

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 2015

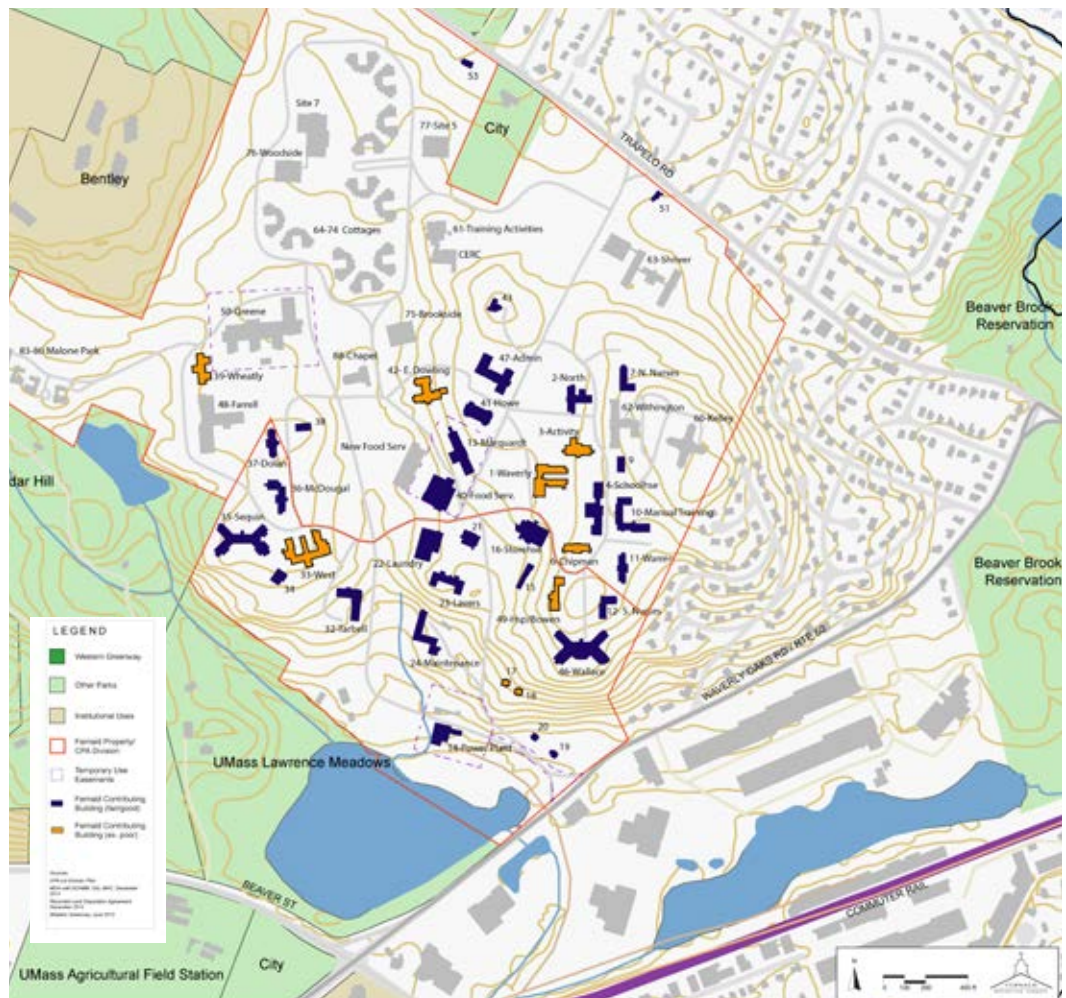
Fernald Developmental Center Update

Diana Young, WLT Director, CPC Chairwoman, Fernald Working Group participant

Mayor Jeannette McCarthy has asked the Community Preservation Committee to fund the demolition of 20 non-historic buildings on the 140 acres of the Fernald site that was purchased with Community Preservation Act funds. The buildings include the building at Malone Park and the Cottages, which look a bit like sinking White Hen Pantries.

The CPA funded portion of the property was purchased for open space/recreation and historic purposes. The 140-acre parcel has a number of buildings that are not historic which need to be removed to allow for the open space

to be usable for passive and active recreation, as well as to create habitat for fish and wildlife. Removal of the structures will also eliminate the attractive nuisance and security issues created by these non-historic derelict buildings. As part of the rehabilitation of the open space, the City is planning to daylight a culverted stream to restore it to its historic state. Aside from the recreational value of the daylighted stream, this restoration will help in the reduction in flooding on both the Fernald and adjacent properties as culverting the stream has exacerbated downstream flooding. The CPC has commissioned a wetlands study to understand the implications of restoring the culverted stream to natural wetlands.



Community Outreach on the Uses of the Fernald Property

Diana Young with input from Hannah Brockhaus, Jennifer Van Campen and Kathryn Madden

The Fernald Working Group (FWG) was formed almost twelve years ago to respond to then Governor Romney's plans to shut down the Fernald and to sell the property. The group was initially made up of representatives from the Waltham Land Trust, WATCH and the League of Women Voters and has since added additional interested Waltham residents.

Since the Fernald property was purchased in Dec. 2014, the FWG has looked for ways to assure that community views are part of the plan **cont' on page 4**

Western Greenway 5K Run/Walk Coming Up

Scott Shurr, WLT member and Special Events Committee participant

The crisp autumn air is on its way, so once again it is time for the Western Greenway 5K through the fields, woods, and marshlands of North Waltham and Belmont. Runners and walkers, teams and families will meet at Elsie Turner Field on Trapelo Road. The proceeds raised from the Greenway 5K will benefit Race Around Waltham (RAW) series events and the Waltham Land Trust.

On Sunday, October 4, 2015, the Waltham Land Trust is collaborating with the RAW series to offer a 5K trail run/walk on the Western Greenway. Runners will take off at noon, and to accommodate all types of athletes, walkers will depart later. Families can sign up for a hike around the meadows, woods and new growth forest along the Greenway. So bring the kids! The course is unpaved, with rocks and roots, for the most part, so strollers and baby joggers are not allowed.

The Western Greenway includes miles of trails and old carriage roads, and runs through a variety of terrain in Waltham, Lexington, and Belmont. On the course there are cattail marshes, red maple swamps, mature oak-hickory forests, new forest growth and serene open meadows.

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 2016 *Journal*!



Learn more about this vital path through our green necklace as you enjoy the crisp early autumn air.

Prizes will be rewarded to the first male and female finishers in various age groups. The fastest six member mixed gender team will vie for the esteemed "WESTERN GREENWAY TRAILBLAZERS" Team Award. More prizes will go out to walkers, too. Join in the fun!

It's not too late to sign up and help us raise money to continue building this amazing trail. The \$25 entry fee (\$5 more on Saturday/Sunday Race Day) includes a bag of goodies, raffle prizes, and plenty of post-race snacks including Bertucci's pizza. Get more info and register now at <http://www.rawseries.org/western-greenway-5k.html>. You'll be glad you did!

Beautiful fall foliage along the Western Greenway 5K course.



MARIE DALY

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

A Spin on Giving

Joyce Nett, WLT Board Director and Development Team participant

No doubt you've heard of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, two big national days of pre-holiday spending. Once again this year, Waltham Land Trust is joining the counterpart effort called #GivingTuesday!

#GivingTuesday is an organization whose mission is to build awareness of and support for charitable giving. #GivingTuesday uses all the tools of technology, social media, video sharing, as well as traditional letter writing and annual appeals to "harness the collective power of a unique blend of partners ... to transform how people think about, talk about and participate in the giving season." WLT joined #GivingTuesday in December of 2014 to great results; our efforts reached 28 contributors for a total of \$5,720.

In joining the movement again, we hope to raise awareness about charitable giving. "Coinciding with

the Thanksgiving Holiday and the kickoff of the holiday shopping season, #GivingTuesday will inspire people to take collaborative action to improve their local communities, give back in better, smarter ways to the charities and causes they support and help create a better world." This year's campaign takes place on "December 1, 2015 – the Tuesday after Thanksgiving – #GivingTuesday will harness the power of social media to create a national moment around the holidays dedicated to giving, similar to how Black Friday and Cyber Monday have become days that are, today, synonymous with holiday shopping."

If you are one of our tech savvy members, watch for exciting notices via Facebook, Twitter and email. If you prefer to get your information via print, watch for our annual appeal letter in the mail. Either way, you will see the #GivingTuesday logo on our various media pages. Please support our annual appeal with a generous donation!

WORD SEARCH: Hills, rivers, brooks, ponds and meadows in Waltham



Bear
Beaver
Big Prospect
Cedar
Cedarwood
Charles

Chester
Clematis
Glen
Grove
Hardy
Hobbs

Jericho
Lawrence
Little Prospect
Lyman
Mackerel
Mount Enoch

Mount Feake
Mr Samuels
Owl
Patch
Pigeon
Shady's

Square
Stearns
Stony
Trapelo
Warrendale
Webb

West
West Chester
Witch's

FERNALD continued from page 1

for uses of the property. The FWG held two events in the last five months to give Waltham residents a chance to learn about the property and share their concerns.

In April, the FWG held an open house to provide information about the Fernald. The event at the Northeast School was attended by over 80 people including many City Councillors. Volunteers were stationed at the various tables and shared their knowledge on issues relating to Open Space, Transportation, Historic Resources, the Neighborhood of Fernald, Water Resources, and Land Use and Ownership. As a backdrop to the many informal conversations, a set of photographs from the Fernald site cycled through on a large screen. Everyone learned a little more about the site and its context.

At the open house, residents from the abutting neighborhoods and other parts of Waltham shared their hopes and concerns for the Fernald site. There was overwhelming support for open space and wildlife preservation, as well as daylighting a stream. People wanted to see a plan for the site, and were concerned about what years of inaction could do to the already decaying historic buildings and contamination. Top concerns included “overdevelopment of the site” and the need to update transportation and infrastructure along Trapelo Road, especially in the case of future development. People expressed dreams including conveniently located facilities and resources – such as a community center, city offices, and even a mom and pop ice cream shop!

The open house was followed by a charrette at St. Mary’s Church Hall at the end of May. During an all-day community work session, participants kept returning to the need for the City to initiate a planning process with community input to determine the future of the Fernald site. Over 30 people participated including Mayor McCarthy, State Representative Tom Stanley, and Councillors Darcy, LeBlanc, McLaughlin, McMenimen, and Vizard. The process was facilitated by Kathryn Madden, Madden Planning Group.

The Fernald Center, approximately 190 acres in North Waltham, has 68 structures in various states of disrepair representing 1.27 million square feet of built space. The site is also home to two buried ponds and a culverted stream.

Participants identified a list of information needed to advance the site planning, including updated building conditions, underground infrastructure reports, potential costs, and an overall development strategy. The participants’ top priority was to have a community process and creation of a master plan. Everyone agreed that a focus on hydrology and maintaining a “historic campus” feel should guide the future design of Fernald.

The “Village” model, whereby housing, civic use, and local commerce fit together in a walkable neighborhood was a popular notion for contained development. Transit and infrastructure improvements serving this part of the City will be vital to the success of the Fernald reuse, including an extension of the Western Greenway Trail to connect the Beaverbrook Trails with the Mass. Central Rail Trail. Finally, the group agreed that all goals for the site’s future use should include an economic analysis that considers infrastructure costs, market demand, and the effect on the City of Waltham taxpayers.

The Waltham Land Trust, through its membership in the Fernald Working Group, will continue to look for ways to bring the public into the planning process for the Fernald.

Member Spotlight

In each Fall Journal, we highlight a member of the Waltham Land Trust who goes above and beyond the call of duty with volunteering their time to further our mission. Debbie von Rechenberg and her German-born husband, Moritz, are WLT Stewards in the Met State and Beaver Brook areas, along with their dog, Mica. Debbie is also a member of our Development Team. We asked the von Rechenbergs to tell us about their passion for our environment.

WLT: What is your first memory of enjoying open space and nature?

DvR: When I was maybe 4, my parents took my brother and me and our dog to a forest preserve in Illinois, near our house (I grew up in NW Indiana, near Chicago, and their green spaces are called forest preserves). My mom needed to study, so she stayed in a pretty little glen on our picnic blanket, while Dad took my brother and me and our dog on a “hike.” We thought it would be fun to take the less-traveled path, because it had a lot of low branches and spider webs. Fun! Well, it also had a yellow jacket nest, and my brother found it with his feet. He was standing there, crying, with yellow jackets swarming all over him. We were ahead of him (my dad says he told us to step over the nest, but I don’t recall that), and I went back to him in an uncharacteristically sisterly gesture. Then we were both standing there, crying. Dad came back to us, picked one of us up under each arm, and ran back to the glen, with the dog trailing. Poor Mom – can you imagine how we disrupted her idyllic study period? Mom and Dad swatted yellow jackets off us (and the dog) and piled us all in the car. Whew. Except for the one yellow jacket that made it in and nearly made Dad run off the road! Needless to say, my first memory of “enjoying” open space was not necessarily my fondest. To my credit, I kept on getting out there!

MvR: We had woods behind our house, which were our playground. My friends and I were basically free-range

children, building huts and exploring the woods for hours and hours. It was a different time, in a country far, far away...

WLT: We know you are stewards in the Met State and Beaver Brook areas. Thanks! What is the oddest and/or most beautiful thing you've encountered while being a steward?

DvR: Where to begin? We haven't been stewards for all that long, so I'm going to have to go a little further back. Every winter, some folks in the neighborhood east of the Met State land (near the Beaver Brook bridge) decorate one of the little evergreen trees (I'm going to guess a pretty little spruce) for the holidays. You can see it on the portion of the Greenway that goes west from the bridge, before the next intersection. It's a bit off the path, but it's easy to see in winter. Going even further back, we saw some fishers in the woods just off our street. What big teeth they had!

MvR: Odd: the spruce tree Debbie described. Beautiful: Any encounter with native wildlife along the trail - from deer, and turtles to fishers and coyotes. Oh, and snowshoeing the trails in the winter.

WLT: What advice do you have for those looking to experience Waltham's trails and open spaces?

DvR: If you go into the Beaver Brook North and Met State property during June, July, or the first half of August, wear bug repellent. Or walk really, really fast. And don't stop. Ever.

MvR: Enjoy the many and diverse open spaces and trails and try to walk the Western Greenway in its entirety once.

WLT: Do you have a favorite natural place in Waltham that you can share with our readers?

DvR: Prospect Hill is indeed beautiful (see Moritz's response), but I'm going to have to go with Mackerel Hill. I like the short but moderately steep trek up and the nice view at the top, even if it's not as spectacular as Prospect Hill's. It's quiet and interesting (and fragrant): you go through pine and birch stands on the way up and emerge in a clearing. This diversity of habitats also makes it a nice birding walk. And speaking of birding, though it's not much to look at, check out the grounds around the Administration Building on the city-owned part of the Met State property (near the parking lot on Metropolitan Parkway). All that edge habitat harbors a host of interesting species. One day about 40 birders were out there, stalking (but alas not seeing) a lark sparrow that was spotted the previous day (a Big Deal, they told me). I've seen them out there since then from time to time, with their big-lensed cameras and quiet footfalls.

MvR: The Prospect Hill overlook.

WLT: Debbie, why should someone consider being a part of WLT's Development Team?

DvR: Since I joined the Development Team, I have learned so much about the current and future plans for the Land Trust. I feel more a part of the organization knowing everything we have going on. While my contributions so far have mostly consisted of taking mad notes, I also feel like I'm participating more fully in this great group! Finally, it's a fun group of people who serve really righteous snacks.

WLT: Why do you support the Waltham Land Trust?

DvR: When we moved to Waltham, we wondered what was up with the woods across the street from us. Did they belong to the city? The state? Were they going to be sold or developed? One of our first orders of business was to join and support the Waltham Land Trust so we could find out more and support preservation of our little slice of heaven. In the process, we made some good friends and attended some of the great fundraisers. It was at our first Blues Jam that we ran into someone we knew from elsewhere, which has always been my sign that I "belong" in a place. What more reason does one need than that?

MvR: What she said.

Moritz, Debbie, and Mica von Rechenberg



PROVIDED BY THE VON RECHENBERGS

A Bittersweet End... (a history of a bird blind)

Diana Young

In 2005, the City of Waltham acquired the Shady's Pond Conservation Area from the Archdiocese of Boston. This lovely wooded piece of property is adjacent to Our Lady Comforter of Afflicted Church on Trapelo Road and runs behind the church to Lexington Street.

The property contains a small pond that is full of water fowl and noisy bull frogs with many songbirds in the surrounding trees. The pond is close to Chester Brook Gardens, the apartment complex on Lexington Street, and is on the Western Greenway Trail. When the trail through that part of the Greenway was complete, the Waltham Land Trust decided that a bird blind would give hikers the opportunity to observe the wildlife without creating a disturbance among the creatures. Unfortunately, the available bird blinds were all for hunters and might have given hikers the wrong idea.

The bird blind idea was saved when Betsy Lewenberg, a WLT board member, mentioned that her daughter is an artist who creates outdoor sculptures using natural materials. Carolyn Lewenberg provided a design of a natural "quilt curtain" using invasive Oriental Bittersweet to build circles that would be strung together to create a beautiful see-through wall. The Land Trust appeared before the Conservation Commission to obtain permission for the bird blind and told City officials about the project. Using grant funds received for trails and other work at Shady's Pond, WLT Program Director Sonja Wadman mobilized volunteers to cut bittersweet vines, strip them of their leaves and berries (and put into trash), and make the circles for the project. Carolyn's design and the volunteers' circles came into being in October, 2012. Many hikers, including hikers on WLT led walks, enjoyed both the blind and the wildlife that was visible when peering through the lacy openings.

The blind was in place for about two years but, since it was made of natural materials, it began to break down.

In the fall of 2014, the Land Trust obtained a second small grant to refurbish the blind. A large group of volunteers created new circles and reinforced existing circles. The old bird blind was restrung and brought back to its original form.

The rehabilitated bird blind made it through our snow-laden winter, but unfortunately, it did not last long after that.

This spring, people built a stone fire ring near the blind and began having campfires and engaging in destructive behavior in the area. Our Chester Brook Corridor Greenway Stewards repeatedly broke up the fire ring, and discussions were had with representatives of the Waltham Police and Fire departments, but the nefarious activities persisted. On May 9th, we got the word that the bird blind had been destroyed.

We've heard varying stories about who was responsible. It may have been those who were using the fire pit, or Police and/or Fire personnel who didn't know what the structure was when they responded to complaints. We've even heard that some people thought it had something to do with voodoo. Sadly, no matter who took the bird blind down, it's gone.

So what did we learn? Clearly, we need to raise the roof when we see destructive activities in any open space. We also wonder if the bird blind would have been respected and protected if more people understood its purpose. We discussed adding a small sign explaining the project, but other priorities kept coming up, preventing the sign's execution. Plus, who knows if it would have saved our outdoor art? Regardless, we plan to increase our partnership with Waltham's first responders and, if one is hired, the City park ranger.

It's sad that our beautiful bird blind is gone, but we'll be more diligent next time.



BETSY LEWENBERG

Upcoming Events

Chateau Fundraiser

Thursday, October 1, 11:15 a.m. – close
The Chateau Restaurant, 195 Church Street
Eat, drink and be merry at this Waltham institution known for its excellent family Italian cuisine. WLT gets 20% of all sales, lunch and dinner, dine in, and take out when you give the enclosed certificate to your server.

Western Greenway 5K Run/Walk

Sunday, October 4, noon start time
Start/end at Elsie Turner Field, 385 Trapelo Road
Be a part of our fall *Race for Open Space* fundraiser as a walker, runner, sponsor or volunteer! On the same course as last year, the route travels through various habitats in Beaver Brook North Reservation and Rock Meadow along the Western Greenway Trail. Registration fees (\$25 in advance) and race sponsorships help raise money to keep building this community path and outfit our volunteer stewards. Walkers will begin shortly after the runners depart. Families welcome!

Western Greenway Hike

Sunday, October 18, 1 - 3 p.m.
Park/meet along eastern edge of Our Lady's Church parking lot (not Academy side), 920 Trapelo Road
Join us as we enter the Middlesex County Hospital Lands in the fourth of our series of consecutive treks along the Western Greenway Trail. We'll cross Trapelo and walk through Lot Three, the Bow Street parcel, and Lot One to Woburn Street and back (1.7 miles round trip). Wear sturdy shoes and be prepared for uneven footing.

Waltham Land Trust 16th Annual Meeting

Tuesday, October 20, 7 p.m.
First Parish Church in Waltham, 50 Church Street
Attend our annual meeting to receive updates on issues the Land Trust is tackling, celebrate our *Inge Uhler Environmentalist of the Year*, vote on returning WLT Directors, and mingle with other open space supporters.

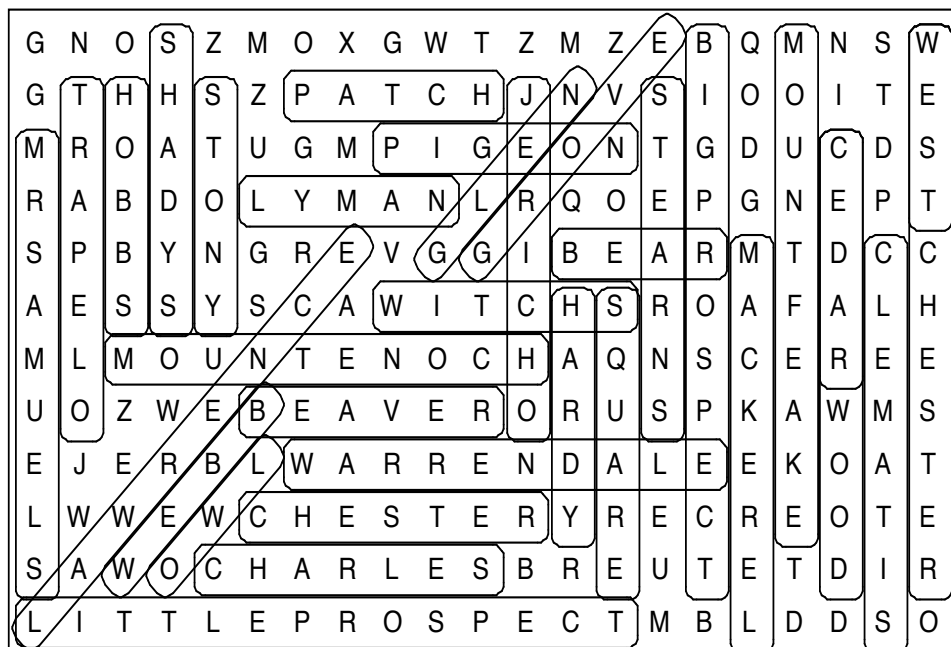
Bertucci's Fundraiser

Wednesday, October 28, 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Bertucci's Italian Restaurant, 475 Winter Street
Help us thank Bertucci's for donating tons of delicious pizzas to our Western Greenway 5Ks and Earth Day Clean-ups! They are one of the best community restaurant partners! Give the enclosed certificate to the server when you dine in or take out lunch and/or dinner with friends and family, and the Waltham Land Trust gets 15% of the food and drink sale.

Western Greenway Hike

Sunday, November 15, 1 - 3 p.m.
Park/meet at new Met State parking lot, Metropolitan State Parkway (opposite Forest Street at intersection with Trapelo Road)
In the fifth and final of our Western Greenway treks, we'll walk from the Metropolitan Parkway to the trail and travel west over through forests and a very long, volunteer-built boardwalk to Woburn Street (the turn-around spot from the previous hike) and head back. Total trip distance is estimated to be a little over 2 miles. Wear sturdy shoes and be prepared for uneven footing.

WORD SEARCH ANSWERS: Hills, rivers, brooks, ponds and meadows in Waltham



Bear
Beaver
Big Prospect
Cedar
Cedarwood
Charles
Chester
Clematis
Glen
Grove
Hardy
Hobbs
Jericho
Lawrence
Little
Prospect
Lyman
Mackerel
Mount Enoch
Mount Feake
Mr Samuels
Owl
Patch
Pigeon
Shady's
Square
Stearns
Stony
Trapelo
Warrendale
Webb
West
West Chester
Witch's

WALTHAM



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


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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

 Printed on recycled paper.

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 mem-
bership is 12 months for \$25). **Support open space for
a birthday, special occasion, or the holidays!**

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Follow us on Twitter @walthamlandtrst

See videos at youtube.walthamlandtrust.org

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!*



The Chateau Restaurant of Waltham presents:

The Chateau Sponsored Fundraiser

On **Thursday October 1, 2015** bring the fundraiser ticket below and enjoy dinner or order take-out from the Chateau Restaurant of Waltham. When paying your check, give the waitperson your ticket. The ticket will be attached to your check.

The Chateau Restaurant will contribute 20% of the total bill to the:

Waltham Land Trust
Thursday October 1, 2015

We are providing a community outlet to local non-profit groups for fund raising. This is a great way to raise money for important community organizations that are often not financially supported to the extent of what is needed to succeed.

Thursday 10/1/15

Time: 11:15AM-CLOSE

SPONSORED FUNDRAISER

20% OF FOOD AND BEVERAGE PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT:

Waltham Land Trust

CHATEAU RESTAURANT OF WALTHAM - ITALIAN FAMILY DINING
195 SCHOOL STREET - WALTHAM, MA 02451

TAKE OUT ORDERS INCLUDED ● TO ORDER CALL 781-894-3339
ONLY ONE TICKET PER GROUP NEEDED ● DOES NOT APPLY TO DELIVERY ORDERS

Tickets are not to be distributed in the restaurant or on restaurant property. Thank you.



Bertucci's
LOCAL

*Dining for
Dollars*

When you present this flyer

15% of what you spend
will be donated back to

The Waltham Land Trust

Wednesday, October 28th

11:00 am - 10:00 pm

Dine In, Carry Out or Delivery

Bertucci's of Waltham - 475 Winter Street, Waltham, MA 02451 Ph:781-684-0650



Bertucci's
LOCAL

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