



Waltham Land Trust

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

JOURNAL FALL 2013

Saving Arrigo Farm

Marie Daly, WLT Director and on the board of Waltham Historical Society

One of the oldest family farms in the country may soon be preserved in Waltham. The city is considering purchasing the 4.2 acre Arrigo Farm, owned by just two families since 1650, and perhaps since 1635.

Arrigo Farm Has Long History

Located at 342-344 Warren Street in Waltham near the Watertown and Belmont borders, the land was purchased in 1635 by early Watertown settler John Warren, according to his descendants. He purchased the Warren Street land for his son, Daniel, who built a

house there in 1650. Daniel Warren fought in King Philip's War in 1675, and two of his great grandsons were wounded at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

The 1650 house was demolished by Daniel Warren's descendant Thomas Barnes, who erected a new farmhouse in 1837. Two wings were added later in the nineteenth century. Mary Barnes, the last of the Warren heirs on this land, died in 1922, and the farm was purchased by Placido

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MARIE DALY

Waltham's farming history, first as part of Watertown and later as a separate town, dates to the 17th century when European settlers first set foot in America. The produce, orchard and dairy farms of Waltham supplied Boston residents in the nineteenth century. Irish and Italian immigrants, who had initially worked as farm laborers, continued the agricultural legacy of the early settlers.

Since the early 20th century, many Italian immigrants operated family farms and farm stands throughout Waltham's north side. However, nearly all of these farms have now been sold for residential and commercial development. The Arrigo farm is the last undeveloped family farm in Waltham.



Breaking News: UMass Center for Urban Sustainability!

Dee Kricker, WLT Director

In our 2011 Spring and Fall *Journals*, we featured an article about the history of, and a community vision for, the UMass Field Station at 240 Beaver Street. The vision was developed over many years with input from site users who wish to preserve the 58-acre site for continued agricultural and ecological land-use projects that serves the public interest.

We are very pleased to report that UMass Amherst officials have incorporated our vision into their concept for the *UMass Center for Urban Sustainability* for which they are seeking \$20 million dollars in funding from the FY2014 Environmental Bond! We are fortunate to have our State Senator, Mike Barrett, and Waltham's two State Representatives, Tom Stanley and John Lawn, leading the legislative effort to obtain these funds.

For decades, the facilities at the Field Station have been deteriorating while at the same time community usage has expanded. Primary tenants, Waltham Fields Community Farms, GROW community gardens, WLT, Federation of Mass Farmers Markets, and a few other dedicated tenants have been advocating for the creation of a state-of-the arts agricultural resource center serving our region and fulfilling the legacy Cornelia Warren's bequest. The commitment and effort put forth by current UMass officials bodes well for the future preservation of this unique agricultural resource.

In addition to our State Reps, we applaud the commitment and leadership of Dr. Steve Goodwin, Dean, College of Natural Sciences, UMass Amherst, and Kathleen M. Carroll, UMass Extension Director, Agriculture & Landscape Program for their efforts to promote this endeavor.

Excerpted from UMass Center for Urban Sustainability Concept paper:

This station is an undervalued green jewel. The University of Massachusetts is seeking to create a Center for Urban Sustainability . . . filled with practical application and demonstration of cutting-edge sustainable agriculture and landscape methods, including a 'green' LEED-certified energy-innovative building which will act as a front door portal for all-things sustainable. Science-based practices will be showcased that benefit the citizenry and economic vitality of the Commonwealth. This will include conference and learning spaces complemented by community-supported farming, agricultural incubator enterprises practicing urban farming of the future, applied research and demonstration of best green landscape practices for urban and suburban residents. Priority objectives include programs related to food security and access, environmental stewardship, urban agriculture and workforce development in urban settings. The Western Greenway and the Mass Central/Wayside Rail Trail will traverse the site.

Representative Tom Stanley and State Senator Mike Barrett provided enthusiastic endorsements as they testified at the State House on September 18th before the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture in support of the proposed UMass Center for Urban Sustainability.

In addition to UMass Amherst officials, representatives from the Waltham Land Trust, Waltham Fields Community Farm, and the Massachusetts Farm Bureau testified before the Committee.

For more information and updates, please check the WLT website.

Supporters, UMass Center for Urban Sustainability – Waltham

Waltham Fields Community Farm
Waltham Land Trust
Mass Audubon
Massachusetts Farm Bureau
Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association
Massachusetts Arborists Association
Massachusetts Association of Landscape Professionals
Massachusetts Association of Lawn Care Professionals
New England Nurseryman's Association
New England Vegetable and Berry Growers Association

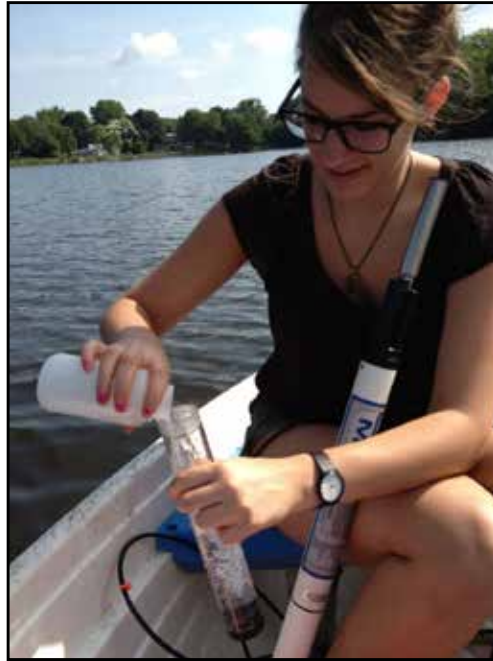
Massachusetts Fruit Growers Association
Massachusetts Flower Growers Association
Massachusetts Tree Wardens Association
New Entry Sustainable Farmers Network
Stockbridge School of Agriculture
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
Rural Development Agency
Farm Service Agency
Massachusetts 4-H

Monitoring the Water Quality of Hardy Pond

Sally Wetzler, co-chair of the Hardy Pond Association, a project of the Waltham Land Trust

Periodically Hardy Pond has experienced spring fish kills, with various theories as to their cause. The most recent happened in 2012, but only seemed to have affected a few species of fish, an apparent anomaly that had a number of environmental scientists scratching their heads. With over half a million cubic yards of water in Hardy Pond, and no idea as to its chemical and biological well-being, the Hardy Pond Association contacted University of MA (Boston) for some assistance.

Dr. Alan Christian, Director of the Environmental Studies Program, and Dr. Robyn Hannigan, Chair of Environmental Earth and Ocean Sciences, designed a water quality monitoring program to determine a baseline assessment of the Pond's



Rachel Green samples the water.

MICHAEL WILLIAMS

condition. Starting last fall, undergraduate intern Rachel Green has come once a month to take samples and readings on water clarity, oxygen levels, salinity, pH, etc. Mike Williams of the Hardy Pond Steering Committee assisted in getting her to the deep water testing site, no small feat when rowing in windy, cold weather. Though Rachel has graduated, a new intern will be on board for the coming year. Dr. Christian will soon be drawing up the year's summary of the samplings and data thus far, with an interpretation of the findings.

We are most grateful for the time and energy of these volunteers in helping with the stewardship of Hardy Pond,

leading us to a better understanding of its condition. Perhaps future fish kill mysteries will be solved, or can even be averted.

The Work of the Waltham Land Trust (answers on page 7)

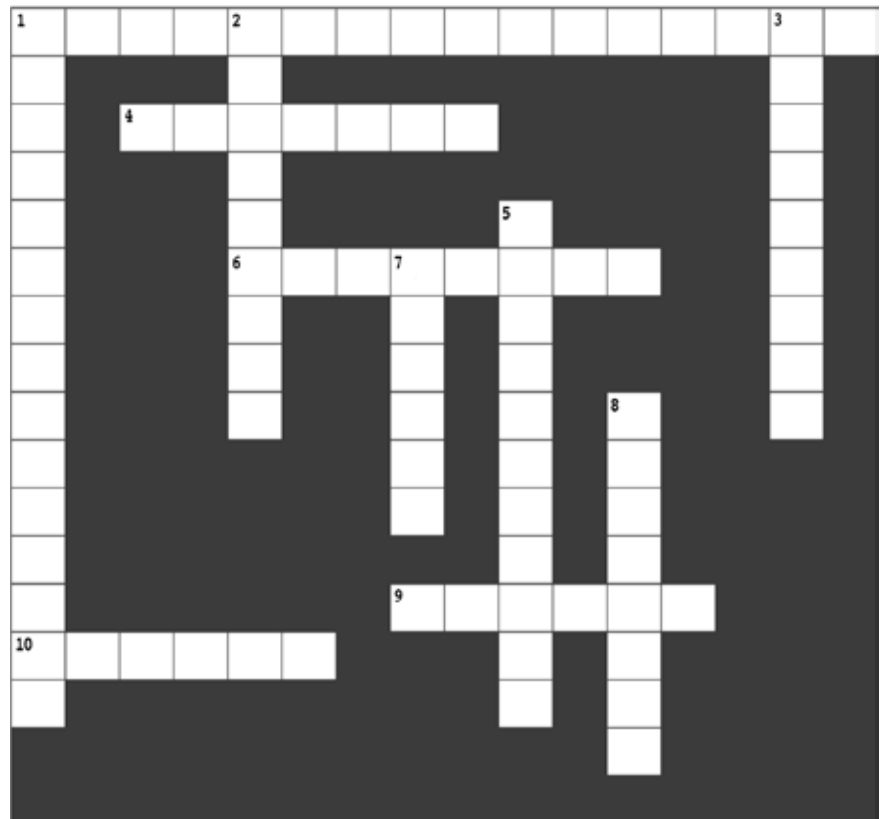
Use the Waltham Land Trust web site to help you fill in these words.

Across

1. Name of organization
4. Hill west of Lexington Street in North Waltham
6. ____ Hill, large park, site of former ski slope
9. ____ Estate, site of Stonehurst
10. ____ Farm, current project for WLT

Down

1. Path circling Waltham and parts of Belmont and Lexington
2. Large body of water in North Waltham
3. Newly signed property near Totten Pond Road, ____ Heights
5. Creek that runs through the north and east of Waltham
7. ____ Pond, site of bird blind
8. ____ Hill, on Trapelo Road, across from Fernald Center



continued from front page *Saving Arrigo Farm*

Arrigo in 1923. He had immigrated to America from Villafranca, Sicily in 1913, and by 1918, was working on the Barnes farm. Placido raised tomatoes, squash, and other produce until his death in 1991. His son, John Arrigo, continued farming there until he died in 2011.

Farm Could Become 19 Houses

The Massachusetts Historic Commission has deemed the house eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. There is a barn also on the property. The soil is Merrimac fine sandy loam, which is considered the best soil for farming in Massachusetts. The 4.2 acres are zoned as Residence A4, which by right would allow for nine house lots on the site. A subdivision plan could yield up to nineteen house lots.

The Waltham Land Trust and Waltham Fields Community Farm are advocating for the use of Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds to preserve Arrigo Farm. The Waltham City Council passed unanimously (with one recusal) a resolution to sponsor a CPA application to acquire Arrigo Farm under open space and historical purposes, with the ultimate goal of leasing the land for local farming. The resolution was introduced by Councillor George Darcy, co-sponsored by eight other councillors and endorsed by numerous Waltham civic organizations.

The benefits of preserving the Arrigo farm are

- the land could be leased as a farm yielding up to \$30,000/ acre of produce for food pantries and community-supported agriculture;
- the farm would deliver locally grown food to Waltham residents;
- agricultural use would provide needed open space for the Warren Street area, thereby minimizing development and traffic in an already densely populated neighborhood; and
- future generations visiting the farm would gain an appreciation for the history of family farming in Waltham.

The nine heirs of Placido Arrigo support the proposal, which honors their forebears by preserving this historic farm.

By the time this *Journal* arrives in your mailbox, the Land Trust expects the appraisal and Title 21E will have been completed. A public input hearing on Arrigo Farm will most likely happen at the CPC meeting on Tuesday, October 8, at 7 pm in the City Council Chambers. Please attend to show your support for *Saving Arrigo Farm*.

Western Greenway 5K Run/Walk

Richard Hennessey, WLT member and Special Events Committee participant

Come one, come all for the kick-off of Fall by running or walking the Western Greenway 5K with a start and finish at beautiful Elsie Turner Field.

On October 5, 2013, the Waltham Land Trust is collaborating with the Race around Waltham (RAW) series to offer a 5K trail run/walk on the Western Greenway. To

accommodate all types of athletes, walkers will depart after runners. Families can even sign up for a brisk hike around the meadows, woods and new growth forest along the Western Greenway. So bring the kids! Alas, the course is unpaved and pretty rocky for the most part, so strollers and baby joggers are not allowed. Secure packs for your children may be an option on race day.

The Western Greenway features adventurous miles of trails, old carriage roads that loop through a variety of mystifying habitats, with direct exposure to cattail marshes, red maple swamps, mature oak-hickory forests, vernal pools alive with activity, new forest

Met State / Fernald cemetery on the race route.



MARIE DALY

MARIE DALY



growth and serene open meadows. It's hard to believe that the adventurous athletes will be exposed to so many aspects of what our Western Greenway has to offer over the course of this bucolic 5K trail race in Waltham and Belmont. Amazing fun for everyone!

The fastest of the fast will be timed with awards for

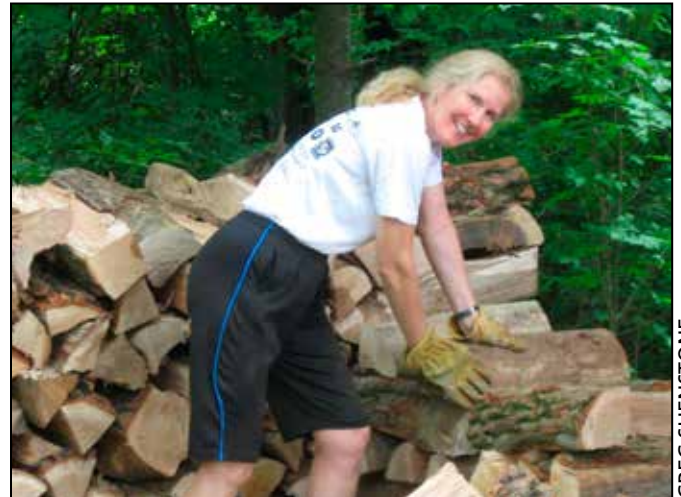
top male and female finishers in various age groups. Six-member mixed teams are encouraged to dig down deep and compete for the esteemed "WESTERN GREENWAY TRAILBLAZERS" Team Award for all the glory and praise in your team's honor!

It's not too late to sign up and help us raise money to continue building this amazing trail. The \$25 entry fee includes a wicked cool t-shirt, a bag of goodies, raffle prizes, and all the post-race food you can stomach while we celebrate autumn on the Western Greenway. Get more info and register now at our web site. You'll be glad you did!



WLT Member Spotlight: Laurel Carpenter

The Land Trust is thrilled to have a number of supporters interested in trail stewardship. Laurel Carpenter is a member of the Chester Brook Greenway Stewards. Here are her responses to our questions about her involvement with environmental causes.



GREG SHENSTONE

As a child, I grew up exploring the woods, streams and paths that connected my neighborhood to other places. Our town also had an unused rail corridor that later became part of a rail trail system that now spans the state of Missouri.

I first became aware of trails and paths in Waltham through Roger Wrubel's early efforts in establishing the Western Greenway. I've enjoyed exploring Prospect Hill Park, and I think the Charles River is one of Waltham's treasures. I use the river trail regularly and am eager to see the final connection of the path near the Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation. I participate in the annual Charles River Canoe and Kayak race.

In recent years, I've focused on the Chester Brook Greenway corridor and the future of the Mass Central Rail Trail (Wayside Trail). I especially value being able to use these paths through the woods as an alternative to busy roadways. I work in Waltham and in the winter I can snowshoe my way to work. Having a wooded path as a route to work turns my commute into one of the highlights of my day. Traveling on foot allows me to closely observe the seasonal changes in vegetation and to be on the lookout for wildlife.

I support the Waltham Land Trust because I'm very thankful for Waltham's green spaces and for the dedicated volunteers who help to maintain the trails and advocate for land conservation. Any time a person is walking along the trails in Waltham, he or she can help out by picking up trash or noting areas that need attention.

A Prescription for the Outdoors: Family Nature Walks in Waltham

Susan Brown, Youth and Family Outdoor Community Coordinator, Appalachian Mountain Club

We've all heard that an apple a day will keep the doctor away, but did you know outdoor time every day can chase the blues away? There is no denying the benefits of spending time in nature—from improving your breathing, preventing obesity, decreasing stress, and stimulating creativity in children and adults alike—being outside is good for your mind and body. Studies show that even adding an evening stroll through the neighborhood is enough to improve your overall health.

fun programs. These activities are a great way to get some exercise, breath fresh air, and make new friends. From deep forests, frog ponds, open meadows, and the cool WLT volunteer-made wildlife viewing blind at Shady's Pond, there is a lot to discover!

On the web site you can find ideas on ways to encourage youngsters to get away from the computer screen, outside and active. Check out upcoming free programs, tips and tricks for having fun with your family outside, and places you can explore on your own. And to motivate your kids even more—kids can earn points for time spent outside, which they can redeem for cool rewards.

Sunset strollers pause on the Blue Heron Bridge.



MARIA DIMAGGIO

The Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) has launched the Outdoors RX program right here in Waltham to help make getting up, getting out, and getting active even easier.

Families of all ages can take advantage of free weekly programs on Western Greenway Trail, along the Charles River Walkway, and other outdoor spaces being offered by the AMC, WLT and Healthy Waltham. Why not try it out yourself? Go to www.outdoorsrx.org to find guided walks, nature exploration, or other free family-

The leaves are changing, the air is crisp, and the days are getting shorter, but getting out and staying active is easy year-round! For upcoming events with WLT, AMC, and Healthy Waltham, check out the events page at walthamlandtrust.org/events. Or log onto www.outdoorsrx.org to find out more and tell them WLT sent you.

The Appalachian Mountain Club is a nonprofit outdoor recreation and conservation organization. For information on more local and regional outdoor activities, visit outdoors.org.

Upcoming Events

WESTERN GREENWAY 5K WALK/RUN

Saturday, October 5, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Start/finish line at Elsie Turner Field, park at Federal Archives, 380 Trapelo Rd.

Register now at rawseries.weebly.com/wg-5k.html or on-site the day of the race to walk or run the Western Greenway through Beaver Brook North Reservation and Rock Meadow. The \$25 fee will help raise funds to keep building the trail, and to benefit the Race Around Waltham series. Get friends and colleagues together for the Team Competition and be declared the Western Greenway Trailblazers if you win. We'll be twisting Oriental bittersweet vines into circles at Elsie Turner Field during the race, so the family will be occupied while you tear through the course! Prizes for winners in all age categories, plus raffle prizes for participants.

Bittersweet Circles Installation at FARM DAY

Saturday, October 5, 3 – 5 p.m.

UMASS Field Station, Waltham Fields Community Farm, 240 Beaver St.

Help us attach pretty Oriental bittersweet circles, made from ugly invasive vines, to ugly chain link fencing around the property at 240 Beaver Street. Tenants of the UMASS Field Station include the Waltham Land Trust, Waltham Fields Community Farm, GROW (Waltham's community gardens), 4-H, Federation of Massachusetts Farmer's Markets and many others. Farm Day is from 2–5 pm and will feature farm activities, games and food tastings, face painting, a community art project (installing bittersweet circles), and music.

Waltham Land Trust ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, October 22, 7 – 9 p.m.

First Parish in Waltham, 50 Church St.

All members and supporters are strongly encouraged to attend the Land Trust's Annual Meeting. We'll get an update on Saving Arrigo Farm, learn about projects happening at 240 Beaver Street (UMASS Field Station), take a virtual tour of the Land Trust's web site, celebrate our Environmentalist of the Year, and elect new/returning Directors. Food and conversation afterwards.

Waltham Walks at STONEHURST

Sunday, November 3, afternoon time tbd

Robert Treat Paine House & Storer Conservation Area, 100 Robert Treat Paine Dr.

Save the date for a fun afternoon at our annual fall event at and around Stonehurst. While the complete details have yet to be determined, the Land Trust will definitely lead a walk on the Western Greenway. Cosponsored with the Friends of Stonehurst, Healthy Waltham and Appalachian Mountain Club.

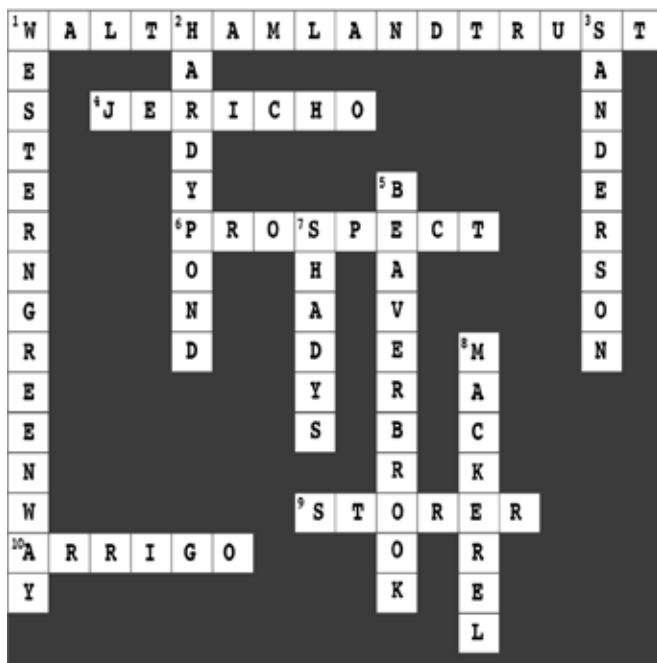
All-Day Fundraiser at CHATEAU RESTAURANT

Wednesday, November 6, 11:15 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Chateau Restaurant, 195 School St.

Eat and drink at Waltham's favorite family Italian restaurant and WLT gets 20% of the bill. Certificate required; download/print it from our website (available in October) or call our office to have one mailed to you. Good for lunch and dinner, dine in and take out.

Crossword puzzle answers



HELP WLT GO PAPERLESS!

Join the 120 Land Trust members who have selected to have their *Journals* sent to them electronically. By opting out of the mailed hard copy, these supporters are helping WLT reduce our carbon footprint and save on costs associated with printing, postage, and transportation. You can also receive the Upcoming Events postcards electronically. Please send an email with your name to swadman@walthamlandtrust.org, with the subject header "Electronic Journal" (and/or Event postcard) if you'd like the next *Journal* (and/or postcard) emailed to you. **Please remember that receiving *The Journal* is a privilege of membership.** Be sure you are up-to-date with your dues so you don't miss the Spring 2014 issue!

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BOSTON MA
PERMIT NO. 56470

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PO Box 541120
Waltham MA 02454-1120

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Waltham Land Trust Journal © 2013 Waltham Land Trust
is published by Waltham Land Trust, Inc.
PO Box 541120, Waltham MA 02454-1120.

Waltham Land Trust, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable corporation, and is a member of the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition.

An electronic file (pdf) of this newsletter is available on our web site, <www.walthamlandtrust.org>.

Officers: Nadene Stein (President), Joyce Nett (Vice Pres.), David Kehs (Clerk), Marc Rudnick (Treasurer)

Directors: Kate Buttolph, Marie Daly, George Darcy, Maureen Fowler, Dee Kricker, Betsy Lewenberg, Daniel Melnechuk, Stephen Rourke, Lesya Struz, Susanne Whyne, Diana Young

Please renew or join

To renew or join please use the enclosed membership application and send to:

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Waltham Land Trust's Mission

To create a legacy of land conservation in Waltham by promoting, protecting, restoring, and acquiring open space.

We envision growth in public appreciation of natural resources, preservation and restoration of native habitat, and increased biodiversity to foster a healthier environment.

• SPECIAL GIFT MEMBERSHIP •

Have a friend, neighbor, or relative you think would enjoy being part of the Waltham Land Trust? Why not give them a gift membership? **We are offering a special promotion for a limited time: 6 months for only \$10!** (The normal price of an individual membership is 12 months for \$25). **Support open space for a birthday, special occasion, or the holidays!**

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See photos at flickr.walthamlandtrust.org

Please send any comments to the return address, or email to <memberlink@walthamlandtrust.org>.

If you're not already a WLT member and have received this complimentary copy, please consider joining today!