

# West Boylston Land Trust



January 2003  
Issue #3

[www.wblt.org](http://www.wblt.org)

P.O. Box 25, West Boylston, MA 01583  
Editor: Diane Gilson (508-835-9859)

## Did You Know

We now have a website, thanks to the efforts of Trustee Rick Quimby. Visit us at [www.wblt.org](http://www.wblt.org) to find general information about the Land Trust, our properties, maps and photos, membership information, and relevant conservation links.

## Get Involved

Be a part of a work party. From mid-March through the end of April we will have two or three work parties to continue the trash removal effort and minor brush cutting at the Girouard property on Goodale Street. Please call Gerry Gomes (508-835-2719) if you'd like us to contact you with the dates and times for this activity.

## Save the Date

Saturday, March 15, 2003  
Massachusetts Land Trust Conference  
Bancroft School, Worcester, Massachusetts  
This is a very informative annual event. If you would like to attend this conference with members of the WBLT, please contact Dave Sweetman (508-835-3761).

## Presidents Perspective

I am pleased to report that West Boylston Land trust is making steady progress toward our objective of preserving open space, agricultural lands, lands of historic sites, and areas of ecological interest. In November of 2001, we received our first donation of land, through the generosity of Jim and Janice Girouard. This is a wooded lot on Goodale Street which is traversed by a seasonal stream. By keeping this lot in its undeveloped condition, we are enhancing the natural features of the neighborhood. In the future, we hope that we will be able to extend the protection to additional sections of the stream, as well as to nearby woods.

During the past few months we have been approached by a landowner with regard to granting to us a conservation restriction (often called a "CR"), on nine acres of land in the southern section of town. Under a CR the landowner makes a legal agreement which permanently limits the use of property in order to protect its conservation values. This is a very commonly used technique for protecting land; and would be our first CR. The owner has contacted a lawyer to work out the details, and we hope to have the arrangement finalized early in the new year.

Two events during the past year demonstrated the need for all of us to work together to protect our open spaces and woodlands from development, to the extent possible. One of these incidents was related to a proposal of some of the Parks Commissioners to bulldoze a large portion of the remaining wooded section of Goodale Park in order to build additional playing fields. Over 1,000 townspeople signed petitions protesting against this proposal. Early in 2003 we will be investigating the feasibility of having the town impose a conservation restriction on portions of Goodale Park to prevent the wooded sections from being converted to athletic fields - as was proposed a few months ago.

The other incident was a proposal by a developer to build over 150 apartments on an 8 acre site on Prospect Street, even though the land is zoned for single family residences, and is part of the aquifer protection area for the town wells. Because of Chapter 40A of the General Laws, (the so-called anti-snob zoning law), the Prospect Street housing project may be hard to stop if it is reactivated.

## **Second Annual Meeting**

In May we had our second annual meeting, hosted by Elise and Roger Wellington. We had an excellent presentation from Paul Schlaikjer, President of the Princeton Land Trust - which after ten years of existence, is actively moving ahead with many land acquisitions and CRs. At this meeting we thanked Barbara Wyatt, Vinnie Vignaly, Elise Wellington, Paul Henault and Marvin Lainer for their many contributions to the West Boylston Land Trust over its first two years as trustees, with Marvin also serving as Treasurer and Elise serving as Secretary.

## **New Trustees**

Ted Gallagher  
Gerry Gomes  
Diane Gilson  
Peter Marshall  
Rick Quimby  
Dave Sweetman, Secretary  
Mike Peckar, Treasurer.

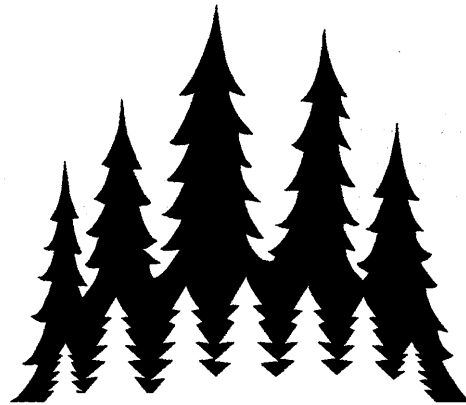
## **MassLand E-News**

Our organization is a member of the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition, which provides many types of educational and technical assistance. The Coalition has an email newsletter containing relevant information about developments and news of interest to the land protection community. If you would like to subscribe, send an email request to: [info@massland.org](mailto:info@massland.org)

## **Presidents Perspective, cont.**

We urgently need the help of our members and friends in identifying potential land donations for the land Trust, as well as land that might be appropriate for a conservation restriction. There are tax and other advantages to the owners, along with the satisfaction of helping the town maintain its natural charm. Please contact me, or any of the trustees if you have any suggestions, or if you require further information. We would be glad to meet with any interested party to explain our mission, to provide technical information, and to discuss possible donations to the Land Trust. We currently have a great deal of resource materials available and would be delighted to share it with anyone who is interested.

George Bernardin  
President  
December 2002



## **Conservation Has Roots in Massachusetts**

Private commitment to land conservation is deeply rooted in Massachusetts. It began with Henry David Thoreau who recognized the need to preserve the natural landscape in his native Concord. A generation later many private initiatives continued the tradition, among them the Appalachian Mountain Club (1876) and the Trustees of Reservations (1891). The Trustees of Reservations was the first land trust to serve a broader region. Founded by Boston landscape architect Charles Eliot with the expectation that private landowners and supporters would respond generously to the call for conservation. The Trustees of Reservations became the model for land trusts throughout the United States and the World. Today there are thousands of land trust organizations with millions of members all concerned with conserving land.

### **Save the Date**

Saturday, March 15, 2003  
Massachusetts Land Trust Conference  
Bancroft School, Worcester,  
Massachusetts

This is a very informative annual event. If you would like to attend this conference with members of the WBLT, please contact Dave Sweetman (508-835-3761).

### **Officers and Trustees**

George Bernardin, President  
508-835-4362  
Mike Peckar, Treasurer  
508-835-2959  
Dave Sweetman, Secretary  
508-835-3761  
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  
Rick Quimby, 508-835-6567  
Bob Tashjian, 508-835-6258

**To join the WBLT, contact one of the trustees above.**

### **Conservation Has Roots, cont.**

Private landowners in Massachusetts have conserved more than 100,000 acres of the natural and cultural landscape since 1891. The saved parcels range from small wetlands and historic sites, to forests of several thousand acres. The landowners come from all walks of life, and all income levels. Their motivations vary - from wanting to share the natural beauty they have protected through their own care and foresight, to fearing that estate taxes will prevent their children from keeping lands in the family, to seeking relief from income and/or property taxes. Although their motivations vary, they are united by their deep appreciation for the land.

There are several conservation methods to choose from, many offering attractive tax advantages to help reduce estate, income and property taxes. Give us the opportunity to help you explore some of the possibilities; we understand that an individual's conservation strategy must be based on a clear-headed assessment of the individual landowner's situation, the land, the available options, and their own wishes for the future of that land.

### **New Members**

We welcome the following new members to the West Boylston Land Trust:

- Maria Benson and Lionel Bella
- Jeanne and Gillis Borge
- Dr. Richard Bream
- Ray and Janet Bricault
- Tina and Paul Buono
- Donald and Shirley Cameron
- Raymond DeSanti
- Germaine Dono
- Peter and Heidi Dumas
- Richard and Karen Footner
- Aaron III and Beverly Goodale
- Jonathan and Monica Lowell
- Diane and Douglas Meystre
- Michael Mudd
- Nathaniel Nash
- Gary Orciani
- Dr. John Sanders
- Dick Taylor