc.

Operations - 2005

Cash 1/1/05 \$ 22,918.08

Receipts:

Dues	\$ 24,903.80	
Gifts	11,724.50	
Endowment	19,100.83	
Map sales	1,445.50	
Book sales	406.26	
Interest	239.89	
Operations Fund	12,398.54	
Litigation Fund	19,251.01	
Business Promotion Fund	37.15	
Weston Reservoir Fund	<u>3,980.00</u>	
Total Receipts		93,487.48

Disbursements:

Maintenance	\$ 44,117.55	
Office Expense	8,926.51	
Insurance Expense	2,427.36	
Legal Expense	33,544.94	
Accounting	1,800.00	
Custodian Account fee	500.00	
Promotion	2,216.98	
Surveying	2,903.00	
Weston Reservoir Fund (mutt mitt program)	<u>3,609.73</u>	
Total Disbursements		(100,046.07)

Cash (Cambridge Trust Co.)

Unrestricted Cash	\$ 6,285.49
Restricted funds	<u>10,074.00</u>

Total Cash as at 12/31/05 **\$ 16,359.49****Weston Forest and Trail Association, Inc.****Endowment Fund - 2005**

Balance as of 1/1/2005		\$ 626,955.16
Receipts and Disbursements		
Contributions	\$ 33,691.98	
Income and Capital Gains	\$ 31,471.81	
Disbursements to Operating Account	<u>\$ (19,100.83)</u>	
Net Change in Value of the Fund		<u>\$ 46,062.96</u>
Balance as of 12/31/2005		<u>\$ 673,018.12</u>

Note: The average market value of the Fund in 2005 not including contributions received during the year was \$ 642,691.07. The cost of living index for all Urban Consumers in the Boston Area increased 3.3% during the year ended November 2005. Since 3.3% of \$ 642,691.07 is \$ 21,208.81, the real income from the fund in 2005 is calculated as follows:

Income and Capital Gains	\$ 31,471.81
Less inflation adjustment	<u>\$ (21,208.81)</u>
Real Income or (Loss)	<u>\$ 10,263.00</u>

\$ 10,263.00 is 1.60% of the average market value of the Fund in 2005. The average real rate of return on the Fund starting in 1989 is 3.02%.



Membership Application:



- Individual membership \$ 25
- Family membership \$ 50 or more
- Supporting membership* \$ 100 or more*
- 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.

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.

Plans for the future

During more than 50 years of operation, the Weston Forest and Trail Association has played an important role in maintaining the rural character of Weston.

Going forward, Weston Forest and Trail Association will continue to play a number of important roles in maintaining Weston's rural character. 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.

Stewardship responsibility for existing conservation land is a very important responsibility in which Weston Forest and Trail plays a lead role. This includes identifying encroachment on 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 Commission 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.

To this end, Bill Stevenson and a group of Trustees are developing a plan to create the organization and resources needed to fulfill our obligations in the coming years. Stay tuned, and help us along the way. For more information, or to volunteer to help, please contact Bill Stevenson or one of the Association officers.

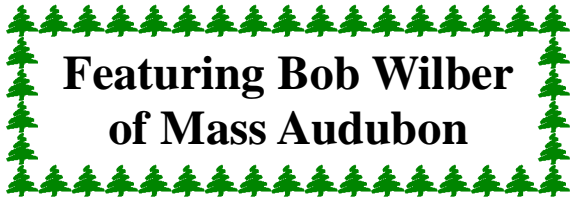




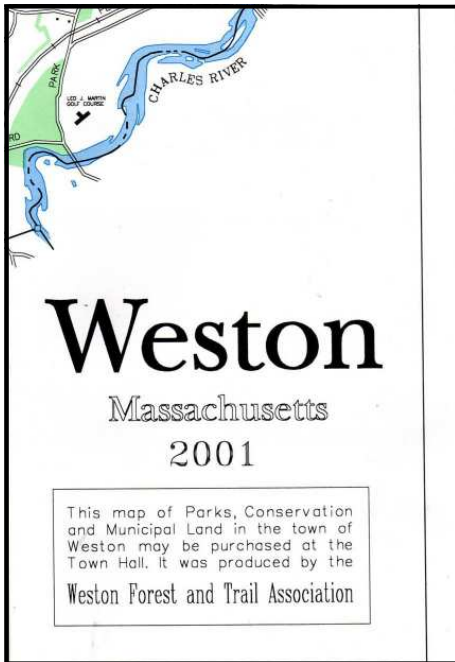
Weston Forest and Trail Association, Inc.
266 Glen Road, Weston, MA 02493

Annual Meeting Sunday May 7, 2006
4 P.M.
The Scout House
School Street, Weston

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



**Featuring Bob Wilber
of Mass Audubon**



The Weston Trail map is published by the Association, and gives details and directions on the more than 65 miles of marked and maintained trails on Weston Conservation Land. It can be purchased for \$ 10 at the Conservation Commission office in Town Hall, on the Association web site at www.westonforesttrail.org or by mail.

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

