

# 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 2016**

## Linking Waltham's Major Green Spaces

*David Kehs*

At a recent City Council meeting, the Council authorized the Mayor and the Law Department to enter into negotiations to acquire the five-acre property located at 1 Balm Avenue.

The Waltham Land Trust also encourages the City to take the necessary steps to acquire this property, also known as "The Great Orchard" for open space purposes.

The Great Orchard is well-hidden in the Lakeview neighborhood. Although it has a street address of 1 Balm Avenue, it turns out that Balm Avenue is an example of a *paper road*, which is a road that was approved as part of a subdivision plan, but was never actually constructed. The map shows the location of the 1 Balm Avenue parcel in relation to other open space parcels in the area.

As the map shows, there is a substantial swath of open space in the Jericho Hill area. The Waltham Land Trust envisions a time when all of that open space will be protected as a large park, perhaps to be called Jericho Hill Park. Two of the parcels in the area have already been acquired by the City of Waltham for open space purposes: The 6-acre Jericho Hill Summit was purchased in 2001, and the 26-acre Sanderson Heights parcel was purchased in 2005.

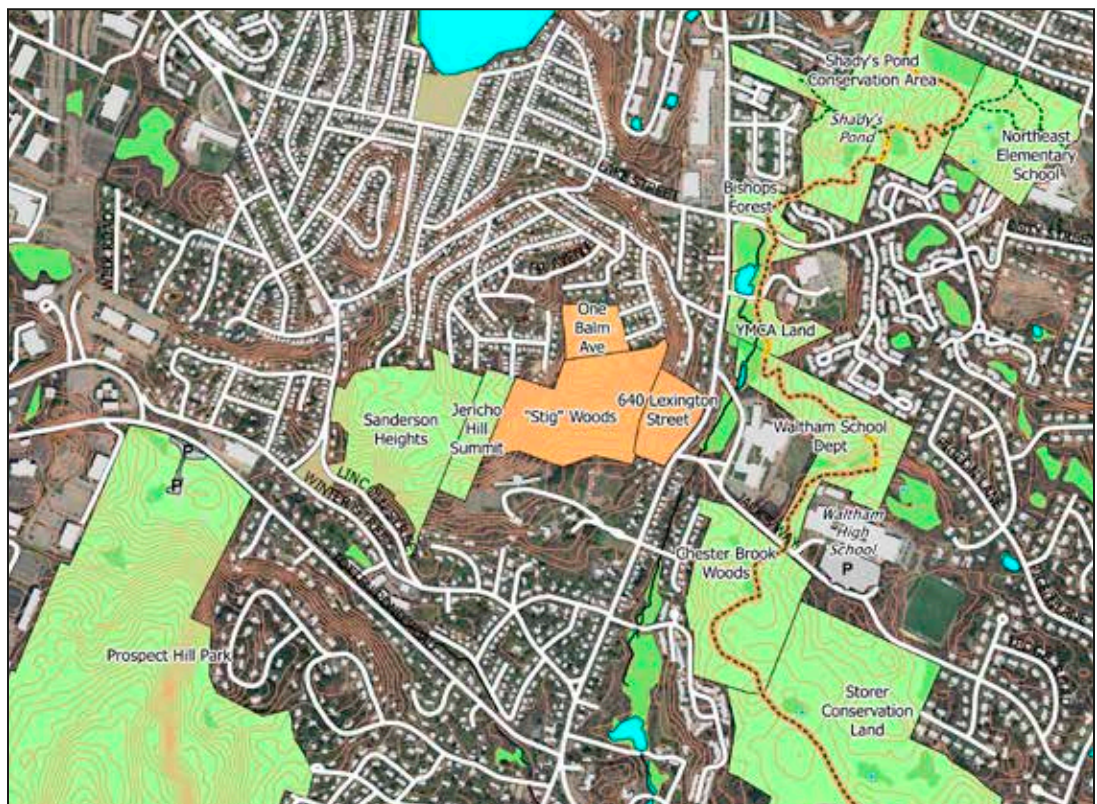
While the open space in the Jericho Hill area is deserving of protection in its own right, it becomes

even more critical when the land is viewed in the context of the surrounding properties. The Jericho Hill area is a vital link between the City's other major open space areas, namely Prospect Hill Park and the Western Greenway.

The acquisition of the Great Orchard will provide another significant step in protecting the land for the future Jericho Hill Park. This acquisition is particularly timely right now because the property is on the market, and is being promoted to developers as suitable for a housing development. The Great Orchard parcel is in the Residence A2 zone, which would allow 11 homes to be constructed on the property. In 2005, the owners requested that the zoning be changed to Residence A3, which would allow up to 18 homes. That request was not approved, in part because of vigorous opposition from nearby residents.

However, there are indications that the same request for a zone change may be revived in order to make the property more attractive to a potential developer.

Now is the time for the City to act on this property.



## 16th Annual Meeting Recap

Diana Young

The Waltham Land Trust held its 16th Annual meeting on October 20, 2015 at the First Parish Church. The meeting had one award, four presentations and the election of three board members.

The *Inge Uhler Environmentalist of the Year* award was given to City Councillor and Waltham Land Trust founder George Darcy. George was surprised to be honored for much more than his work as a WLT founder. Marc Rudnick said of George:

*"In his 16 years of service to the WLT, and many years on the Conservation Commission and the City Council, George has almost certainly done more to assure a legacy of conservation in this city than any other individual. He battles constantly to protect our natural resources through acquisition, re-zoning, CPA applications, far-sighted council action, and leadership at the Land Trust. And somehow he still has time to point out the native species growing along the trails!"*

George had no sooner received his award than he gave his presentation on 'A Vision: the Wellington House Property.' George gave the history of the property as well as describing his desire to restore the historic fruit orchards and some of the former farm fields, while clearing invasive species and recognizing specimen trees.

George's presentation was followed by Lesya Struz' presentation on the relationship between Cornelia Warren's family and Louis Brandeis. Brandeis was the Harvard Law School classmate and law partner of Cornelia's brother Samuel. He set up the trust that eventually decided what entities would receive Cornelia's property at her death. Lesya, who has given many wonderful tours of Cedar Hill (the Girl Scout Camp on Beaver Street) in the character of Cornelia Warren, mentioned that Samuel Warren and Louis Brandeis developed the legal basis for the right to privacy. Lesya's presentation is full of interesting facts about Brandeis and the Warren family and can be found on the WLT website.

Lesya's presentation was followed by David Kehs' presentation on the potential link between the Western Greenway to Prospect Hill Park. Dave showed how the

City's potential acquisition of One Balm Avenue and the Stigmatine property could be added to the existing open space on Jericho Hill. When Dave showed the final map of the area, there was an audible gasp. See Dave's article in this newsletter for more information

David's presentation was followed by a review of the Land Trust's fiscal 2015 results that showed a profit of \$5,533, up from \$1,863 in fiscal 2014. Net assets at year-end were \$114,415.

After a Q&A session, the Land Trust transacted the official business of the evening and reelected Dan Melnechuk, Nadene Stein and Lesya Struz to new three-year terms. The official business was followed by networking and refreshments.



*George Darcy stands with his award and WLT Program Director Sonja Wadman after the Annual Meeting*

JOHN NORTON

### 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 2016 Journal!



## THE ANNUAL GREEN SPACE BLUES JAM RETURNS!

*Nadene Stein*

We hope you can join us on Saturday, May 21st at the Hobbs Brook facility located at 175 Wyman St, Waltham, MA 02451 for the 12th Annual Green Space Blues Jam. This year's featured artist is Duke Robillard. Duke played for us several years ago; he was fantastic and we are thrilled to welcome him back to Waltham! Duke is a Grammy-nominated, blues musician who has been named the "Best Blues Guitarist" by the Blues Music Awards four times!

The night's food will be provided by Hobbs Brook Management and, if the last couple years are any indication, you are in for a delicious treat. The meal will include a huge salad bar, appetizers and yummy desserts. Beer, wine and nonalcoholic beverages are included in the ticket price, which is \$50 for WLT members.

In addition to dining and dancing, be on the lookout for a silent auction with items that include activities &

dinners in and around Waltham, homemade crafts, photography and useful services.

It is not too late to sign on as a sponsor for our Green Space Blues Jam! All money that is raised on May 21st will go directly to fund our mission: to create a legacy of land conservation in Waltham by promoting, protecting, restoring and acquiring open space!

You can purchase tickets online at [walthamlandtrust.org](http://walthamlandtrust.org). In order to become a sponsor, contact Sonja at 781.893.3355 or [swadman@walthamlandtrust.org](mailto:swadman@walthamlandtrust.org). We look forward to seeing you on the dance floor!



*Duke Robillard*

## Vernal pool obligate and facultative animal species

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Agassiz's Clam Shrimp  
Blue-spotted Salamander  
Fairy Shrimp  
Intricate Fairy Shrimp  
Marbled Salamander  
Spring Peeper  
Wood Turtle

American Clam Shrimp  
Blanding's Turtle  
Fowler's Toad  
Jefferson Salamander  
Mole Salamander  
Springtime Fairy Shrimp

American Toad  
Eastern Spadefoot Toad  
Gray Treefrog  
Knob-lipped Fairy Shrimp  
Spotted Salamander  
Wood Frog

*This stately bird is the Eurasian eagle-owl, found in abundance in the continental landmass of Europe and Asia. It is similar to our great horned owl and is one of the largest owl species; females can grow to a total length of 30 inches, with a wingspan of 6 feet 2 inches, males being slightly smaller. Its orange eyes are very distinctive. This particular eagle-owl was born into captivity so it could not survive on its own in the wild.*



JOHN NORTON

*The barn owl is the most widely distributed species of owl, and one of the most widespread of all birds. It is found almost everywhere in the world. We painted this guy at a Paint 'N' Pour fundraiser last year!*





*The barred owl is a large typical owl native to North America. In fact, we saw one in Forest Grove park along the Charles River a few years ago! Best known as the hoot owl for its distinctive call (Who cooks for you, who cooks for you all), this particular owl only has one wing, which is why she is with the Wilsons. Her boyfriend back at their compound also has one wing, so they stay happily grounded together!*



*This gorgeous snowy owl was born into captivity. Snowies are large owls, native to Arctic regions in North America and Eurasia. Younger snowy owls start with a darker plumage, which turns lighter as they get older. Males are almost all white, while females have more flecks of gray plumage. Unlike most owls, which are nocturnal, snowy owls are diurnal—they hunt and are active both day and night. A snowy owl was observed for some time at Rye Beach last winter.*



*We think this spectacled owl is super cute! It looks like it's wearing glasses. It is a large owl native to the neotropics, a resident breeder in forests from southern Mexico and Trinidad, through Central America, south to southern Brazil, Paraguay and northwestern Argentina. This one was born into captivity.*



*Nine-year old Noah grins at two darling screech owls. This species comes in two colors, are small and agile, about 7 to 10 inches tall, with a wingspan of about 18 to 24 inches. Their coloration helps them be camouflaged against tree bark.*

***On February 17, 2016, the WLT welcomed Mark and Marcia Wilson back to the Prospect Hill Park lodge for a special vacation event for children. Over 100 folks came to learn about these beautiful birds of prey. See all the photos from the program at our website, [walthamlandtrust.org](http://walthamlandtrust.org).***

*Thanks to the Waltham Cultural Council for funding part of this event.*

## Bat Box Needs a Home

The Waltham Land Trust has one large bat box available that we'd like to have installed somewhere in Waltham. In the fall of 2012, Girl Scouts Jessica Costorf and Michelle Mazares-Monga earned the Silver Award for providing community service when they researched, built and donated four bat boxes to the Waltham Land Trust. The Silver Award is the highest honor a Cadette Scout (age 12-14) can receive. Two of the boxes were installed at the UMASS Field Station, and two were provided to the Cedar Hill Girl Scout property. One of the Field Station boxes had to be taken down, and we are looking for its new home! The bat box is painted dark brown, measures 28 inches wide by 25 inches tall, and is 5.5 from back to front. It should be installed

at least 15 feet off the ground, ideally attached to a building (not a tree).

Contact Sonja at 781-893-3355 or at [swadman@walthamlandtrust.org](mailto:swadman@walthamlandtrust.org) if you'd like to help bring more bats to Waltham. Bats feed on insects, including mosquitos, so we want to encourage their numbers and provide them with shelter!



SONJA WADMAN

*The bat box at its original location.*

## Fernald Update

*George A. Darcy III*

On October 26, 2015, the Waltham City Council approved a \$1.2 million appropriation for the demolition of 20 non-historic buildings in the northwest quadrant of the 196-acre recently acquired Fernald property. Waltham Mayor Jeannette McCarthy submitted the CPA application for demolition to the Community Preservation Committee.

The buildings that will come down include four Malone Park structures, 11 cottages, Site 5, Site 7, Activity Center, Woodside, and Brookside. The cottages were constructed as a result of Judge Joseph Tauro's decree for the state to build residential-like structures for the residents of Fernald. Unfortunately, these homes were built on wetlands filled in by the state in the 1970s.

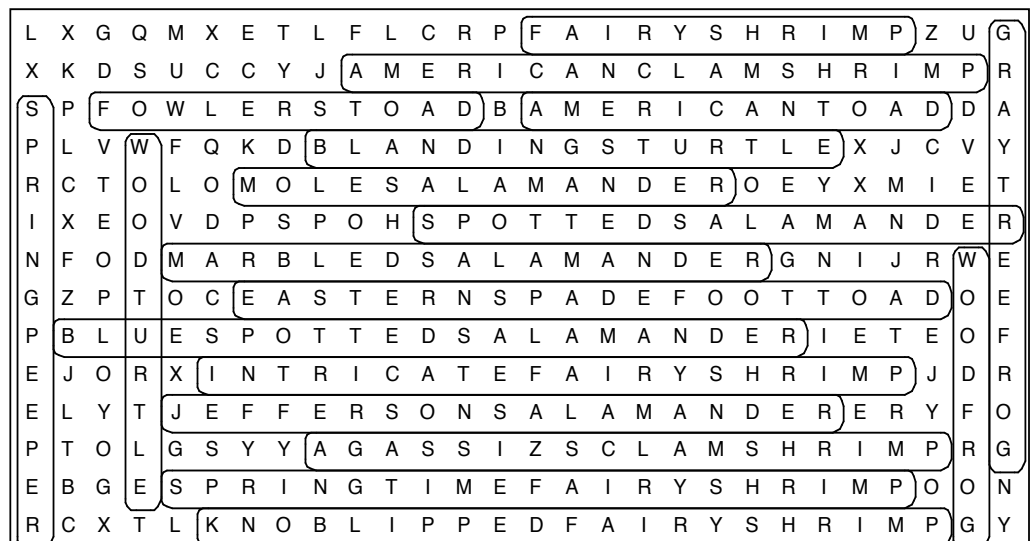
The funding for the demolition comes from a combination of both CPA open space and CPA undesignated reserve funds. The area where the demolition will occur is in the CPA-funded portion

of the city's Fernald acquisition. The demolition of these buildings is the first phase of an effort to daylight streams and restore formerly functioning wetlands. A subsequent RFP will address the detailed design and restoration of the wetlands.

The winning demolition bid of \$968,926 was awarded to the Costello Dismantling Company based in Wareham, MA. The appropriation included a 20% contingency fee. According to the RFP, the demolition work must be completed within 90 days from the date of the notice to proceed. The wetland restoration will provide critical downstream flood storage, and add additional wildlife habitat and passive recreational opportunities. There is a possibility to provide up to 1.8 million gallons of flood storage in these restored wetlands.

This article was reprinted with permission from the *Belmont Citizens Forum*.

*Answers to the Find a Word Puzzle on page 3.*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### WELLINGTON HOUSE GROUNDS CLEANUP

**Saturday, April 16, 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

785 Trapelo Road, carpool/park in driveway or on Trapelo Road

Help us continue the work we started in Fall 2014 removing volunteer shrubs and small trees from the field between the beautiful historic house and the fire station. Tools and pizza lunch provided.

### MOODY STREET CLEANUP

**Sunday, April 17, 1 – 3 p.m.**

Meet at Embassy Park, next to Garcia Brogan's, 240 Moody Street

Join our friends from Downtown Waltham Partnership in tackling one of the South side's dirtiest corridors that drains into the Charles River. Family event!

### BERTUCCI'S DINING FOR DOLLARS FUNDRAISER

**Wednesday, May 4, 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.**

Bertucci's Italian Restaurant, 475 Winter Street

Help us thank Bertucci's for donating 15 pizzas and 100 rolls to the Charles River Earth Day Clean-up! They also always generously donate pizzas to our Western Greenway 5K each Fall. Give the enclosed certificate to your 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.

### GUIDED WALK ALONG THE CHARLES RIVER

**Saturday, May 7, 1 – 2:30 p.m.**

Meet in Landry Park by the fish ladder, 154 Moody Street

Take a break from the Watch City Steampunk Festival with an easy walk along the Charles. We'll learn about the Mill and its environs as we trek over the beautiful new boardwalk that passes by the Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation. After continuing under Elm Street on the new paved pathway, we'll cross to the other side of the river and look for wildlife at various places before turning around and returning to the festivities. Costumed participants encouraged!

### WELLINGTON HOUSE GROUNDS CLEANUP

**Saturday, May 14, 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

785 Trapelo Road, carpool/park in driveway or on Trapelo Road

We'll hopefully finish removing volunteer shrubs and small trees from the field between the house and fire station, preparing it for pumpkins, wild flowers, and more. Tools and pizza lunch provided.

### 12TH ANNUAL GREEN SPACE BLUES JAM

**Saturday, May 21, 7 – 11 p.m.**

Hobbs Brook Management facility, 175 Wyman Street

Attend the Land Trust's major fundraiser, this year featuring blues guitar legend Duke Robillard and his band. Ticket price (\$50 for members) includes a delicious dinner with plenty of choices and drinks (beer, wine, non-alcoholic beverages), plus access to our silent auction. Check our website soon for details and to buy tickets.

### WAGON WHEEL FUNDRAISER

**Saturday, May 28, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.**

Wagon Wheel Farm Stand, 927 Waltham Street, Lexington

It's Memorial Day weekend, time to buy garden supplies! Pick up your seeds and soil, plus groceries, deli sandwiches, flowers, fruit baskets, fish, etc. Tell the cashier you love the Waltham Land Trust, and we'll provide something at our website if you need a reminder! Not valid on mulch orders, landscaping services, or deliveries.

### NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

**Saturday, June 4**

time and location tbd

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

### WALTHAM RIVERFEST WALK

**Saturday, June 18, 10 – 11:30 a.m.**

Meet in Landry Park by the fish ladder, 154 Moody Street

Missed the walk during Steampunk? Kick off the 8th Annual Waltham Riverfest with the same easy stroll along the Charles from the Moody Street Dam downstream to wildlife viewing platforms east of Newton Street and back. We'll discuss the history of the river, look for signs of wildlife, and return to Waltham Riverfest activities in time for the Opening Ceremonies and Parade. All day long, festival attendees can soak up live music on multiple stages, observe artists painting along the river, buy crafts from vendors on a closed Moody Street Bridge, enjoy kids activities, 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 Moonlit Paddle happening on Friday, June 17. Ticket price includes a three-hour guided canoe tour and snacks on the river!

WALTHAM



Waltham Land Trust  
PO Box 541120  
Waltham MA 02454-1120

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**Waltham Land Trust Journal** © 2016 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](http://www.walthamlandtrust.org)>.

*Officers:* Nadene Stein (President), Maureen Bagge Fowler  
(Vice Pres.), David Kehs (Clerk), Marc Rudnick (Treasurer)

*Directors:* Natalie Berland, Martha Creedon, Marie Daly, George  
Darcy, John Dieckmann, Betsy Lewenberg, Brian McCormick,  
Daniel Melnechuk, Stephen Rourke, Lesya Struz, Jim Walker,  
Diana Young

## 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!*





*DINING FOR DOLLARS FUNDRAISER*

When you present this flyer, 15% of what you spend will be donated  
to the Waltham Land Trust

**Wednesday, May 4, 2016. 11:00 am – 10:00 pm**

Dine in, Carry Out or Delivery

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



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Phone 781-684-065