

# Waltham Land Trust



*Waltham Land Trust, Inc. is a non-profit corporation dedicated to preserving our community's natural resources for the future through education, open space acquisition and protection.*

## QUARTERLY

WINTER 2003

### FROM THE BOARD

With regrets, we have accepted the resignations of Eileen Zubrowski and Chris Rodstrom from the Board of Directors of the Waltham Land Trust.

Eileen is one of the eleven Founding Directors and has served tirelessly as chair of the Development Committee.

Chris also served on the Development Committee and cheerfully offered the experience he had accumulated in his day job with the Trustees of Reservations.

While we will miss their active participation on the board, we are pleased to report that both Eileen and Chris are dedicated to the mission of the Waltham Land Trust and will be able to offer their expertise when called on to do so.

### NEW BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED

At last October's annual meeting, the WLT membership elected three new members to the Board of Directors. These individuals bring extensive and diverse credentials to their new positions. Their expertise will provide invaluable assistance to the work of the Waltham Land Trust.

**Diana Young** is a transplanted New Yorker who came to the Boston area because of its schools. In 1974, as a student at Boston College Law School, she had her first contact with Waltham as part of BC's Legal Assistance Bureau. For two years she handled family law, landlord/tenant and consumer cases and spent time on a much less vibrant Moody Street than we see today.

Eighteen years later, Diana bought a condo on the edge of the woods at Bishops Forest. Initially, except for volunteering with the Support Committee for Battered Women, she didn't pay too much attention to what was going on in the city. That all changed when a neighbor saw police tape in the woods and discovered that it was marking out the proposed site of a huge skating complex. It was time to know what was going on in Waltham! With the help of Doris Donovan at WCONA and WLT members Faith Boudreau and Marilyn Maillet

*Biographies continued on page 2*

### LETTING THE WORLD KNOW ABOUT THE WESTERN GREENWAY

*Roger Wrubel*

The Greenway Committee of the Waltham Land Trust has been busy preparing a slide presentation and brochure aimed at raising awareness about the Western Greenway. The slide show made a very well received debut at the WLT 2002 annual meeting. The many beautiful photographs included in the presentation especially impressed WLT members and guests who attended the meeting. A first draft of the Greenway map was also on display.

The Western Greenway extends from Waltham into Lexington and Belmont. One can find woods, meadows, ponds, streams, vernal pools (endangered habitats which are home to several rare species of salamanders, frogs and other critters) as well as institutions and buildings of historic significance. The greenway provides a place for relaxing walks and quiet reflection, passive recreation, such as hiking and bird watching, as well as more active pursuits such as cycling and cross-country skiing. The greenway is large. It would probably take a determined hiker a day to walk the entire loop. Some of the properties that make up the greenway are

*Greenway continued on page 3*



JONATHAN SACHS

*Western Greenway*

Biographies *continued from page 1*

from Chester Brook Road, she founded POWW! (Preserve Our Waltham Woodlands) and began to learn the operations of the City Council, the School Committee and various other committees. Diana co-chaired POWW! along with Bishops Forest resident Franji Bishop, but she notes that it was a collaborative effort of many people that defeated NHL Skate's plans.

Since the Skating Rink episode Diana admits, "I've been hooked." As a member of the Waltham Land Trust and WCONA, She has spent significant time at meetings of the City Council, the ZBA, and the Conservation Commission, where matters like Indian Ridge, Our Lady's and other open space issues have been discussed. Her other activities, outside of her job at PricewaterhouseCoopers, include Habitat for Humanity, City Year and the United Way.

Open space has always been an important concern for Diana. She has lived in Hong Kong and has seen the problems of urban congestion and unchecked development. "Waltham is a wonderful place to live, but it won't be if we don't plan to keep the last bits of open space we have. The Waltham Land Trust is our best resource to accomplish that goal. I'm delighted to be a part of it."

**Katherine (Kate) Buttolph** also spent formative years in NYC and then Binghamton, NY. After college (the campus was an arboretum) and law school, she became more active in environmental groups, including a period of four years working for the USEPA.

She served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Delaware & Raritan Greenway for eight years, while working as in-house counsel to Princeton University. Kate handled legal matters from copyright to employment to real estate and the environment while at Princeton from 1986 to 2000. She has dealt with many issues relating to land management, including residential home transfers, mortgage loans, easements, neighbor relations, risk assessment, leases, subdivisions, taxes, and landlord/tenant disputes.

Kate joined the staff of D&R Greenway in the spring of 2001 as the Director of Land Preservation and



*Bob Stanton, Kate Buttolph, Diana Young*

ARTHUR UHLIR

Stewardship. There she applied her legal experience to land preservation. She helped to negotiate with landowners, prepared conservation easements and contracts, and did some monitoring of easements. She also got involved in fund-raising through participation in the many events that D & R Greenway put on for the community. Kate moved to Massachusetts in January of 2002 to work full-time for the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries, Wildlife & Environmental Law Enforcement as legal counsel on the land acquisition team. She works with land agents in the five state districts, negotiating contracts and conservation restrictions. She is also working with a committee to formulate a policy for land stewardship.

She earned a J.D. at DePaul University College of Law in Chicago in 1980; a B.A. from Swarthmore College in Russian Language and Literature; and she has pursued additional studies at Rutgers University and Princeton University in biology, wetland ecology, herbaceous plants, and plant biology, all courses "sadly missing from my earlier college days." Currently she is participating in the Community Preservation Institute, a state and UMass collaborative course which meets weekly and covers environmental issues relevant to communities in Massachusetts and elsewhere.

Although Katherine is relatively new to the Waltham area, she is learning her way around quickly with the aid of a road bike and fellow Board member Allison "70-miler" Mooney. She joined the Community Gardens at the University of Massachusetts Waltham Center where WLT now has its office. She recommends



it to anyone who enjoys fresh vegetables, especially tomatoes and eggplant.

**Robert (Bob) Stanton** is a lifelong resident of Waltham with seven different residences in the city (so far!). Bob is a certified insurance counselor and the president of the Stanton Insurance Agency, Inc. He and his wife, Julie, are the proud parents of five children.

His very extensive list of civic involvement includes the following: Waltham Jaycees, Director of the Year, 1976, co-authored *Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Waltham...*; Corporator, then trustee of Waltham Hospital, 1977 – 2001; Founder of Meadowhouse, Inc., a temporary shelter for children, 1979, Board President 1982 – 1986; Waltham, West Suburban Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors, 1985 – 1992, Board President 1991; Central Square Business Association, 1992, helped restore parking to Main Street; Robert McNamara Community Service Award, 1992; Waltham Youth Basketball coach for boys 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, sponsor of boys' and girls' team, 1987 – present; Waltham Boys and Girls Club, Director, 1996, auction chair, 1996 and 1997, Board President 1999-2002; Waltham Community Access Committee, Board member, 1993 – 1999; Waltham City Councillor, 1999 – 2001; City of Waltham Long Range Planning

Committee, 2001 – present; member of Waltham Land Trust, 1999 – present.

The Waltham Land Trust is indeed fortunate to have the richness of experience and level of commitment of these outstanding Board members. Their contributions will have a positive impact on all residents of the city of Waltham. 🌿

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*Greenway continued from page 1*

publicly owned some are private. Some are protected; others are vulnerable to further development. Many of us know parts of the greenway, but it is rewarding to explore and learn more of the properties and their interconnections. WLT as well as other organizations have organized walks in the greenway to help raise public awareness of and support for recognizing, protecting and improving this rare and valuable resource.

The slide show presentation and brochure are funded by a grant from the state's Department of Environmental Management. Several repeat performances of the slide show presentation have been scheduled for various local groups. (See Coming Events.) If you are aware of a group that could benefit by seeing this presentation, please contact the Greenway Committee for more information. 🌿



*Beaver Brook*

JONATHAN SACHS

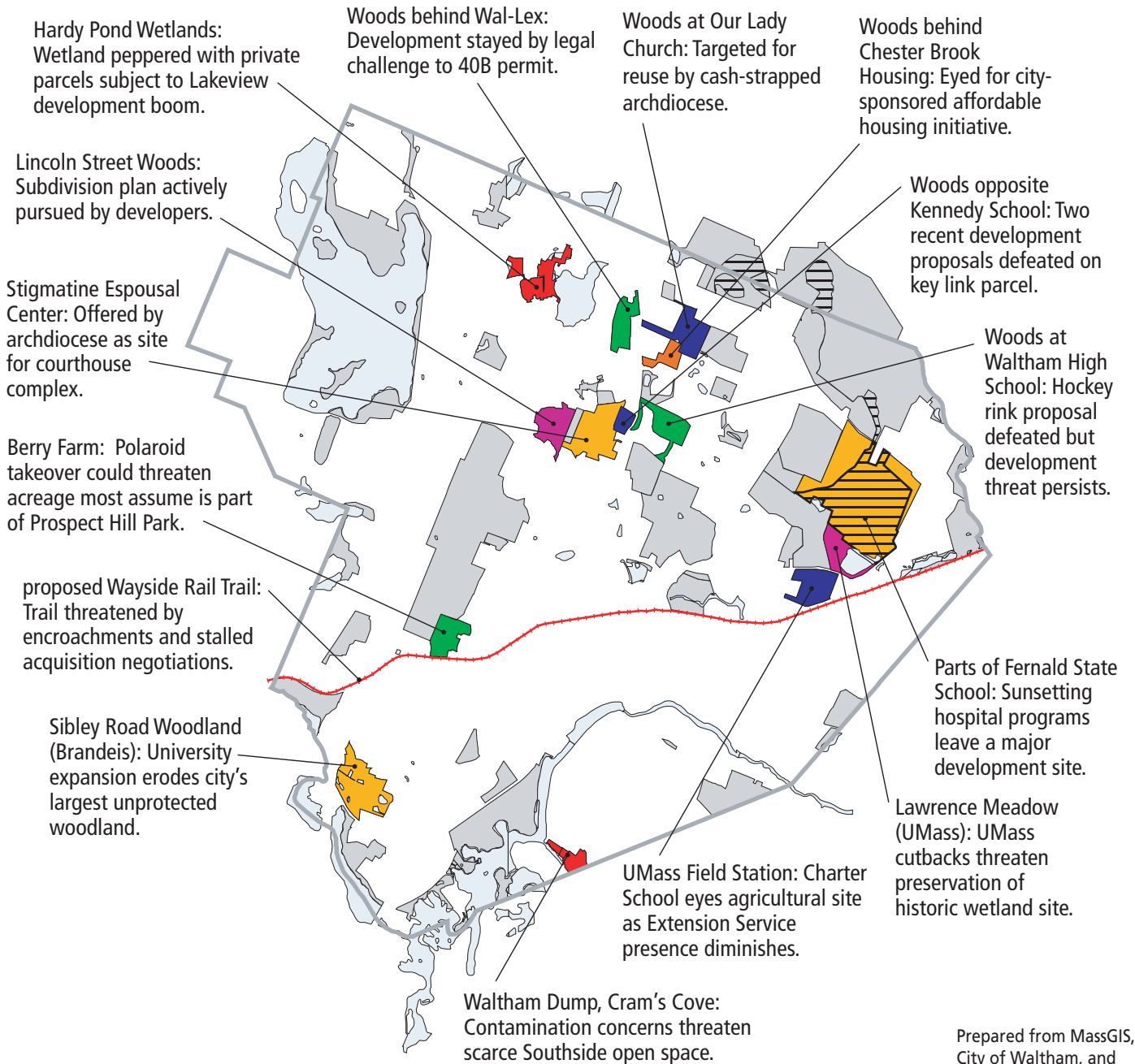
# WLT LAND COMMITTEE GOES DIGITAL

*Dave Kehs*

One of the first tasks that the newly formed Waltham Land Trust set for itself three years ago was to develop an inventory of all the open space parcels in the city. The Land Committee identified these parcels by coloring them in on a large map provided by the city's

Planning Department. Stick pins were used to identify categories, such as properties that are currently protected, and properties that are threatened by development. This map, mounted on a large poster board, made an appearance at many WLT events.

## Waltham's Endangered Open Space Update: January 2003



Prepared from MassGIS, City of Waltham, and Waltham Land Trust data with help from Marc Rudnick, WLT. Lesya Struz, 1-16-03.

Now the Land Committee is going digital. Through the tireless efforts of Land Committee members Lesya Struz and Marc Rudnick, the coordinates of all the parcels have been entered into a computer system as GIS layers. (See "What is GIS?" by Edmund Tarallo, in the Spring 2001 issue of the *WLT Quarterly*). Soon it will be possible to present visual information about the open space parcels in Waltham with just a few mouse clicks. The Land Committee's data will also be made available to the City's Planning Department, which provided an initial data layer describing all of the properties in the city.

As an example, the map on page 4 shows the open space parcels that have been identified by the Waltham Land Trust. The 15 most endangered parcels are shown in color, along with reasons that they are threatened. The remaining 44 parcels, many of which are also at risk, are shown in solid gray. From this map, one can see at a glance the challenge faced by those of us who wish to preserve open space in Waltham.

WLT members received a preview of the system's capabilities at the annual meeting, and it is hoped that some of the maps will soon be available on the WLT website. 🌿

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## WLT FINDS A HOME

The Waltham Land Trust has recently obtained a lease on office space at the University of Massachusetts Waltham Center, formerly known as the UMass Field Station, on 240 Beaver Street. The office has room for board meetings and committee meetings as well as providing storage space for documents and other "stuff" that has been accumulating in various board members' living rooms. It will also provide the place for a WLT staff person to work when we reach that level of growth.

In addition, renting space at the field station helps the ongoing effort to expand the tenant base of the center, which is a key to assuring the University's interest in maintaining it as a community center for agriculture and land issues under their protection. Other tenants include the Waltham Community Farm, New England Rose Society, National Park Service, Mass. Federation of Farmers Markets, GROW community garden, Mass Tree Wardens, and of course the University of Massachusetts Extension Service. More than 20 agricultural organizations use the site's fields, offices and programs.

An Open House and an educational program have been scheduled for February 12, 2003. Stop by and check out our new home. 🌿

## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

The Waltham Land Trust is extremely grateful to all of our contributors. We would like to publicly acknowledge gifts of \$200 or more received as of December 15, 2002 from the following donors.

### **Supporters: \$200-\$499**

Ruth Babineau	Suzanne and Henry Bass
Nancy and Mark Brown	George Darcy
Mary Harron	Christine Reynolds

### **Sustainers: \$500-\$999**

Compaq, Inc.	Stephen Rourke
Robert Stanton	
Scott Shurr and Jennifer Patton	

### **Leaders: \$1000 and above**

Anonymous	AstraZeneca
Catherine Cannon	Inge Uhler
Chester Brook/Stanley Rd Neighborhood Assn.	

We are also grateful for the support of the following organizations, which have awarded grants to the Waltham Land Trust.

- Cricket Foundation (\$5,000)
- Crossroads Community Foundation (\$3,500)
- DEM-Greenways (\$4,000)
- Fields Pond Foundation (\$5,000)
- First Parish in Waltham (\$800)
- Land Trust Alliance Northeast Program (\$8,000)
- Living Springs Foundation (\$5,000)
- New England Grassroots Environment Fund (\$1,500)
- Waltham Community Foundation (\$300)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Greenway presentation for Citizens of Lexington for Conservation**

Thursday, January 30, 2003, 7:00pm  
Lexington Selectmen's Meeting Room.  
1625 Mass. Ave, Lexington

### **Open House and educational program at WLT office**

Wednesday February 12, 2003.  
Open House at 6:30 P.M., speaker at 7:30 P.M.  
Snow date: February 26, 2003  
Mass. Waltham Center, 240 Beaver Street.  
Featured speaker is Newton resident Diana Muir, author of *Reflections in Bullogh's Pond*

### **WLT will sponsor a walk focusing on the historic Chester Brook area.**

June 14, 10:00 A.M. 2003, Waltham Historic Days.



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An electronic file (pdf) of this newsletter is available on our  
website. <[www.walthamlandtrust.org](http://www.walthamlandtrust.org)>

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Robert Stanton, Inge Uhlir, Roger Wrubel, Diana Young

## Waltham Land Trust's Mission

We are a group of Waltham citizens who want to save open  
space in our city. Our mission is to acquire, preserve or restore  
land in a way that:

- balances conservation and access,
- maximizes the natural value of land,
- reduces habitat fragmentation, and
- permanently protects and conserves natural resources;

So that

- public appreciation of natural resources grows,
- native habitat is preserved and restored, environmental  
quality of life is improved (air, water, noise and light  
pollution are reduced),
- biodiversity is increased, and
- a legacy of conservation is perpetuated in Waltham.

Please send any comments to the return address below, or email to  
<[memberlink@walthamlandtrust.org](mailto:memberlink@walthamlandtrust.org)>.

Waltham Land Trust  
PO Box 54-1120  
Waltham MA 02454-1120

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Time to renew? Your membership renewal date is on the  
label. If there is no date, please consider joining today!

## Waltham Land Trust Membership Application

I wish to  join  renew at \$15 per year.

I wish to make an additional donation:

\$15  \$25  \$50  Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in donating land or establishing  
a conservation easement. Please contact me with  
more information.

I wish to help by volunteering. I have skills in:

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\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Make your check payable and send with this form to:  
Waltham Land Trust  
PO Box 54-1120  
Waltham MA 02454-1120