

# 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 SPRING 2014**



## Gem Added to Waltham's Emerald Bracelet

*Dee Kricker*

Underneath the west-side of the long, narrow meadow that is 287 AFT Grove Street in the Bleachery neighborhood of Waltham runs a culverted Beaver Brook. Thanks to the unwavering effort of the site owners, abutting neighbors, the Ward Councilor, and the Waltham Land Trust, the Waltham City Council unanimously approved the purchase of this 2-acre parcel in the last week of October 2013. The Grove Street project is a shining example of the Waltham Land Trust threading another jewel onto Waltham's Emerald Bracelet whose first charm, Prospect Hill Park, was acquired 121 years ago.

In 1893, 74.74 acres including the peaks of "Big and Little" Prospect were acquired by the newly formed Waltham Park Commission for \$9500, who wrote: "For the present we have preserved for the use of the people the most desirable and necessary area of land, which we hope to make the nucleus of a chain of parks encircling the city and insuring adequate breathing spots." By 1927, 219 acres of Prospect Hill Park had been acquired. To its present 250 acres, WLT has been advocating the inclusion of the 20-acre Berry Farm.<sup>1</sup>

The "chain of parks encircling the city" was, of course, the inspiration and design of Frederick Law Olmsted, whose associate, Charles Eliot identified Waltham's Prospect Hill and Bear Hill as desirable open spaces to be included in a grand metropolitan necklace of green spaces in 1893. Charles Eliot, a leading voice in the call for preserving green spaces, explained, "The life history of humanity has proven nothing more clearly than that crowded populations, if they would live in health and happiness, must have space for air, for light, for exercise, for rest, and for the enjoyment of that peaceful beauty of nature which, because it is the opposite of the noisy ugliness of towns, is so wonderfully refreshing to the tired souls of townspeople."<sup>2</sup>



After receiving an inquiry from the owners of 287 AFT Grove Street, and after a site visit and WLT Land Committee analysis of the property, the Land Trust decided to seek community input regarding how best to proceed with making recommendations regarding the property. Options included WLT acquiring the land or advocating that the City purchase the land on behalf

of the Land Trust, or preferably, supporting a neighborhood group forming to do the same.

On July 7, 2011, a letter from WLT was sent to the neighbors of 287 AFT Grove Street:

"The land associated with 287 Grove Street has recently changed ownership and the new owners have approached the City of Waltham and the WLT to discuss options for preserving it as an amenity for the community...The WLT feels very strongly that a successful project at 287 Grove Street requires community acceptance. You are invited to a neighborhood meeting..."

At the well-attended July 27th meeting at the Sacred Heart Church, a number of residents volunteered to work with WLT to identify options to preserve the land that abutted their homes. Thus, began the two and one-half year effort of a community supported mini-land acquisition project.

With strong leadership provided

by neighbor Peggi Iebba and Ward Councillor Gary Marchese, the project involved many neighborhood meetings culminating in the emergence of the Beaver Brook Watershed Association and a Community Preservation Act application, sponsored by Councillor Marchese through the City Council and presented to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC).

At its June 25, 2012 meeting, the City Council referred the CPC's request for an appraisal of the land to the long-term debt committee. Six months later on

**continued on page 4**

## WTL Welcomes Business Hero Doug Waybright to Advisory Board

*On March 31<sup>st</sup> the Waltham community celebrated its third annual Waltham Hero Awards, selecting Doug Waybright, President of the Nelson Companies, Ltd., as the 2014 Business Hero. Always one step ahead of the crowd, the Waltham Land Trust recognized Doug's many attributes long ago and asked him to join our Advisory Board, a position he accepted in January. To gain more insight on this business giant living among us, here we share bullets from Doug's interview with the Waltham News Tribune upon receiving his Hero Award.*

**WNT:** In what ways are you involved with the community?

**DW:** I serve on numerous business and social service organizations. I'm an Executive Committee Board Member and Treasurer of the Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation and the 128 Business Council; an Executive Committee Board Member and Vice President of the Downtown Waltham Partnership; an Executive Committee Board Member of the Waltham West Suburban Chamber of Commerce and the Waltham Tourism Council; and a Member of the Waltham Rotary Club.

I also serve on the Advisory Boards of More Than Words, REACH Beyond Domestic Violence, WATCH CDC and the Waltham Land Trust.

I am also a friend and supporter of several other Waltham organizations, including GWArc, the Waltham Partnership for Youth, the Waltham Boys and Girls Club, the "Y", the Waltham Arts Council and the Race Around Waltham Series of running events.



COURTESY WCAC

**WNT:** What does winning this award mean to you?

**DW:** I don't really like the designation of "hero" because, as TJ Oshie said at the Olympics after single-handedly beating the Russians and being declared a hero, "The real heroes wear camo. I'm not one of them." But I do appreciate the sentiment.

Winning the award is actually a double-edged sword. I don't do what I do because I want to get awards. I do what I do because I like to give back and help people, especially those less fortunate than I. The double-edged part is that I like to work in the background and I don't want any award compromising my style, but the flip-side is, it is very satisfying that people appreciate that I do work hard at helping others.

**WNT:** How do you plan to continue to serve the community?

**DW:** Just keep on keeping on.

*We look forward to working with Doug, involving the Waltham business community in issues concerning our trails and open spaces!*

## WLT Launches Business Membership Program

Because the work we do creating a legacy of land conservation in Waltham is so important, the Land Trust has initiated a new program where local businesses can be recognized throughout the year for their support of our mission. Different from sponsorship of our popular annual fundraising events and dependent upon the level of support pledged, WLT Business Members enjoy continual exposure to conservation supporters through links between [walthamlandtrust.org](http://walthamlandtrust.org) and their websites, mentions in our social media postings, a WLT window decal

and certificate of membership suitable for framing, and listing in our publications. *We are pleased to announce **the 128 Business Council and the Nelson Companies** as our first Business Members!* Please stop by or contact them to thank them for their support!

The WLT Business Membership program is open to any company or group in the area wishing to gain exposure for their services while helping us raise funds to save open spaces and build community trails. Learn more and sign up at [walthamlandtrust.org/get-involved/how-you-can-get-involved](http://walthamlandtrust.org/get-involved/how-you-can-get-involved) or by calling the WLT office at 781-893-3355.





## Get Ready to Jam at a New Location!

Nadene Stein

Mark your calendars and dust off your dancing shoes! Our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Green Space Blues Jam is set for Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 – 11:00 p.m. Thanks to the generosity of Tom Dusel, President and CEO of Hobbs Brook Management LLC, our event will be located at Dassault Systèmes at 175 Wyman Street.

This year we are very proud to announce that music will be provided by *Roomful of Blues*. *Roomful of Blues* has been playing a blend of swing, rock and roll, jump blues, boogie-woogie and soul for the past 45 years. They have been nominated for five Grammy Awards and seven Blues Music Awards with a victory as Blues Band Of The Year in 2005! Learn more about them at <http://www.roomful.com/>. We are thrilled to welcome this nationally known band to Waltham!

When you take a break from dancing and eating, you will be able to bid on some fantastic silent auction items. Past items have included gift certificates to local restaurants and services;



tickets to sporting and cultural events; hand-made jewelry and crafts, and trips to vacation spots.

All proceeds from this fun event and the silent auction items will directly benefit our mission to create a legacy of land conservation in Waltham. Tickets (\$50 for WLT members and \$65 for nonmembers) get you all the food, beer, wine and soda you can enjoy, access to the fabulous silent auction, and the amazing music of *Roomful of Blues*. We hope to see you there!

## WORD SEARCH: Wildlife seen on, over and in Hardy Pond



baldeagle  
canadagoose  
goldfinch  
muteswan  
skunk

bass  
rabbit  
greatblueheron  
osprey  
snapper

bluegill  
coot  
hawk  
paintedturtle  
snowyegret

bluejay  
cormorant  
fishercat  
possum  
wildturkey

bufflehead  
coyote  
mallard  
raccoon  
woodchuck

bullfrog  
deer  
muskrat  
redfox  
woodduck

## **Emerald Bracelet** *continued from page 1*

December 10, Councillor Marchese received approval from the City Council to fund the site's appraisal. The appraisal came back with a bargain price and after several public meetings and site visits, at their October 8, 2013 meeting, the CPC recommended the purchase of 287 AFT Grove Street to the City Council. The City Council approved the expenditure a few weeks later, and the neighborhood rejoiced. At the time of printing of this *Journal*, City's Law Department had completed the title search and was seeking answers to a few questions before entering into negotiations with the property owners.

From inception to its passage by the CPC, this project was closely supported by WLT with many

hours of staff support and encouragement within the community by WLT's Program Director, Sonja Wadman. With these collective efforts this newly protected linear swath of green space, with Beaver Brook beneath, was successful.

Congratulations to all, as another charm of our green heritage is acquired by the City and entrusted to the stewardship of its residents.

"Thus, a space for air, for light, for exercise, for rest, and for the enjoyment of that peaceful beauty of nature will be preserved for the tired souls of townspeople." — Charles Eliot

1. <http://www.phpag.org/history.html>

2. <http://www.massmoments.org/moment.cfm>

## **Stewardship Teams Update**

*Sonja Wadman*

We have been very busy at the Land Trust recruiting, training and "graduating" volunteers into the field to monitor and help maintain our trails and open spaces. Since they completed WLT's first stewardship training in April 2012, the Chester Brook Greenway Stewards (CBGS) have been working hard on the Western Greenway Trail between Trapelo Road and the Storer Conservation Area north of the Paine Estate. The CBGS have routinely cleared this path of nasty intruding grasses and invasive species (including poison ivy), stabilized it when needed, and picked up trash and other objects deposited deep in the woods (big reclining chair presumably wheeled down from the high school).

We were very excited when on a frigid November Sunday, five of the CBGS along with a few other Land Trust supporters participated in a specialized chainsaw training at Prospect Hill Park. The Waltham Recreation Board, who oversees the property on behalf of the City, approved the training, which was led by professional timber harvester and chain saw instructor Bill Girard of the internationally recognized Game of Logging. Mr. Girard spent the majority of the 7 am – 4:30 pm training with participants standing around his truck

in the Totten Pond parking lot, extensively reviewing safety issues and proper maintenance techniques of the chain saw. Once in the field, the primary objective was to learn how to remove a tree that has fallen down either across a trail or over another tree, causing the second tree to bend down in a precarious "spring pole" position. The group was taught to always "Make a Plan" first with an escape route, using percentages of the tree's diameter at chest height to determine the width,

length, depth and angle of a cut. All trainees were given the opportunity use one of Mr. Girard's chainsaws on trees marked previously for removal by the City's Consolidated Public Works Department.

With the safety training completed, in January the Land Trust made a big purchase, buying a Stihl MS 240 chain saw and accessories using grant funds from the Foundation for MetroWest and

the Norcross Foundation. By the end of the month, the heavy machine with serious power had been delicately used to extricate a narrow section of tree blocking the Western Greenway. Hurrah!

On March 29<sup>th</sup>, the Land Trust offered its second general training for volunteers interested in helping to maintain the trails in Prospect Hill Park and along the Charles River. The Charles River Path Stewards will work independently to keep the trail along the Charles free from litter and invasive plant species, sending



*Mike Tabaczynski demonstrates the Circle of Death with a pick axe.*



their Field Reports to the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, who own and manage the river. The Prospect Hill Park Stewards will serve as ambassadors of Prospect Hill Park, making recommendations and coordinating maintenance issues with the City of Waltham's Recreation Department and Consolidated Public Works Department.

Once again coordinating with the Waltham Recreation Board and Department, the Land Trust arranged to have the stewardship training at Prospect

JIM WALKER



*Dr. Eric Olson holds three Northern Red-Backed salamanders found under a rock.*

Hill Park, where WLT Advisory Board members Mike Tabaczynski and Dr. Eric Olson led two hours of classroom instruction followed by an hour of in-the-field reconnaissance (with a pizza lunch in between). Twenty folks participated in the training, with the majority expressing interest in volunteering at Prospect Hill Park.

To learn more about volunteering with the Charles River Path Stewards,

contact Sonja at [swadman@walthamlandtrust.org](mailto:swadman@walthamlandtrust.org). For more information about the program at Prospect Hill Park, contact PHP Supervising Steward Chris Leary at [php.stewardship@gmail.com](mailto:php.stewardship@gmail.com).

## ARRIGO FARM UPDATE

In other land preservation news, on December 9, 2013, the City Council voted unanimously with one abstention to approve the Community Preservation Committee's recommendation of the application for Arrigo Farm. We are awaiting the results of negotiations between the Law Department and the Arrigo family heirs for the purchase of the farm by the City.



*A raccoon looks out from the barn at Arrigo Farm in March. He'd better move out before the farmers come!*

PHIL MOSER AND DIDI DO



## WANTED: Regular Volunteers for WLT Activities

*Sonja Wadman*

It's almost summertime and the Land Trust is once again putting out the call for help as we enter the busiest part of our year. Check out everything listed in Upcoming Events at the end of this Journal, which doesn't include tabling at the Farmer's Market and many of our yet-to-be-scheduled stewardship days! **Please consider becoming one of WLT's regular volunteers by donating three hours a month of your time to our cause.** Sign up for one or more roles below at [swadman@walthamlandtrust.org](mailto:swadman@walthamlandtrust.org) or by calling 781-893-3355. We promise you'll have fun, and get a great feeling knowing you're really doing something to help us create a legacy of land conservation.

### Outreach Tablers needed

- Help other tablers spread the word at the Waltham Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings and at community events or business fairs throughout the year.
- Help recruit college students at Service Fairs at Brandeis and Bentley.

### Event Staff needed

- Set-up and break-down tables and chairs before/after lectures and events.
- Work the registration table and assist with all sorts of tasks at our bigger events like the **10th Annual Green Space Blues Jam** and fall **Race for Open Space**.

### Stewards needed

- Clear invasive species like bittersweet and knotweed on a regular basis from along the Charles River, on the Western Greenway and in our parks.
- Remove poison ivy from Waltham's trails and public spaces.
- Build and improve the Western Greenway Trail under the instruction of the Trail Crew of the Friends of the Western Greenway and our own Chester Brook Greenway Stewards.

### Lighter Work Helpers needed

- Stuff and label envelopes and assist with other mailers as needed.
- Post fliers about our events around town.

## HELP WLT GO PAPERLESS!

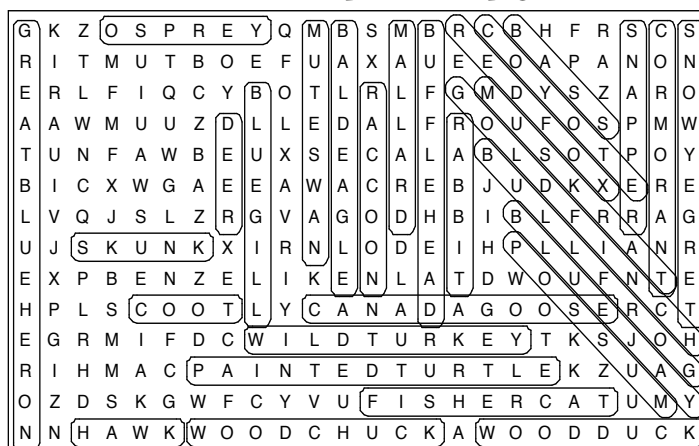
Join the 120 Land Trust members who have selected to have their Journals sent to them electronically. By opting out of the mailed hard copy, these supporters are helping WLT reduce our carbon footprint and save on costs associated with printing, postage, and transportation. You can also receive the Upcoming Events postcards electronically. Please send an email with your name to [swadman@walthamlandtrust.org](mailto: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 Fall 2014 Journal!

*WLT President Nadene Stein works the table at Waltham Day.*



SONJA WADMAN

*Word Search ANSWERS, the puzzle is on page 3.*



## Upcoming Events

### DINING FOR DOLLARS FUNDRAISER

*Wednesday, April 30, 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.*

*Bertucci's Italian Restaurant, 475 Winter St.*

Help us thank Bertucci's for regularly donating to WLT events by dining in, eating out, or ordering delivery with the required certificate, and the Land Trust gets 15% of food and drink sales. Download certificate from [walthamlandtrust.org](http://walthamlandtrust.org) or call us.

### TENTH ANNUAL GREEN SPACE BLUES JAM

*Saturday, May 10, 7 – 11 p.m.*

*Dassault Systemes, 175-185 Wyman St.*

Grammy-nominated **Roomful of Blues** will help us celebrate a decade of Green Space Blues Jams at a new venue! Enjoy a fun night of dancing, eating, drinking and bidding on fabulous silent auction items. Tickets are \$50 for members (\$65 for non-members). Get them now by calling our office (781-893-3355) or ordering through our website.

### WILDFLOWER WALK AT CEDAR HILL

*Thursday, May 15, 6 – 7:15 p.m.*

*Meet at front steps of the UMASS Field Station, 240 Beaver St*

Join "Cornelia Warren" on our annual amble through the fields and forests of the expansive Girl Scout property in search of trillium, lady's slipper and Jack in the Pulpit. Be prepared for evening bugs and wear sturdy shoes.

### BOSTON GREENBELT WALK

*Saturday, May 17, Waltham section time tbd  
Park/join walk at Our Lady's, 920 Trapelo Rd.*

Join us for part or all of the Greenbelt Walk, a 30-mile trek from Middlesex Fells to Newton. In Waltham, we'll meet up with the group and walk along the Western Greenway and on sidewalks 3 miles to Waltham Common, then another 3 miles to the Riverside T Station. Organized by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and FreeWalkers.org. Get more information and register at [bostongreenbeltwalk.org](http://bostongreenbeltwalk.org).

### DINING FOR A CAUSE 15% FUNDRAISER

*Wednesday, June 4, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.*

*99 Restaurant, 110 South St.*

Dine in or take out with the required certificate, the Land Trust gets 15% of food and drink sales. Download certificate from [walthamlandtrust.org](http://walthamlandtrust.org) or call us.

### NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

*Saturday, June 7, time and location tbd*

Help restore a Waltham trail during this annual national-wide event.

### RIVERFEST RIVER WALK

*Saturday, June 14, 10 a.m.*

*Meet on Blue Heron Path, northwest corner of Moody St. and the river*

Kick off **Waltham Riverfest** with a nature walk along the Charles River. We'll return in time for the **Riverfest Pet Parade** and will encourage folks to visit Back Pages Books for readings from "The Charles River" by author Ted Clarke. All day long, festival attendees can soak up live music, observe artists painting along the river, buy crafts from vendors on a closed Moody Street Bridge, enjoy kids activities at Landry Park, and rent canoes, kayaks and stand-up paddleboards for cruising the river. Remember to register with Charles River Canoe and Kayak ahead of time for the Full Moon Paddle happening on Friday, June 13 at 7 pm. Ticket price includes a three-hour guided canoe tour and dinner on the river!

### WESTERN GREENWAY WALK ON THE LONGEST DAY

*Saturday, June 21, 5:30 – 7:45 p.m.*

*Departing from Mass Audubon Habitat Education Center*

We've built seven miles of the Western Greenway Trail, and we want to show them over a series of walks held on the third Saturday of each summer month. WLT Advisory Board member and Director of Mass Audubon Habitat Education Center Roger Wrubel will lead the first trek through Belmont. Space is limited, so keep an eye out for postings as we determine where to park, walk, and shuttle folks.

### FARMING IN WALTHAM

*Saturday, June 28, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.*

*Lyman Estate, 185 Lyman Street*

In this illustrated lecture, participants will learn how farming has been a part of Waltham's landscape in the past, present and future. Afterwards, attendees will see the property's fields currently in agricultural production and tour the historic Lyman Estate Greenhouses. Fee is \$5 for Historic New England, Waltham Fields Community Farm, and Waltham Land Trust members. Register by calling 617-994-6678 or visiting <http://shop.historicnewengland.org/p-7446-farming-in-waltham.aspx>.

### WESTERN GREENWAY WALK MIDDLE SECTION

*Saturday, July 19, time and location tbd*

Join us for the second walk in the series, starting where we left off in June and ending at Our Lady's of the Afflicted on Trapelo Road.

### WESTERN GREENWAY WALK CHESTER BROOK SECTION

*Saturday, August 19, time tbd*

*Departing from Our Lady's Church, 920 Trapelo Road*

Come along for the final third Saturday walk on the Western Greenway Trail, ending south of the Paine Estate at Gentlemen's Way.

WALTHAM



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Waltham MA 02454-1120

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## Please renew or join

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

Waltham Land Trust  
PO Box 541120  
Waltham MA 02454-1120

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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!**

*Like Waltham Land Trust on Facebook.*  
*Follow us on Twitter @walthamlandtrst*  
*See videos at [youtube.walthamlandtrust.org](http://youtube.walthamlandtrust.org)*  
*See photos at [flickr.walthamlandtrust.org](http://flickr.walthamlandtrust.org)*

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

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