



Westford Conservation Trust Newsletter

WWW.WESTFORDCONSERVATIONTRUST.ORG

SPRING 2010

Volunteers Needed for Early Detection Invasive Plant Surveys

SUASCO Watershed Cooperative Invasive Species Management Association Urgently Needs Volunteers

New England Wild Flower Society is seeking volunteers to help with the Sudbury-Assabet-Concord River Watershed Cooperative Invasive Species Management Association (SuAsCo CISMA)'s EARLY DETECTION INVASIVE PLANT SURVEYS.

The goal of the project is to develop a prioritized list of invasive plant populations for management by means of documentation, mapping, and control of early detection invasive plants that are just starting to enter the Sudbury-Assabet-Concord (SUASCO) River watershed area.

Volunteers receive one day of training in early detection invasive surveys, then are assigned to survey for the target species.

The training sessions run from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., and include a power-point presentation on the early detection species with a discussion of their identification, habitats, impacts, and control. The rest of the morning includes a discussion of survey and documentation methods, survey locations, use of GPS, and how/where to report findings. Volunteers will receive training packets and invasive plant identification guides at the training.

The afternoon part of the training is primarily in the field, honing your skills in invasive plant identification

and documentation. The SuAsCo CISMA partnership plans to start controlling some of the populations documented by volunteers within this field season.

After the training session, volunteers are assigned to specific sites in their hometowns (and further afield, if they prefer) to look for the invasive plant species listed below. The SuAsCo CISMA partnership plans to survey in each of the watershed's 36 towns.

To volunteer for the training and survey work, please contact Ted Elliman, Vegetation Management Coordinator for New England Wild Flower Society at [telli-man@newenglandwild.org](mailto:telliman@newenglandwild.org), or by phone at 508-877-7630 x 3203.

The eleven early detection species that are the targets of the survey, taken from the Massachusetts Invasive Plant Advisory Group list, are:

- Flowering Rush (*Butomus umbellatus*)
- Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)
- Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*)
- Kudzu (*Pueraria montana*)
- Mile-a-minute vine (*Polygonum perfoliatum*)
- Reed mannagrass (*Glyceria maxima*)
- Tansy ragwort/ stinking willie (*Senecio jacobaea*)
- Brazilian waterweed (*Egeria densa*)
- Great yellowcress (*Rorippa amphibia*)
- Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*)

Parrot-feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)

This is an extremely important project for the 36 towns which comprise the Sudbury-Assabet-Concord River watershed area. It is most important that these invasive plants populations be documented, then removed to protect our native plant populations and their habitats.

All volunteers under 18 must have a permission form signed by a parent or guardian. Email Ted Elliman (telliman@newenglandwild.org) for a copy.



Kudzu Leaf Showing Three Leaflets and Lobes on the Apical Leaflet. IPAMS



For more *Oriental Bittersweet –MCI* info on invasives, check out our website at www.westfordconservationtrust.org

Weekly WCT Tuesday Morning Hikes –Come join us!

MIT Hike, February 2010



Tuesday Morning Group enjoying the gorgeous view from MIT Haystack trails on a sunny February morning! For further info, contact Bill Harman at harmannwh@comcast.net

40th Anniversary of Earth Day

The Earth Day CLIMATE RALLY – National Mall – Sunday, April 25, 2010

The first Earth Day was a success because 20 million Americans demonstrated their outrage for the state of the environment. Together, we can make Earth Day 2010 a pivotal moment in the environmental movement.

On Sunday, April 25, Earth Day Network will organize a massive climate rally on The National Mall in Washington, D.C. to demand Congress pass strong legislation. The Climate Rally will include speeches from environmental stewards Reverend Jesse Jackson, film director, James Cameron,

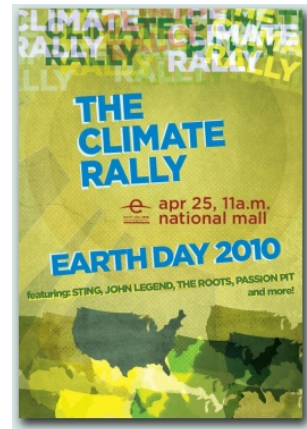
AFL-CIO President, Richard Trumka, Olympic gold medalist, Billy Demong, producer, Trudie Styler, author, Margaret Atwood and others.

Can't go? Sign the Earth Day Climate Petition to demand a comprehensive climate bill from Congress. The signatures of this petition will be presented to the U.S. Congress on Sunday, April 25, 2010 during The Climate Rally on the National Mall.

For more info go to earthday.org

Celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day right here in Westford by joining our Tuesday Morning group as

they hike on a local trail on April 20th! All are welcome! For more info, email Bill Harman harmanwh@comcast.net



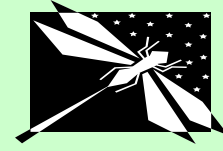
An Early Spring Tuesday hike along the Stone Arch Bridge Trail

If you are interested in joining our email list for occasional emails regarding urgent trust issues or upcoming events, please contact our president, Bill Morton at williamc.morton@gmail.com



'First Saturday' Walk on March 6th with President Bill Morton at East Boston Camps. Photo credit: David Sherrill

WCT Spring Walks

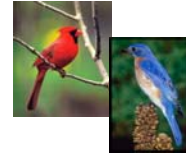


Bird Walk

Saturday, May 8, 7:00-9:00 AM, rain or shine

Emmet Conservation Land

Trailside Way off Powers Rd., Westford



In May, the woods are alive with the sound of birdsong! Join Westford Conservation Trust members Lenny Palmer, Dot Mooney and Marian Harman, for a look at some of our spring migrant and resident birds. We will also see who is using Nashoba (aka. Kennedy) Pond. Bring binoculars, but no dogs please. Walk is about 2 miles over rocky terrain. Wear good walking shoes. Park in the town parking lot off the cul-de-sac at the end of Trailside way. Call Marian Harman for more information: 978-692-3907

Wildflower Walk

Sunday, May 17, 1:00 pm-2:30 pm, rain or shine

Greystone Pond Recreation Area, Westford

May is the perfect time to find spring wildflowers. Join wildflower expert Elana Schreiber for a walk around Greystone Pond to look for these beauties. Walk is slow-paced, 1- 2 miles, and can be muddy. Park at the recreation area parking lot off Russell's Way, just past the second bridge over wetlands. A sign marked "Trails" designates the dirt road into the parking lot. Call Marian Harman for more information: 978-692-3907



Spring Walk-a-bout

Saturday, June 5, 9:00-11:00 AM

Emmet Conservation Land, rain or shine

Celebrate *National Trails Day* and join Westford Conservation Trust director Lenny Palmer for a walk on the Emmet Conservation Land. There should be wildflowers and many birds to spot. Bring binoculars if possible. Meet at the end of Trailside Way in the Emmet Land parking lot. For more information, call Len Palmer at 978-392-9876.



Please note: There are trail maintenance walks every Tuesday morning and on the first Saturday morning of each month. Contact Bill Harman at harmanwb@comcast.net to be put on the notification list for these walks.



Non Profit
Organization
Postage Paid
Permit #86
Westford, MA

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



*Check our
website to
hear the
sounds of the
Baltimore
Oriole*

Join the Trust

Name _____
Address _____
Phone (optional)/Email _____

Check here if interested in volunteering for trail maintenance

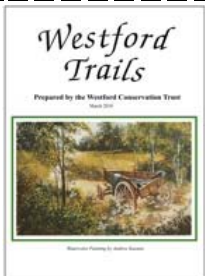
Check here if interested in volunteering for educational efforts

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 newest version of the Trails Booklet has been printed and is available for \$5.00 at Roudenbush and Town Clerk's office. This version features a beautiful water color painting by local artist Andrew Kusmin.