

West Boylston Land Trust



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Issue #5

www.wblt.org

P.O. Box 25, West Boylston, MA 01583
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October is Membership Month!

Please renew your membership and encourage a friend or neighbor to become a member today! WBLT is in its fifth year as a non-profit land conservation organization.



Fall Cleanup

Saturday, November 6 at 9:00 a.m. Rain date Sunday, November 7 at 1:00 p.m. Bring work gloves, rake, clippers, and lots of positive energy!

Visit Us

At our website for information pertaining to the West Boylston Land Trust, and links to other interesting conservation sites. Also, look for us on the local cable channel 11.

We Need You

To help protect the natural beauty and rural character of the land we call our home. Please help us identify potential parcels of land for conservation and donation.

Presidents Perspective

On behalf of the trustees, I would like to thank our members for their encouragement and support over the past few months. As the MDC sewer project winds down, and as developers are looking for any available piece of land to build on, it is more important than ever to renew our efforts to preserve the natural beauty and rural character of the town. In the hopes of adding to our Pine Glen location on Goodale Street, (a gift from Jim and Janice Girouard), we are in various stages of discussion with a number of landowners about possible future gifts of land or conservation restrictions. In addition, we will be working closely with the Open Space Advisory Committee on a number of action steps set forth in West Boylston's Five Year Action Plan.

To continue to move ahead, we need help from all of our members. Please respond to our requests for "hands-on help". You can make a difference. For instance we need help designing better access to the Pine Glen property, making it a more welcoming site for a proposed educational program. In addition, we encourage all our members to let us know if they would like to discuss a possible gift of a parcel of land, or of a conservation restriction. Through our connections with the Land Trust Alliance, and the Land Trust Coalition, we have excellent resources to call upon to make any land conservation opportunity become a beneficial reality to all of the parties involved. Also, let us know if any of your friends and neighbors might be interested in protecting some of their land.

Finally, we realize that much more needs to be done to "get the word out" about the need to conserve, protect, and preserve our land, and just how this can be accomplished. The trustees welcome the opportunity to talk with community groups and organizations about the Land Trust and its mission; and to provide information and resource materials about the land conservation process.

Again, thanks for your help in the past, and keep us in mind!

George Bernardin
President

What's in a Name ...

Plenty! Shakespeare knew it and so does any product marketing guru. Recently Bob Hyde was struck by a creative spark when he came up with the name Pine Glen for the parcel of land formerly known as the Girouard property on Goodale Street between Malden Street and Marsh Hawk Way. The new name is in recognition of the majestic white pine which seems to embody much of our aspirations.

Our New Signs

Gerry Gomes has worked with QNP in Connecticut to create our new land trust property signs. A sign will be placed at Pine Glen during the fall work day on November 6th. All future parcels of land that we acquire will proudly feature the same signs.

Lets work hard together to place more of these signs around town. Preserving open space in an increasingly crowded world is critical to maintaining the rural quality of our town.

Take a Hike!

Everyday, at different hours nature changes the view. Get out and see the sights.

"There is in fact a sort of harmony discoverable between the capabilities of the landscape within a circle of ten miles' radius, or the limits of an afternoon walk, and the threescore years and ten of human life. It will never become quite familiar to you."

Thoreau



You Can Do It, We Can Help

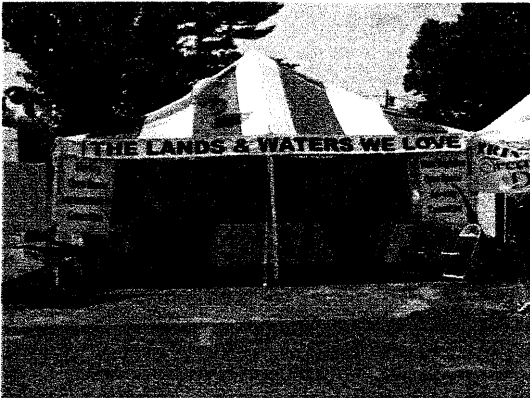
Most of us are familiar with the anecdote of the dog which runs after a car and, much to his astonishment, he catches it! Now what? And what does that tale of canine confusion have to do with your Land Trust? What, indeed?

Well, we currently have a parcel of land which we hold in a trust as open space. It is a truly lovely place, recently named Pine Glen. The terrain falls steeply away from the roadway along the bed of a vernal stream to an inviting glen. Beyond is a pleasant level area. The dog would not have much success fanging a tire or clamping on the rear bumper to give the car a good shake. We, however, can have good success at Pine Glen in order to enable prudent use and enjoyment of the property by everyone.

Naturally, we want to encourage attractive plants, and discourage and eliminate injurious and invasive plants. As importantly, we need to build an access path from the street level down into the glen. We are faced with two kinds of work. First, we need routine, seasonal maintenance. Second, we need a construction project to create a safe and environmentally responsible stairway and path into the property. Up until now, much of the work in getting the West Boylston Land Trust launched, including acquiring Pine Glen has been accomplished by your Board of Trustees. Now we need you, the members, to help by leading the maintenance effort and the access path project. You may or may not have much experience in either activity, that's OK. Everyone can pitch in. We need some one to take the lead and your Board is ready and willing to support you in any way we can. Please step up to the plate and contact Diane Gilson at 508-835-9859 or at difi@fishpaint.com

At the Fair

The West Boylston Open Space Advisory Committee shared a tent with the Sterling Open Space Implementation Committee at the Sterling Fair September 10-12th. The theme of the newly formed joint coalition was *The Land and Waters we Love*. Other town open space committees, land preservation and conservation groups from central Massachusetts joined together beneath a 20' x 20' tent to support the mission



of this developing coalition led by the combined efforts of Sterling and West Boylston. The mission of the Open Space committees is to foster a regional coalition of conservation, preservation and agricultural organizations working with recreation committees to protect and preserve the lands and waters we love.

Officers and Trustees

- George Bernardin, President
508-835-4362
- Mike Peckar, Treasurer
508-835-2959
- Dave Sweetman, Secretary
508-835-3761
- Steven Davis, 508-835-6324
- Chris Drappi, 508-835-4045
- Ted Gallagher, 508-835-4840
- Diane Gilson, 508-835-9859
- Gerry Gomes, 508-835-2719
- Bob Hyde, 508-835-4500
- Peter Marshall, 508-835-4689
- Bob Tashjian, 508-835-6258

WBLT Members Social

Please join us at a members get together at George Bernardin's house, 78 Newton Street. Thursday, November 11th from 5:30-7:00 p.m. Meet the trustees and other members of the WBLT and hear a brief update of where we've been, and with your input; where we are headed.

Please let us know if you can join us by contacting Diane Gilson at 508-835-9859, or difi@fishpaint.com, or simply return the information below to:

WBLT
P.O. Box 25
West Boylston, MA 01583



**Members Social
November 11, 2004
5:30-7:00**

Name _____

**Will
Attend**

**Will
Not
Attend**