



Trail Markers

Weston Forest and Trail Association

Dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of open space in Weston

WestonForestTrail.org

The WFTA Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 2nd, 2021 at 4pm

Because of the ongoing COVID restrictions, our Annual Meeting will be held online again. All are welcome to tune in. We will provide a Zoom link on our website, [Facebook page](https://facebook.com/wfta) and via our monthly e-news.

“We need the tonic of wildness.” Henry David Thoreau

Weston Forest and Trail Association (WFTA) has been looking after the town’s trails and open spaces since 1955, but this past year has highlighted how necessary these green sanctuaries are for our well-being. We have sought refuge inside cathedrals of white pines and beside streams that have followed their mossy courses for generations. We are filled with gratitude for this green legacy we inherited and the solace and freedom it has provided during a pandemic our founders couldn’t have imagined.

What can we do now for our descendants? Our challenge today is to provide better access to our open spaces. Some of this work is ongoing: last year our Trails Manager (see article on page 2) **CLEARED HUNDREDS OF DOWNED TREES** and maintained nearly 100 miles of trails. Working with volunteers, we **BUILT OR REPAIRED DOZENS OF BRIDGES and STREAM CROSSINGS** (see page 2).

We can do even more to improve access to our open spaces by working with landowners to add additional trail easements and/or parcels of land that create corridors of open space for the benefit of people and wildlife. We continue to work hard to welcome people of all ages onto our wonderful woodland trails, from leading our traditional monthly hikes, to walks with the Council on Aging, to our new **JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM**, which we proudly introduced this year (see page 3 for more information).

There is always more we can do to preserve and protect our open spaces as natural, native, and healing landscapes, and your generosity makes this work possible.

Thank you for your support! — WFTA Board of Trustees

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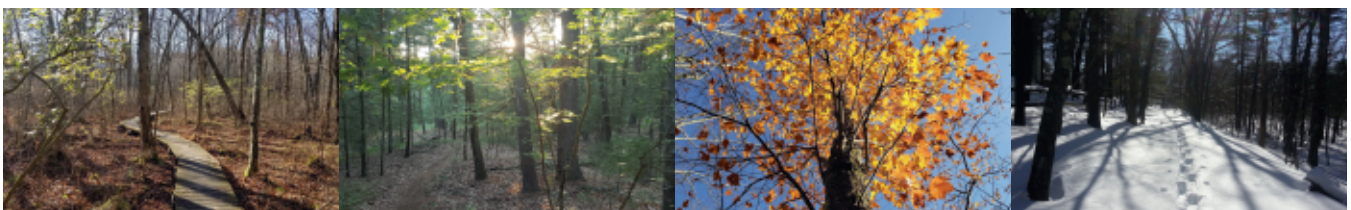
Ann Wiedie — Treasurer

Barbara Zenker

Join Us!

Please join your neighbors. Go to WestonForestTrail.org or complete and send the form on page 3 to renew your membership. Or if not a member, consider joining WFTA to support this work. You will be in good company.

Find yourself in Nature!



Land Stewardship

"Nature is not a place to visit. It is our home." Gary Snyder

Since 1955 WFTA's mission has been to provide access to our open spaces by maintaining a network of trails. A major part of this work is trimming back the encroaching forest, clearing fallen trees and making sure our 100 miles of trails stay passable and beautiful. Lynn Atkins, our Trails Manager, performs the lion's share of this work. In addition, dozens of volunteers contributed hundreds of hours to special projects, a few of which are shown here.

Daniel Brown and Boy Scouts working on new boardwalk



High school volunteers repairing bogwalk



Woodland Conservation Area



Gillon Lim and fellow Boy Scouts, Town Hall Trail



AMC volunteers building bogwalk



Troll Bridge in College Conservation Area



A Message from our Trails Manager, Lynn Atkins

It was a busy year! Windstorms and an increasing growing season due to climate change brought lots of work to be done. Clearing big trees is always an interesting puzzle to solve. I like to leave a batch of cookies (slices from the trunk) when I am finished. When you see these treasures, feel free to help yourself. Of my many 2020 projects, the most fun one was replacing the bridge on the Sears property off Church Street, with locally sourced white cedar supports.

While crisscrossing trails in Weston, I see and hear many species of wildlife. My favorite recent encounter was a rare Saw-whet Owl. We surprised each other as it was sitting over a trail on a low hemlock branch.

If you see me in the woods, scouting trails, sawing, pruning, weed-whacking, raking, fixing trail-markers, building a bridge... stop by and say hello.



2020 Treasurer's Report

CASH (and EQUIVALENTS) INCOME		EXPENSES		MEMBERS	
Dues	\$35,540	Land Stewardship	\$59,441	Naturalist (\$35)	148
Gifts	\$6,950	Office	\$8,741	Explorer (\$70)	39
Book/Map Sales, Misc	\$784	Insurance & Accounting	\$4,717	Guardian (\$100)	209
Investment Income	\$1,333	Map Printing	\$405	Steward (\$250)	30
Weston Reservoir Fund	\$2,730	Weston Reservoir Fund	\$2,134	Trailblazer (\$500)	27
				George Bates Endowment	16
TOTAL INCOME	\$47,337	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$75,438	TOTAL MEMBERS	469

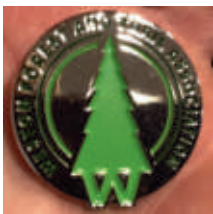
This was a record year for membership income (up 50%, and a third of members were new to WFTA), and office expenses were down. Still, we are grateful for investment income from the George Bates Endowment Fund to help cover our main expense — Land Stewardship. This primarily includes our Trails Manager, who clears trails of fallen trees, makes other routine improvements, and undertakes a number of special projects. The full Treasurer's Report is available on WestonForestTrail.org.

Get Involved

Looking for ways you can help protect Weston's open spaces for the enjoyment of all? If you would like to learn more about any of these possibilities, please email us at WestonForestTrail@gmail.com.

- Mow field-trails, monitor woodland trails in your neighborhood, help build bridges and boardwalks, or remove invasives,
- Organize and promote new activities for kids and families,
- Manage our list of valued volunteers, including Scouts and local student groups,
- Work with Weston Public Library to organize a *Find Yourself in Nature* speaker series,
- Help to promote new trail easements in your neighborhood,
- Draft articles for our website, local paper, e-newsletter and social media accounts.

WFTA Junior Ranger Program



Spring is here and the time is right for kids to become WFTA Junior Rangers. The program encourages outdoor learning, flora and fauna identification, and good stewardship of Weston's natural places. After completing a series of fun outdoor tasks, children earn an official Junior Ranger Pin and Certificate. To find out more, please go to WestonForestTrail.org/get-outside.



Join us! Send the form below by mail: WFTA, PO Box 665, Weston, MA 02493, or join online: WestonForestTrail.org.

Weston Forest and Trail Association, Inc. — Annual Membership Dues

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Select a membership level: ☐ \$35 Naturalist ☐ \$250 Steward ☐ Other: _____
☐ \$70 Explorer ☐ \$500 Trailblazer
☐ \$100 Guardian ☐ \$1000 George Bates Society



Weston Forest and Trail Association, Inc.
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[Instagram](#). We love hearing from
you and hope you'll join us!