



# Trail Markers



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

## Trail Walk and Annual Meeting Sunday May 6, 2007

Mary Ann Pappanikou will lead a walk through the Sunday Woods, starting at 2.p.m. Meet at the corner of Laxfield Road and Concord Road. After that, at 4 p.m., will be the Annual meeting at the Scout House, 60 School Street.. Refreshments will be served, and it will feature a presentation about the Bay Circuit Alliance, whose mission is "...working to create a permanent recreation trail corridor, accessible to all, linking the parks and open space surrounding metropolitan Boston..."

**Speaker: Alan French,  
Chairman of the Bay Circuit Alliance**

### **The Bay Circuit - An Original Bay State Con-**

**cept:** First proposed in 1929 as an outer "emerald necklace," linking parks, open spaces and waterways from Plum Island to Kingston Bay, the Bay Circuit idea - a precursor of today's national greenways movement - continues to take shape.

Focused on a 200 mile corridor of 50 cities and towns, the Bay Circuit Trail connects the "jewels" of the emerald necklace." Community by community, the dream of connecting

more than 85 areas of protected land in a greenway around Boston is now becoming a reality. When completed, the main line of the Bay Circuit Trail will extend 200 miles from Kingston Bay on the south to Plum Island, Newburyport, on the north. During Trek 2000 six hikers completed the entire 200 mile trail in sixteen days.

About 50 miles required temporary permission from several major land owners, including the Mass. Electric Company (National Grid), the Mass Turnpike Authority, the Mass Water Resources Authority, and two state transportation agencies. For more about the Bay Circuit Alliance, see <http://www.baycircuit.org/>



## Membership

Our total membership stands at 514, which gives the Weston Forest and Trail Association a major voice in Town when it comes to protection and management of the open space and conservation land, which is so important in preserving the Town's rural character . We're always looking to increase membership, and your help is needed and very welcome.

## Stewardship

A stewardship committee was organized during the first part of 2006, consisting of Bernie Scozzafava, Meg Steiner and Barbara Zenker with George Bates as chairman. Our first objective has been for all members of the committee to become thoroughly familiar with all of the Association's land, trail easements and conservation restrictions. Incidental to this process we are dealing with encroachments and other problems as they come to our attention. A second phase will involve walking the bounds of our land and restricted areas. Hopefully this second phase will be assisted with the combination of a GPS (Global Positioning System) handheld device loaded with the town's GIS (Geographic Information System) data which shows property lines and streets.

## The Fishman Barn

The Associations' 3 year long stewardship effort to have a large barn moved – it was illegally sited on land protected by a conservation restriction – came to a successful conclusion (see photo). When personal requests and a mediation effort failed, it became necessary to take legal action, which proceeded all the way to the Massachusetts Supreme Court. The SJC upheld the Land Court Judge's decision that the barn had to be moved. We are enormously grateful to our Trustees, to the Weston Land Trust, to the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition and to many generous residents of Weston who together funded the nearly \$ 80,000 cost of the proceedings. Our position, that conservation restrictions must be respected, has been substantially vindicated.



The Barn at 190 Concord Road being moved off the land that is protected by a CR





## IN MEMORIAM

## Elmer Everett Jones

September 2, 1926-May 24, 2006

*He wrote the book on Weston Conservation Lands.*

Elmer was a long-time Trustee, an invaluable asset and resource for us, and his wealth of knowledge and his passion about the natural world enriched the many of us who were fortunate enough to cross his path. He was enormously generous with information, time and energy, and for many of us the walks along Weston's trails will never be the same without his perceptive and interesting commentary.

**Officers and Board of Trustees - 2006-2007**

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	David	Ogens	Until	2009
Louisa	Birch	Until	2009	Mary Ann	Pappanikou	Until	2008
Roger	Burke	Until	2009	Ned	Rossiter	Until	2007
Marty	Carlock	Until	2007	Bernard	Scozzafava	Until	2007
Leon	Cohen	Until	2007	Tom	Selldorff	Until	2009
Brian	Donahue	Until	2009	Meg	Steiner	Until	2007
Marcy	Dorna	Until	2008	Bill	Stevenson	Until	2007
Linda	Duhms	Until	2009	Jacques	Wajsfelner	Until	2009
William	Ebsworth	Until	2007	Peter	Wheeler	Until	2008
Lelia	Elliston	Until	2008	Johnathan	White	Until	2009
Katie	Fagan	Until	2008	Barbara	Zenker	Until	2007
Lisa	Larkin	Until	2009				



## Weston Forest & Trail Association, Inc. Operations - 2006

Cash beginning of the year 1/1/06 \$16,359.49

**Receipts:**

Dues	\$ 24,616.92
Gifts	4,590.04
Endowment (3% of Endow. Fund)	20,814.19
Map sales	1,581.00
Book sales	1,003.78
Interest	1,152.60
Operations Fund	13,363.00
Stewardship Fund	46,895.00
Weston Reservoir Fund	3,945.00
Miscellaneous	<u>7.50</u>

**Total Receipts** 117,969.03

**Disbursements:**

Office Expense	\$ 9,646.34
Insurance Expense	2,427.36
Accounting	1,800.00
Custodian Account Fee	500.00
Legal Expense (Litigation)	37,150.93

**Maintenance:**

Land's Sake	\$39,998.75
Other	<u>4,590.04</u>
Map Expense	1,419.78
Weston Reservoir Fund	<u>3,266.11</u>

**Total Disbursements** (100,799.31)

**Cash and Cash Equivalents 12/31/06**

Unrestricted \$14,632.25

**Restricted:**

General Promotion Fund	\$ 1,048.18
Business Promotion Fund	576.98
Litigation Fund	9,744.07
Operations Fund (2007-2009)	4,800.00
Weston Reservoir Fund	<u>2,727.73</u>

**Total Restricted** 18,896.96

**Total Cash and Cash Equivalents end of year** \$33,529.21

## Weston Forest & Trail Association, Inc. Endowment Fund - 2006

Balance 1/1/06 \$673,018.12

**Receipts & Disbursements**

Contributions	\$29,085.00
Income and Capital Gains	76,408.68
Disbursement to Operating Account	<u>(20,814.19)</u>

Net change in Value of fund 84,679.49

**Balance 12/31/06** \$757,697.61

The average market value of the Fund in 2006 not including contributions received during the year was \$711,222.46. The Cost of Living Index for all Urban Consumers in the Boston Area increased 2.1% during the year ended November 2006. 2.1% of \$711,222.46 is \$14,935.67. Real income from the Fund in 2006 is calculated as follows:

Income and Capital Gains	\$76,408.68
Less inflation adjustment	<u>(14,935.67)</u>
<b>Real Income or (loss)</b>	<u>\$61,473.01</u>

\$61,473.01 is 8.64% of the average market value of the Fund in 2006. 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

### 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 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.

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.







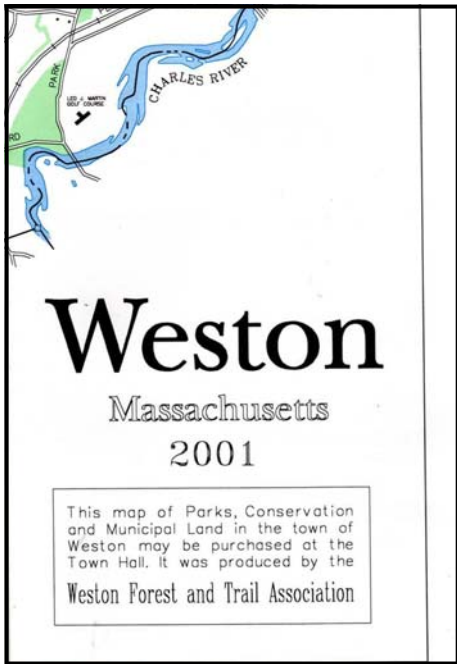
**Weston Forest and Trail Association, Inc.**  
266 Glen Road, Weston, MA 02493

*Annual Meeting Sunday May 6, 2007*  
4 P.M.

*The Scout House*  
*School Street, Weston*

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

**Featuring Alan French,  
Founder of  
the Bay Circuit Alliance**



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.

