



# WELLESLEY CONSERVATION COUNCIL

PO Box 81129, Wellesley Hills, MA 02481

[www.wellesleyconservationcouncil.org](http://www.wellesleyconservationcouncil.org) email us: [info@wellesleyconservationcouncil.org](mailto:info@wellesleyconservationcouncil.org) (781) 235-3090 Like us on Facebook!

## President's Message

By Fred Fortmiller

Dear Members and Friends,

In 2016 your Wellesley Conservation Council led many exciting activities to further our mission and we greeted many new members to our community. Welcome!

Front and center in our work over the last year, as well as that upcoming in 2017, has been involving neighbors of the Council's 45+ acres of parcels in their preservation and maintenance. We are very excited to announce the creation of the Friends of Guernsey Sanctuary, a neighborhood group dedicated to caretaking work of the wooded property on Winding River Road that will serve as a

*Join or renew your membership for 2017 and help the Council preserve and protect Wellesley's natural open spaces*

## Clearing Vernal Pools of Debris

Building on last year's success cleaning out the vernal pool on the Town's North 40 property, a group of WCC members and concerned neighbors were galvanized to clear a fallen tree and other debris from the Guernsey Sanctuary's vernal pool.

Thanks to the generous efforts of neighbor David Livingston, the Council had the fallen tree cut into discs that WCC members hauled into clearings nearby the vernal pool using sleds.

There is much to work still to be done! Support this effort as a volunteer or donor through the attached interest form.

### Officers

Fred Fortmiller, President  
Nancy Bagdasarian,  
Vice President  
Jack Whiting, Treasurer  
Tom Fitzgibbons, Clerk

### Directors

Judy Barr  
Judith Boland  
Kevin Hanron  
Peter Jones  
John Spencer  
Michael Tobin  
Margaret Zusky

**Advisor:** Matthew Hornung

model for similar neighborhood organizations throughout and around Wellesley.

We are also in the midst of our first year implementing the recommendations provided to the Council by Babson College graduate students in May, which range from financial to educational. We are also enjoying many new partnerships, including one with Wellesley High School through which seniors assisted with work on various properties in the spring.

As we enter 2017, I encourage you to get involved in protecting Wellesley's natural spaces--see the attached interest form for ways to get started.



*Pete Jones and Tom Fitzgibbons were among those clearing debris*

Support land protection in Wellesley: [www.wellesleyconservationcouncil.org/become-a-member](http://www.wellesleyconservationcouncil.org/become-a-member)

## Announcing the Friends of Guernsey Sanctuary



*Sabrina Lake from the Guernsey Sanctuary*

Setting the new standard for neighborhood conservation efforts throughout Wellesley, the WCC is excited to announce the creation of the Friends of Guernsey Sanctuary, an alliance of neighbors surrounding Sabrina Lake and its associated woods and vernal pool. Modeled after the Friends of Brookside and the Friends of the North 40, the new group will work to ensure a strong maintenance and preservation effort on the property.

## Fall Educational Program: Wellesley's Changing Wildlife

Our fall educational program, featuring renowned environmentalist Peter Alden, was a huge success with a large and engaged crowd.

Peter stated that by the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the change in mix of species in New England has been profound. We have seen the return of forests and the loss of most man-made grasslands. Most of our state listed rare species are Midwestern species that were not even present here when the Pilgrims arrived. With over a hundred years of hunting and trapping regulations, re-introductions and captive breeding, and habitat restoration many of our larger herbivores and raptors are again common.

Climate change is upon us and there is a shift of southern species northwards already happening. Invasive alien plants from other continents escaping

First on the Friends' agenda will be completing the vernal pool clean-up initiated by David Livingston (see above article). A 10-year forest management plan will also be available for the group to implement in the coming months.

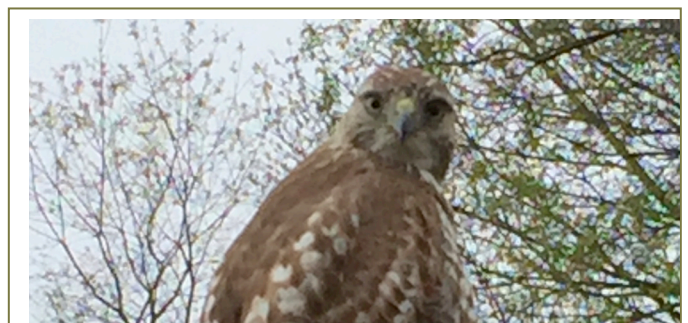
The group will also work on various other initiatives associated with the plot, including educational programs, wildlife inventories, publicity campaigns, and more.

"We hope that by getting involved in the nuances of conservation management, neighbors of Guernsey and eventually other parcels will become new voices advocating for the preservation of wild, undeveloped land throughout the community," said board member Peter Jones.

The WCC hopes to encourage the creation of similar Friends groups near its other properties, starting with Cronk's Rocky Woodlands on Crown Ridge Road and the Lee and Heyl Sanctuaries on Livingston Road.

from horticulture and our gardens are impacting many habitats. Birds from overseas are competing with native species.

You can watch a recording of the full program at [www.youtube.com/user/WellesleyChannelTV](http://www.youtube.com/user/WellesleyChannelTV). Search on "Changing Wildlife in Wellesley"



*A red tailed hawk at the North 40 community gardens*



## Cronk's Rocky Woodland Cleanup

During Wellesley High School Service on May 18<sup>th</sup>, a dozen students helped clean up Cronk's Rocky Woodland sanctuary on Crown Ridge Road. Council board member and neighbor Judith Boland organized the event. Ace Hardware, formerly on Linden Street, donated rakes and leaf bags.

Come walk this half-acre woodland preserve of native wildflowers adjacent to 10 Crown Ridge Road. Cronk's Rocky Woodland includes a rustic cottage and a marked nature trail. Some of the beautiful wildflowers found here are Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Pink Lady's-slippers, Jacob's Ladder, Yellow Trout Lily, Black Cohosh and many other varieties.



*The mission of the Wellesley Conservation Council is to:*

- *Protect and preserve the natural environment in Wellesley*
- *Maintain sanctuaries open to the public for study and enjoyment*
- *Educate youth and interest adults in matters of conservation*

## Join Us Outside to Learn and Experience the Environment

The Wellesley Conservation Council has many exciting events coming up this spring! Activities will include our annual Wellesley Wonderful Weekend Woodland Troll and Fairy House Building at Pickle Point, hay rides, parade marching, bird walks, sanctuary cleanup days, July Jubilation and Farmers' Market info tables.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Tim Kelley, NBC Boston/NECN Meteorologist, April 4, 7:00pm, Wellesley Public Library Spring Education Program: **"Why New England Has the Most Interesting Weather on Earth"**

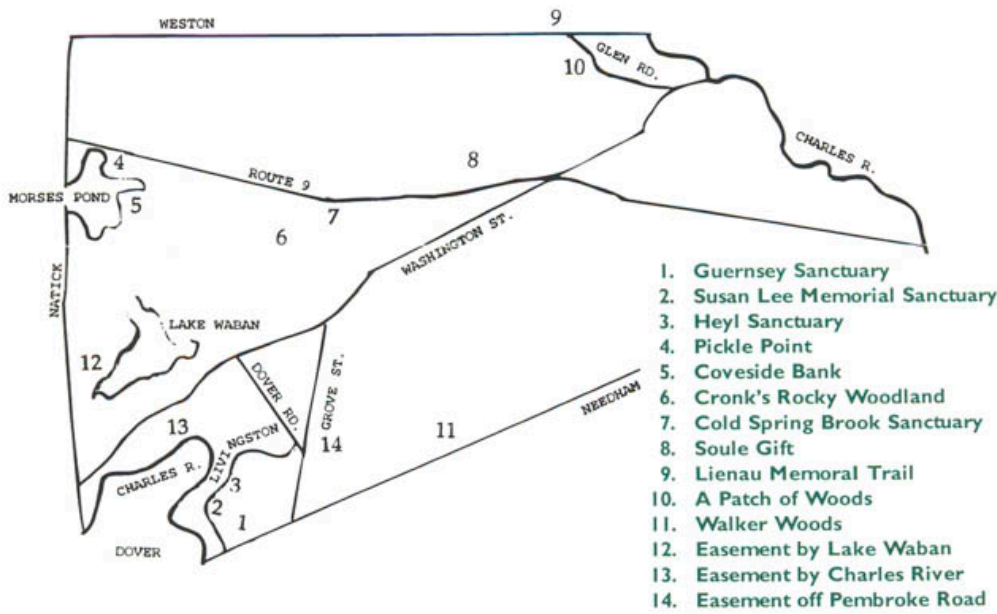


Visit our information table at July Jubilation and Farmers' Markets



Come to Pickle Point and build a woodland troll and fairy house

# Come Out for a Walk!



The Council purchased its first property, Pickle Point, in 1960. When asked, "What do you plan to do with it?" We answered, "Why, leave it as it is, of course." This was a new idea to some people at the time, and still relevant today.

Grab a copy of *Walks in Wellesley* at Wellesley Books or visit our website for locations and directions to experience our beautiful sanctuaries in any season!

## Join or Renew Your Membership for 2017!

You can help preserve, protect, and maintain Wellesley's open spaces by joining or renewing your membership now for 2017. Please complete this application and return it with your annual dues, or join online at the link below. As the Wellesley Conservation Council is a 501(c)(3) organization, your membership and donations are tax-deductible.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

Earmark my donation towards:  Land Acquisition  
 Protection  Education  Friends of Guernsey  
 Volunteer:  Cleanup  Stewardship  Board Position

Donations, memberships, gifts of land and easements will preserve Wellesley's open space for you to enjoy. Your help is needed to ensure that future generations will enjoy the open space as well.

Make your **check** out to **Wellesley Conservation Council** and return in the provided envelope to WCC, PO Box 81129, Wellesley Hills, MA 02481.

For contributions by **credit card**, please use the space below, or checkout with our secure website: [www.wellesleyconservationcouncil.org/become-a-member](http://www.wellesleyconservationcouncil.org/become-a-member)

- Individual or Family 2017 Membership \$35
- Club or Business 2017 Membership \$50
- Life Membership \$300
- Additional Contribution for Preservation \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my  MasterCard  Visa  
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