



Westford Conservation Trust Newsletter

WWW.WESTFORDCONSERVATIONTRUST.ORG

FALL 2009

Join Us for the Trust's Annual Meeting
Celebrating 25 years of Conservation!

Thursday, November 5th at 7:30pm
Parish Center for the Arts—Westford Common

Guest Speaker Dr. Jonathan Way

The Secret Life of the Eastern Coyote

Little is known about coyotes in suburban and urban settings but research by Massachusetts resident Dr. Jonathan Way is providing unique insights into these fascinating, highly successful predators. Jon has closely studied the ecology and behavior of the Eastern Coyote. Dr. Way will present a fascinating slide presentation about his research on these intelligent creatures now living in our midst. Meeting is free of charge. Refreshments will be served. For more information call: Marian Harman at 978-692-3907.

We will also have a slide show of 'Westford Wildlife Watch' photos from our many local wildlife reporters!



Dr. Jonathan Way handling and collaring a coyote

Conservation Trustee Award

This year, the Trust will be awarding the **Conservation Trustee Award for 2009** to **Emily Teller**. Emily is currently involved as Westford Director and Secretary for the ***Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, Inc.***, an all-volunteer group which has worked in partnership with state and local governments toward completion of the newly-opened rail trail in Westford. Phase I, which runs 6.8 miles, beginning at Cross Point in Lowell and continuing through Chelmsford and Westford, was completed in August 2009. Emily also served as Media Coordinator for the Stop Wal-Mart group in 1993, and was appointed by the Selectmen to serve on the Drew Farms Committee which protected the "gateway to Westford" land from being developed.

Business

The meeting will begin with the Trust's yearly business. Our bylaws state that elections for Directors, Associate Directors, Clerk, and Treasurer be held at the annual meeting. Our guest speaker will follow this brief business meeting. Refreshments will also be served. For more information, call Marian Harman at 692-3907. Hope to see you there!

Everyday Wilderness: Part One *by Bill Morton*

I recently had the chance to visit The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas. The Center is dedicated to the preservation, propagation, and enjoyment of native plants. There are formal gardens, filled with native plants that unfortunately wouldn't survive here in Westford. There were also trails through meadows and scrub trees. There is a lovely visitor center, and an active greenhouse. When I returned to Westford from my travels, I was able to appreciate our own native plants and landscape more because of my experience there.

In Westford, we have a chance to protect some special places where wilderness, whatever is left of it here in the Northeast, might survive on a modest scale to inspire us, and future generations. We have the opportunity to learn about native plants, and their benefits for local wildlife, the landscape, and for us. I invite all of you to find a trail in Westford that you haven't made the acquaintance of, and take a walk on it this season.

I will conclude this small dispatch on native plants with a suggestion which I will tie together for you in paraphrased words from



Mr. H.D. Thoreau: in the winter, all the tree-trunks are gray and brown, and are similarly silhouetted against the sky.; in summer, they are hard to distinguish from one another, as they are all clothed in green; but in autumn, one can really get to know the personality of the trees, as each displays its own individuality in all its brilliant color.

Fall and Winter Trust Walks

All Walks are free of charge and run rain or shine.

Check our website for more info and updates!



Saturday, November 7, 9 am- A Walk on the Tom Paul Trail

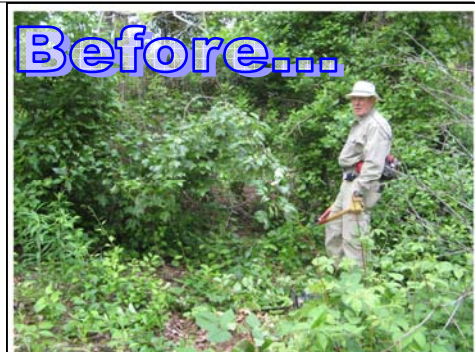
Meet at the Roudenbush Community Center and walk to the Stone Arch Bridge- about three miles. You can walk back, or park a car at the bridge for your return. Terrain is woodsy and rolling.

Saturday, December 5th, 9 am - Greystone Pond

Enjoy a winter walk along trails around beautiful Greystone Pond, with Trust member Kate Hollister. Sociable dogs on leash are welcome. Be prepared for snow. Park at the Greystone Recreation Area on Russell's Way. For more information call Kate at 978-392-6802.

Saturday, January 2nd, 9 am - Richard Emmet Conservation Land, Trailside Way

Enjoy the beauty of this large parcel of conservation land in the Silent Season with Trust member Kate Hollister. Sociable dogs on leash are welcome. Be prepared for snow. Park at the end of Trailside Way, off Powers Rd., in the Town parking area off the cul-de-sac. For more information call Kate at 978-392-6802.



Trail clearing volunteer Frank Bashore just before beginning to clear a heavy growth of bittersweet on the MacDougall trail. The 2nd photo shows the same view after Frank, Beau Walsh and Bob Murphy trimmed it!



October 24, 2009

International Day of Climate Action

350.org is an international campaign dedicated to building a movement to unite the world around solutions to the climate crisis--the solutions that science and justice demand.

On October 24, 2009, GWEN (Global Warming Education Network), along with many other local organizations, will be holding a **Regional Energy Revolution Rally** at the Old North Bridge in Concord, MA -- site of the opening battle of the American Revolution of 1775. All concerned citizens are invited to participate in this historic event.

The event will be one of over one thousand similar events that will be held around the world to show support for a strong international climate treaty to be negotiated at the December United Nations talks in Copenhagen.

For more info, go to www.350.org or www.gwenet.org

Call Marian at 978-692-3907 for local carpool info.

**Global Climate Action Day
October 24, 2009**

You owe it to yourself and your children to join with the citizens of all surrounding towns for this free regional event.

Whether you are from Acton, Belmont, Beverly, Boston, Cambridge, Carlisle, Concord, Framingham, Lexington, Watertown, Weston or beyond -- we urge you to attend!

Speakers, American History and Fun!
Saturday, October 24th, 2PM
Minuteman National Park, Concord, MA
Adjacent to the North Bridge Visitor Center on Liberty Street.

For more information:
www.350.org
www.gwenet.org

Water Quality Testing 2009



Matt Wormell gets some guidance from wetlands biologist Peter Severance at Forge Pond in Westford.



The two, avid fishermen testing Westford's streams are Matt Wormell and Michael Gallucci. Both are sophomores at Westford Academy.



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Westford, MA

Westford Conservation Trust, Inc.
P.O. Box 255
Westford, MA 01886



Check our website for more info on the Eastern Coyote!

Join the Trust

Name _____
Address _____

Phone (optional)/Email _____

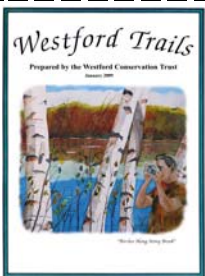
Check here if interested in volunteering for trail maintenance
 Check here if interested in volunteering for educational efforts

Please make tax deductible check payable to : **Westford Conservation Trust**

Please mail to : **Westford Conservation Trust P.O. Box 255
Westford, Ma. 01886**

Or join online at www.westfordconservationtrust.org

\$25 Individual
 \$40 Family
 \$100-500 Friend
 \$500-1000 Patron
 \$1000 Supporter
 Other



TRAIL BOOKLET

The new version of the Trails Booklet has been printed and is available for \$5.00 at Roudenbush Community Center.