



Trail Markers

Weston Forest and Trail Association

The Weston Land Trust

Dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of open space in Weston

Annual Meeting Sunday May 6, 2018 at 4 p.m.

We will convene at the **Weston Scout House on 86 School Street**, following the regular Sunday 2:00 p.m. walk. See our website for details of the walk.

Light refreshments will be served. The brief business meeting will be followed by the presentation below. Trustees are requested to remain after the presentation for a brief Trustees meeting to elect officers for the 2018-2019 year.



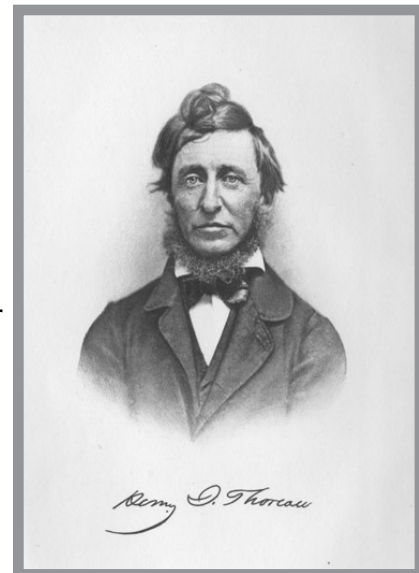
Corinne H. Smith is a writer and a poet who has worked as a librarian for more than 30 years.

Along the way, she earned a degree in outdoor teacher education. She is the author of *Westward I Go Free: Tracing Thoreau's Last Journey*, the first book to follow Henry Thoreau's 1861 trip from Massachusetts to Minnesota; and a biography and activity book for middle-schoolers, *Henry David Thoreau for Kids: His Life and Ideas, With 21 Activities*. She works as a library assistant at Stevens Memorial Library in Ashburnham. She also serves as an interpreter and blog writer for Thoreau Farm: The birthplace of Henry David Thoreau in Concord. She lives in Gardner.

"Botanizing from the Train: What Henry David Thoreau Saw in Weston and Beyond."

Presented by Corinne H. Smith

Author and naturalist Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862) traveled often around Massachusetts to lecture, to visit friends, and to conduct property surveys or natural explorations. Dozens of times, he took the trains of the Fitchburg Railroad from his native Concord to Boston and back, leading him to rattle through the town of Weston on each trip. He was used to looking out of the windows and "botanizing" from the railroad cars. He paid attention to trees and plants and the larger landscapes that he saw, and he wrote notes about them in his journals. This presentation will offer a brief history of the Fitchburg Railroad line, a background biography of Henry Thoreau, and what some of his sightings were during his trips through Weston.



In Memoriam



With heavy, but grateful hearts, we post what follows as a tribute to George Bates. What we write only gives a 30,000' view of the impact George had on the open space, and trails, and conservation land that are so important to making Weston such a great place to live. While we consider him "ours", he also left a permanent mark on other communities he cared for in Connecticut and New Hampshire.

George and Nancy Bates moved to town in 1963 and ten years later George became a Trustee of the Weston Forest and Trail Association (WFTA). In 1977 he became the President and then stepped "down" (that's supposed to be funny) in 1980 to become Treasurer. As Treasurer George remained the heart and soul of WFTA. In addition to managing the finances of the organization, George not only took on the tedious administrative responsibilities of WFTA, but he was also quick with a chainsaw to get out and clear whatever needed to be taken out

to keep the trails open. He also kept his eye on the conservation restrictions and rights-of-way owned by the Association.

In 1988 George was appointed to the Town's Conservation Commission. He served as a Commissioner for 30 years, and was its chair for 19 of those years. In navigating the tricky shoals of small-town commission adjudication, George showed no favoritism, and saw to it that the board made fair and timely decisions without creating antagonism. He maintained a sense of proportion between property rights and wetlands protection, earning the Commission a reputation for reasonableness and fairness.



For both WFTA and the Conservation Commission, George's attention to detail was legendary, whether he was correcting an applicant's math on an application, remembering the history of each parcel, or ensuring that every invoice was correct to the penny. In recent years, George worked to ensure that the deeds for all the parcels and restrictions acquired by the Town and WFTA over the past half-century were carefully researched and filed, and properties were properly surveyed and monitored. Under his leadership, encroachments were systematically and judiciously addressed.

Among George's many accomplishments was shepherding the acquisition of the 24-acre "Sunday Woods", which required assembling more than \$2 million in funds from various parties. George was also responsible for creating and building an Endowment Fund for WFTA, which will sustain its mission for years into the future.

But perhaps George's greatest contribution is Weston's system of some 100 miles of trails. George laid out many of the trails, and was largely responsible for creating the first set of trail maps more than thirty years ago. Today it is possible to walk from one end of Weston to the other almost entirely on trails, largely because George patiently stitched the system together one easement or parcel at a time.

Laurie Bent, Chair of the Weston Conservation Commission

Meg Kelly, President of the Weston Forest and Trail Association Board of Trustees

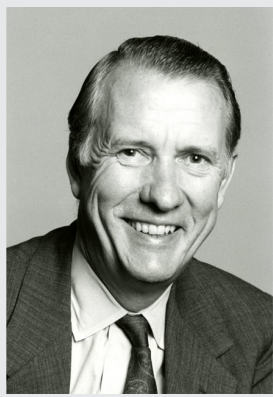


In Memoriam , Continued

Weston Forest and Trail Association notes with sadness the passing of two former trustees who played significant roles in building and fortifying the organization: Hugo E.R. Uyterhoeven and Roger M. Burke.

Hugo Uyterhoeven

On January 29, 2018 **Hugo E.R. Uyterhoeven** of Vero Beach, FL—formerly of Weston—passed away following complications from a fall. Hugo was born in 1931 in Eindhoven, Netherlands. He came to



Harvard Business School in 1955 and ultimately received a doctorate in business administration in 1963. As a professor at HBS, Hugo's interests focused on business policy and the role of the middle manager. Hugo authored or coauthored numerous cases, teaching notes, articles, and books. He also consulted in the areas of international business, long-range planning, and corporate organization for major Fortune 500 corporations, and served as a director of more than a dozen companies.

Hugo and his family lived in Weston from 1960 until 2005 where he was an active participant in town affairs, serving as a member of the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission, and president of the Weston Forest and Trail Association. In 1972, with development rapidly covering Weston's remaining open space, he initiated a land acquisition plan with Ken Germeshausen that raised some \$5 million and preserved some 10 percent of the town's acreage as conservation land. With George P. Bates, he established new paths, amounting to about one-third of Weston's current 100 miles of trails.

Roger Burke

Roger M. Burke passed away on November 4, 2017. Roger was born in Chestnut Hill, MA in 1930. He was a Lieutenant in the Navy from 1953-1956 and graduated from Harvard Business School in 1958. Most of his career was spent developing his own business, TNCO, Inc. As a lover of the outdoors and an avid runner, tennis player and skier, Roger was a devoted WFTA trustee for many decades.



Progress and improvement of Weston's Trails and Open Spaces

Acquisitions and Improvements

In 2017 Meg and Jonathan Kelly gave 1.43 acres of land just east of 338 Boston Post Road to WFTA.

The Weston Aqueduct Trail

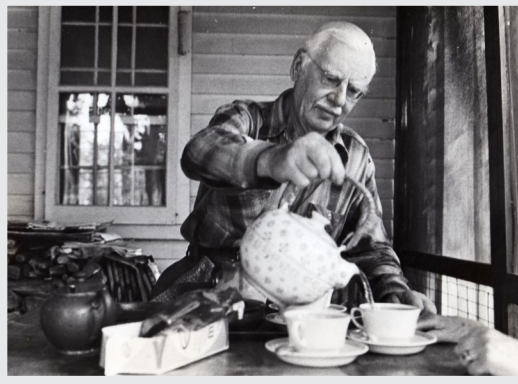
2017 saw the opening of the new Weston Aqueduct Trail, which travels 5.5 miles across Weston along the approximate path of the old Weston Aqueduct. The trail passes through a number of the town's open spaces, including Weston Reservoir, Nolte Town Forest, Highland Town Forest, and Doublet Hill conservation area. It also crosses part of Pine Brook Country Club, with an adjusted trail location that skirts around the greens.

The 13.5-mile Weston Aqueduct opened in 1903 and delivered water from the Sudbury Reservoir in Framingham to the Weston Reservoir in Weston. It operated until the opening of the Hultman Aqueduct, at which point the Weston Aqueduct became a back-up facility. Over the past few years, the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) have worked with the Weston Conservation Commission and Weston Forest & Trail Association to open the trail along the surface of the aqueduct for public use.



The Weston Aqueduct Trail continues westward from Weston across Wayland and Framingham to its terminus in Southborough. MWRA has placed two interpretive signs for the Weston Aqueduct Trail at the eastern end of the Weston Reservoir and at the trail's intersection with Buckskin Drive. Trail maps for the Weston Aqueduct will soon be available; inquire with the Conservation office at conservation@westonmass.org.





Dr. William Elliston

WFTA...how it all began and early days

In 1954 the selectmen appointed a new committee to recommend what areas the town should acquire for town forests. Early supporters of the idea included longtime active residents and selectmen, William R. Dewey, Jr. and Charles M. Ganson, but it was Doctor William Elliston who emerged as the local leader to save wooded areas. A gentleman farmer and amateur naturalist as well as a physician, Elliston became the first chairman of the 1954 committee, which identified potential places for acquisition. Under Elliston, the committee appealed to landowners' financial interests.

Because the value of lands abutting the town forest would rise steeply, the committee argued, landowners should sell parcels for use as town forest at a discounted price, which they would quickly recoup as their property values increased.

The following year, Weston's government, acting on the committee's recommendations, established two town forests. The town paid \$51,500 to the trustees of the Charles J. Paine estate for 147 acres near Highland Street south of the water reservoir, and set it aside as the Highland Town Forest. Inspired by the effort at land conservation, Paine's heirs gave the town an adjacent five-acre parcel. Marion B. Farnsworth also conveyed a tract of 40 acres to initiate the Jericho Town Forest. In the following years, Weston would add hundreds of acres to these and other town forest sites.

In 1955 Elliston joined eleven other Weston men and women to found a private land preservation organization, the Weston Forest and Trail Association, to acquire through gifts or purchase additional open lands for the town, and to build and maintain walking and horseback riding trails through them. In effect, the Association functioned as a nonprofit extra-governmental body, carrying out the Town's conservation agenda by keeping up Weston's nature preserves and facilitating further purchases of woodlands. Although anyone could walk in Weston's forests, Elliston specified in the founding document that the new group hoped to develop the town's recreational areas "for the use and enjoyment of members of the Association and residents of Weston."

In 1961 the town created the Weston Conservation Commission to meet the new State requirements for wetlands protection. In its first

report, the new commission noted that Gertrude Fiske's heirs had offered

the town some 36 acres between the Jericho Forest and a tract given by the Dickson family to the town two years earlier. The commissioners expressed their views on conserving rather than developing land. "Acquisition of such areas [wet pockets] for Green Belt purposes, rather than encouraging their use for building, can often be a sound economy measure for the Town."



Early meetings of the WFTA in the Elliston's garden



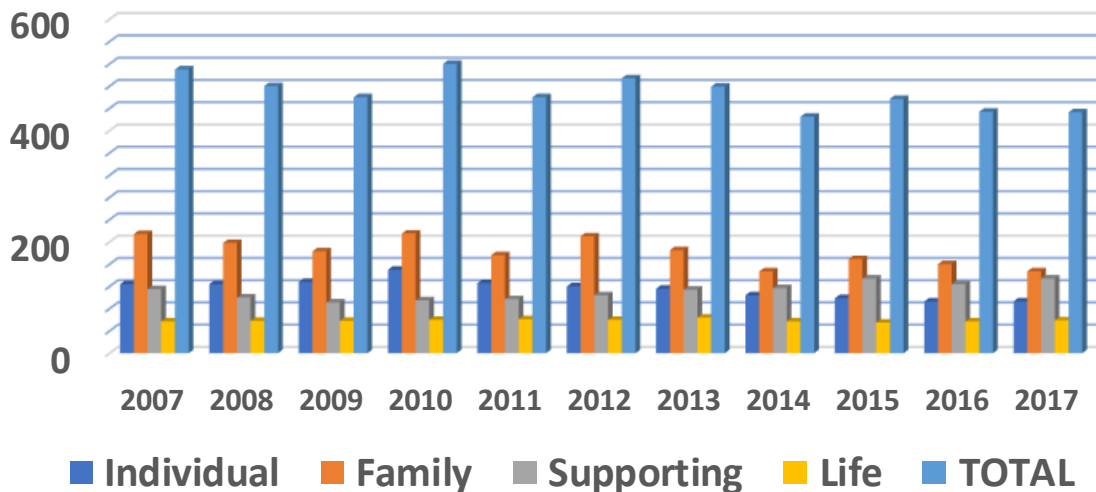
Harriet Elliston



Membership

The Weston Forest and Trail Association is an important part of Weston's open space infrastructure and our membership is one of the largest in Town. For the last few years, membership levels have been holding steady at around 450 or about 11% of the families in Town. That's far from what it could and should be, and we are hopeful that more of our friends and neighbors will appreciate and value our mission. If you are a member, thank you very much. Your contribution is appreciated and helps to make Weston a great place to live. And if you are not yet a member, **PLEASE JOIN US.**

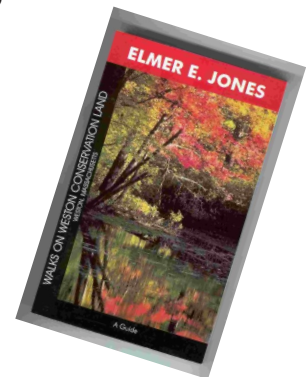
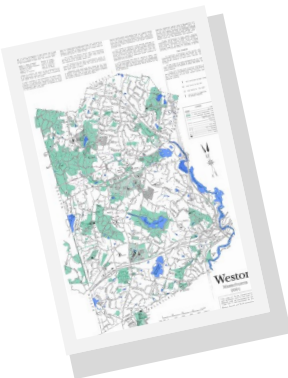
Membership trends 2007-2017



Trail Maps and Elmer's Book

Don't miss the new Tricentennial edition of the **Weston Forest and Trail Association trail map**! Frame it or fold it up and put it in your backpack. Either way, it shows Weston's 2000 acres of conservation land and 90+ miles of trails. And Elmer Jones' ***Walks on Weston Conservation Land*** is the ideal companion to the town's trail map. Lovingly compiled and written by a noted naturalist and former WFTA trustee, this primer on our trails and special places is not to be missed! Both the map and the book are available at Town Hall (upstairs) for \$10 and \$15, respectively. And you can also download Trail maps from the Town website at

www.weston.org/489/Weston-Trail-Maps



Land Stewardship and Membership Committees

Back in the 1950s, William A. Elliston and later Hugo Uytterhoeven and George Bates saw the approaching threats to open space that were, quite literally, coming down the pike (I-90 and Route 128, specifically). In 1955 the Weston Forest and Trail Association (WFTA) was formed to protect and enhance Weston's treasured open spaces for everyone's enjoyment. Their vision and systematic, long-term approach to protecting land was not only instrumental in laying the groundwork for Weston's extensive network of trails and preserved open space, but also in cultivating and securing the organization's first members and donors, many of whom became lifelong supporters.

Through the generous gifts of land, easements and dollars, WFTA has grown into a membership organization of nearly 800 donors, active members, volunteers and newsletter subscribers combined! And today we own more than 200 acres of conservation land and easements and maintain roughly 100 miles of trails. This is a big responsibility for an organization of 20+ trustees and 450+ current members that relies on annual dues, donations, and gifts to the endowment fund in order to maintain trails, open spaces and easements and general operations.

As WFTA has grown, so has the scope and breadth of responsibilities. In response to this growth, we established officers with associated Committees that manage: (1) Stewardship, (2) Communications & Programs, and (3) Development & Membership.

Stewardship Committee

Purpose:

- Acquire new properties, conservation restrictions and easements when they serve a valuable public need
- Periodically monitor the health of these properties
- Resolve encroachment issues
- Supervise trail maintenance and land management staff and volunteers
- Create, monitor and repair trails, boardwalks and parking lots
- Update trail maps
- Promote and improve public access to our open spaces
- Work with Weston Conservation Commission and land trusts in neighboring town to manage public lands

Current Members: Joel Angiolillo (chair), Marty Carlock, Mary Ann Pappanikou, Peter Wheeler, Ann Wiedie, Barbara Zenker

Communications and Programs Committee

Purpose:

- Become known or better known in Weston and surrounding areas
- Educate people about Weston's open spaces and land preservation
- Increase participation and engagement in WFTA trails, offerings and programs
- Inform Weston residents about calls to action around land conservation and open space
- Promote events, fundraising, and membership benefits

Current Members: Lelia Elliston (chair), Jennifer Potter, Linda Duhms, Tom Selldorff, Jenna Vettel and Barbara Zenker

Development and Membership Committee

Purpose:

- Create fundraising events and activities in cooperation with other committees
- Raise funds for the financial well-being of WFTA and land stewardship activities
- Grow the membership base in support of WFTA's mission
- Grow and cultivate relationships in support of WFTA projects and ongoing needs

Current Members: , Lelia Elliston (Chair), Jennifer Potter, and Tom Selldorff

If you are looking to get to know your community and wish to participate in the preservation and enjoyment of Weston's open spaces, then please consider joining one of these newly formed committees. Your involvement provides an invaluable service that is critical to the growth and sustainability of WFTA. We welcome the gift of your time and expertise. For Stewardship please e-mail to Joel (joel.angiolillo@live.com), for Communications and Programs and Development, e-mail to Lelia (lelia@ellistonfarm.com)



News of interest about Weston's trails and open space

Status of the Rail Trail

The old Mass Central right-of-way runs through Weston, parallel to and just north of Route 20. The first trains ran down this track in 1881. At the peak of the service around 1916, 23 trains ran through Weston every day, a few all the way between Northampton and Boston. Commuter service ended in 1971. 1980 saw the last freight. In 2011, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) signed a 99 year lease with the MBTA for a 23 mile public recreational trail between Waltham to Berlin. People walk, ski and ride down the trail today, but it still has the old rails and ties along the entire length.

Eversource, which also owns a lease along the right-of-way, needs a service road to access its towers, which were erected in 1955. (The current right-of-way is considered unsafe.) You may have noticed the



orange plastic construction fencing along various access points to the DCR trail. Starting in the spring of 2018, Eversource will begin pulling up the rails and ties, grading the surface and laying new gravel. As with all the abandoned train lines in Massachusetts, soil testing is required along the tracks. Any toxic chemicals will be dealt with according to Department of Environmental Protection guidelines. Access to the right-of-way and DCR trail will be prohibited during construction.

DCR (and Weston and Wayland) are taking advantage of this work to construct a trail on top of the gravel access road. Weston established the Rail

Trail Advisory Committee (RTAC), co-chaired by Mark Horowitz and Chris Stix, to work with Eversource, DCR, neighboring communities, and town residents to end up with a trail which Weston will be proud and pleased to call our own. To learn more about the members and the work of this committee see www.weston.org/1137/Rail-Trail-Advisory-Committee.

The RTAC has hosted numerous town forums and neighborhood meetings. Issues include the Conant Road underpass, parking, signage, access to Weston's public conservation land, and the numerous historic artifacts along the trail. The old depot on Church Street, one of the few remaining ones along the line, is a separate issue of particular interest to the Historical Commission, although there are currently no plans in place for this privately owned structure.

Simultaneously, Wayland is working on its sections of the Wayside Trail. They are dealing with the additional challenging issues of crossing the Sudbury River, the old train depot which was renovated as a local arts and crafts shop, and a number of road crossings. Waltham is in the process of holding Town meetings to gather input from its residents. The Waltham Land Trust has been maintaining a trail along the right-of-way for many years.

The town web page on the rail trail (www.weston.org/1179/Rail-Trail) provides a number of links to additional resources.



**Weston Forest & Trail Association, Inc.
Operations – 2017**

Cash & Cash Equivalents 1/1/17 114,437.67

Receipts:

Dues	\$ 23,847.80
Endowment Fund	43,548.07
Gifts	21,500.00
Map sales	920.00
Book sales	302.39
Investment Income (loss)	535.60
Weston Reservoir Fund	3,822.00
Miscellaneous	<u>302.18</u>

Total Receipts

94,778.04

Disbursements:

Office Expense	\$ 9,152.06
Insurance Expense	2,477.36
Accounting	800.00

Maintenance:

Contract Services	\$46,605.46	
Other	<u>22,715.00</u>	69,320.46
Weston Reservoir Fund		4,692.89
Map Expense		605.00
Endowment Fund		25,000.00
Legal Expense		304.50
Stewardship		585.00
Miscellaneous		<u>100.00</u>

Total Disbursements

(113,037.27)

Cash and Cash Equivalents 12/31/17

Checking Account	\$25,246.59
Vanguard Short Term Corp. Bond Fund	<u>70,931.85</u>

Total Cash and Cash Equivalents

\$96,178.44*

*This total includes Restricted Funds as follows:

Restricted:

Weston Reservoir Fund	\$ 6,119.06
Cohen Fund	33,029.45
Weston Land Trust Fund	<u>12,602.84</u>

Total Restricted

\$51,751.35



Weston Forest & Trail Association, Inc.

Endowment Fund - 2017

Balance 1/1/17	\$1,722,372.77
Income and Capital Gains	265,155.02
Year End Contribution	<u>25,000.00</u>
Balance 12/31/17	<u>\$2,012,527.79</u>

The average market value of the Fund in 2017 was \$1,854,950.28. The Cost of Living Index for all Urban Consumers in the Boston Area increased 2.9% during the year ended November 2017. 2.9% of \$1,854,950.28 is \$53,793.56. Real income from the Fund in 2017 is calculated as follows:

Income and Capital Gains	\$ 265,155.02
Less inflation adjustment	<u>(53,793.56)</u>
Real Income or (loss)	<u>\$ 211,361.46</u>

\$211,361.46 is 11.39% of the average market value of the Fund in 2017. The average real rate of return on the Fund starting in 1989 is 4.02%.



Join the Association...make us stronger than ever

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual membership | \$ 25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family membership | \$ 50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting membership* | \$ 100 * (recommended) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership Support | \$ 1000* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership** | \$ 2,000 or more** |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other amount _____ | |

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 at \$ 15.00 each, plus \$ 2.00 for postage and handling. This book and the map of the Weston Trail System (\$ 10.00) are available at the Conservation Commission office in the Town Hall.

All these items can also be purchased on the WF&TA website at www.westonforesttrail.org

CHECK HERE (☐) TO GET IT ALL:

Supporting Membership + Trail Map + Trail Guide + coffee mug for \$ 125.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail address: _____

Please make checks payable to the **Weston Forest and Trail Association, Inc.**
 and mail, together with the above form, to
 Ann Wiedie, Treasurer, Box 665, Weston, MA 02493.

You can also join at www.westonforesttrail.org using PayPal or Credit Cards.

WFTA Board of Trustees

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Joel Angiolillo, Vice President	Harold Hestnes	Bill Stevenson
Paul Arkema	Meg Kelly, President	Jenna Vettel
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Weston Forest and Trail Association
The Weston Land Trust
P.O. Box 665, Weston, MA 02493

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COME TO THE ANNUAL MEETING
May 6, 2018
4-6 p.m.
Weston Scout House, 86 School Street

Our Rail Trail Walk was well attended

