



Trail Markers

Weston Forest and Trail Association

Dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of open space in Weston

WestonForestTrail.org

WFTA Annual Meeting – Sunday May 7, 2023 4pm

Join us for our 67th Annual Meeting and a special presentation on the history of forest management in Weston. The meeting will be held at the Scout House on School Street. More information is available at WestonForestTrail.org.

Brian Donahue

The Weston Town Forest – Its Past and Future

The Weston Forest is the outgrowth of not only its natural and Native roots, but centuries of settler farming and woodlotting, followed by the widespread 20th century abandonment of productive use. This talk will trace these changes and the development of the forest to the



present. It will look at the history of management of the Town Forest in the 1950s and 60s, and since 1980 by the Conservation Commission and Land's Sake. It will close by asking what kinds of management might be appropriate for the future.



Brian Donahue is Professor Emeritus of American Environmental Studies at Brandeis University, and a farm and forest policy consultant. He holds a PhD from the Brandeis program in History. He co-founded and for 12 years directed Land's Sake and was later chair of the Weston Conservation Commission and Community Preservation Committee. He now co-owns a farm in western Massachusetts with his wife Faith Rand, and former Weston residents Joan Meyers and Tom Chalmers. Donahue is author of Reclaiming the Commons: Community Farms and Forests in a New England Town (1999), and The Great Meadow: Farmers and the Land in Colonial Concord (2004).

Weston Forest and Trail Association has been looking after the town's trails and open spaces since 1955. During COVID, we have been particularly grateful for the legacy of fields and forests left to us by previous generations of land stewards. Please join us today (WestonForestTrail.org) to ensure that this gift endures for those who will follow us on Weston's trails. Your support is critical to our mission.

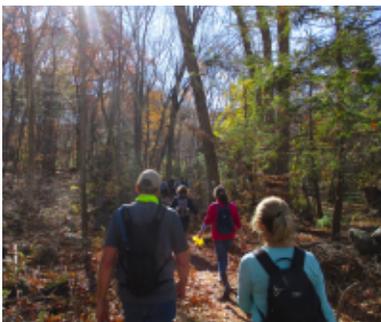
In all things of nature, there is something of the marvelous. — Aristotle

Land Stewardship

As the virus weakened its unwelcome grip, 2023 was a year of achievements on the trails — new bog bridges, new signage and new inroads against some of the invasive plants that are crowding the borders of our trails. Stewardship Saturdays (volunteer workdays on the third Saturday of each month, held with the Conservation Department) have included further clearing of the Merriam Barn (now with an open paddock and a new trail thanks to the Teen Trail team), Japanese knotweed removal projects at Dickson Ring in Jericho and at the Woodland Conservation area, boardwalks at Cold Brook stream as well as apple orchard pruning and stone wall clearing. In addition, new trails were built in Highland Forest to avoid wetland issues and at Ogilvie to improve the walker experience. Lynn Atkins, WFTA Trails Manager, continues to keep up with storm damage and regular brushing back of obstructions on trails. She has also added more wayfinding signs in our larger properties.

Taking care of the trails should be on every trail user’s mind. If you see trash, please pick it up. If your dog leaves a mess, it is your responsibility to clean it up and bring the poop bags home for disposal. Everyone contributes to the beauty of Weston’s trails, and everyone can help maintain the pristine beauty of Weston’s trails by leaving no trace.

A cross-Weston trail walk was held on October 30 when 20 hikers walked from the Lincoln border down to the Wellesley border, covering 9.5 miles in about 3½ hours. In addition, a winter solstice hike was held at Cat Rock Park where hikers enjoyed a cold sunrise. Future plans include a Wayland to Waltham walk, an aqueduct walk, and more solstice hikes.



Cross Weston Walk



Merriam Barn



Knotweed Cleanup



Sunset Corner Cleanup



Winter Solstice Dawn Walk



Regis College Work Crew

Get Involved!



Join us and the Weston Conservation Department on the third Saturday of every month for **Stewardship Saturdays** as we clear a trail, build a bog walk, remove invasives, beautify a stone wall, or otherwise improve our wonderful 100 mile network of trails on 2000 acres of protected land. No experience necessary.

There are other ways you can get involved as well: co-lead a Council on Aging trail walk, help promote new trail easements in your neighborhood, draft articles for our website and social media channels, organize activities for families, “adopt” a trail in your neighborhood, and more.

Contact WestonForestTrail@gmail.com to be added to our email list of volunteers.

2022 Treasurer’s Report

CASH (and EQUIVALENTS) INCOME		EXPENSES		MEMBERS	
Dues	\$34,795	Land Stewardship	\$70,401	Naturalist (\$35)	105
Gifts	\$6,800	Office	\$10,152	Explorer (\$70)	34
Book/Map Sales, Misc	\$1,531	Insurance & Accounting	\$3,147	Guardian (\$100)	188
Investment Income	\$(2,728)	Map Printing	\$400	Steward (\$250)	46
Weston Reservoir Fund	\$3,365	Weston Reservoir Fund	\$4,800	Trailblazer (\$500)	22
				George Bates Society (\$1000+)	37
TOTAL INCOME	\$43,763	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$88,900	TOTAL MEMBERS	427

Membership numbers and dues were similar to last year. Continuing a trend, more than a third of donations were made online. \$77,000 was donated to the George Bates Endowment. We are grateful for the investment income from this fund to help cover our expenses. The full Treasurer’s Report is available at WestonForestTrail.org. The WFTA Board of Trustees thanks you for your support.

Joel Angiolillo	Ted Cavan	Samantha Kirby	Tom Seeman	President: Joel Angiolillo
David Banks	Diana Chaplin	Gail Palmer	Bill Stevenson	VP Stewardship: Kristin Barbieri
Kristin Barbieri	Lelia Elliston	Mary Ann Pappanikou	Jenna Vettel	VP Communications: Gail Palmer
Nancy Bates	Chris Jylkka	Jen Potter	Peter Wheeler	Secretary: Jen Potter
Marty Carlock	Meg Kelly	Bernie Scozzafava	Ann Wiedie	Treasurer: Ann Wiedie
				Past President: Meg Kelly

Keep in Touch with Weston Forest & Trail!

- Follow us on [Instagram](#) (westonforestandtrail) and [Facebook](#) (Weston Forest and Trail Association – WFTA)
- Sign up for our monthly newsletter (send a request to WestonForestTrail@gmail.com)
- Check out what we are up to by visiting WestonForestTrail.org
- Volunteer – we welcome both short- and long-term commitments
- And, of course, become a member!

Weston Forest and Trail Association, Inc. – Annual Membership Dues

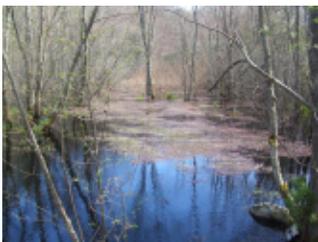
Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

- Select a membership level:
- | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Naturalist | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Steward | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$70 Explorer | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Trailblazer | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Guardian | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 George Bates Society | |

Find yourself in Nature

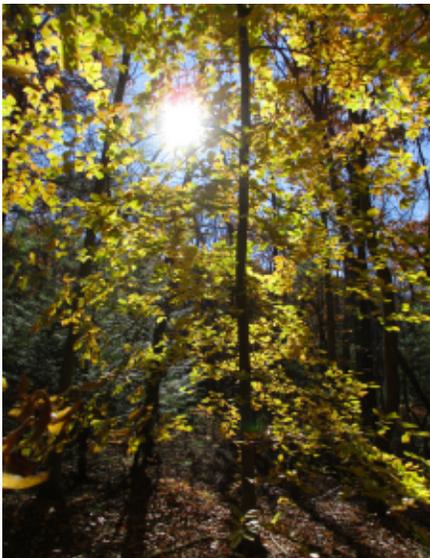


After a day’s walk, everything has twice its usual value. — G.M. Trevelyan



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or follow us on [Facebook](#) and
[Instagram](#). We love hearing from
you and hope you'll join us!