



# 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 2017 the Council started to become accredited by the national Land Trust Alliance. This commits the Council to follow best operating standards for record keeping and stewardship monitoring of Council properties and conservation restrictions.

Recent programs have reached out to engage teenagers in a highly successful EcoCamp program during the summer which the Town has suggested the Council might wish to conduct again next summer while teams of Boys and Girl Scouts have been recruited to help with stewardship programs. Most recently, an open house with hot cider,

*Join or renew your membership for 2018 and help the Council preserve and protect Wellesley's natural open spaces*

### Officers

Fred Fortmiller, President  
Nancy Bagdasarian,  
Vice President  
John Spencer, Treasurer  
Michael Tobin, Clerk

### Directors

Judy Barr  
Judith Boland  
Joan Gaughan  
Kevin Hanron  
Peter Jones  
Margaret Zusky

**Advisor:** Matthew Hornung

doughnuts and an open fire was conducted at the Cronk's Rocky Woodland Sanctuary that attracted more people than expected.

As we reported last year, the Council worked with the Babson Consulting Alliance Program which produced "Charting the Path Ahead". We have made good progress working against the resulting five-year plan, including adoption of the national Land Trust Alliance standards.

Please take advantage of the Council's activities and support us with your tax-free donations. Even more important, please contact the Council if you wish to participate directly with the Council's work.

## EcoCamp Engages Youth in the Wonders of the Outdoors

Fifteen middle schoolers took part in the Council's first ever EcoCamp—a one week outdoor program to engage Wellesley youth in the wonders of the natural lands and water in Wellesley's own sanctuaries. Held in partnership with the Youth Commission and the Natural Resources Commission, the kids fished with an instructor on Sabrina Lake, learned tree identification at Guernsey Sanctuary, helped harvest weeds on Morses' Pond, toured the water filtration plant, built wilderness shelters and learned orienteering at the North 40, participated in Broadmoor's nature discovery program, and so much more!



Exploring the community gardens at the North 40 during EcoCamp

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

## Open Gardens and Hot Cider at Cronk's Rocky Woodland



*AYLUS and Girl Scouts outside the Hansel and Gretel cabin at Cronk's*

The Friends of Cronk's Rocky Woodland had an active inaugural year led by Council board member and neighbor Judith Boland.

In the spring, multiple sanctuary cleanup days were held with the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and AYLUS volunteers helping to clear leaves that had built up over the years, covering the natural and planted wildflowers.

## Spring Educational Program: New England's Wacky Weather

Our spring educational program, featuring renowned meteorologist Tim Kelley of NBC Boston/NECN, was a huge success with a large and engaged crowd.

Tim discussed the idiosyncrasies of our local climate and explained the truth behind the saying, "If you don't like the Boston weather, just wait five minutes."

New England, and Boston in particular, is situated in a precarious position with multiple forces vying to control our weather, from cold, arctic air from the north, warm breezes from the gulf stream off our coast, and a generally easterly flowing jet stream with warm or cold air.

As we all know far too well, this truly does create the most "interesting weather on earth."

The Council hosted Open Gardens in May, showcasing among the meandering paths the native woodland plants and wildflowers in this gem of a "pocket park" at 18 Crown Ridge Road.

Judith presented photographs and memorabilia of the Cronk family who donated this sanctuary to the Council in 1977 for the enjoyment of all the residents of Wellesley, to be maintained as a native wooded garden.

Then in November, over 100 residents and neighbors attended a fall fundraiser with refreshments to support maintenance of the ½ acre woodland. The outdoor fireplace and hot cider kept the children and adults warm on the crisp, fall afternoon.

A short video of the volunteers who prepared the gardens, and some of the plants on display at the Open Gardens can be found at <http://www.wellesleyconservationcouncil.org/cronks-rocky-woodland.html>



*Meteorologist Tim Kelley illustrates warm air masses over Boston*

## Sanctuary Spotlight: Pickle Point on Morses' Pond

Pickle Point is a 3-acre pickle-shaped peninsula jutting into the northwest side of Morses Pond. As a nature preserve owned and maintained by the Council, it is free and open to the public. Pickle Point is an esker, a gravel ridge deposited by a glacier.

To reach Pickle Point you walk west 3 minutes along the Cochituate Path at the point where it crosses 49 Russell Road. You will have views of Morses' Pond on your left. Pickle Point is part of the Crosstown Trail. See an aerial tour here:

<http://www.wellesleyconservationcouncil.org/pickle-point.html>



*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 info tables and more.

**SAVE THE DATE: Butterflies and Pollinator Gardens, Tuesday, April 24, 7:00pm, Wellesley Public Library**

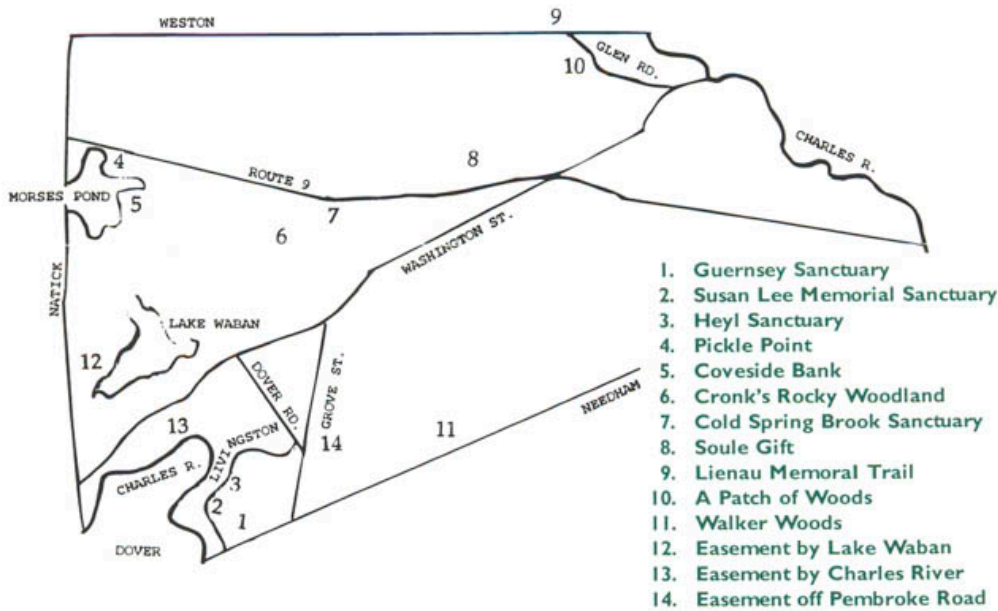


American Goldfinch photographed by Dan Gee on spring bird walk



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 2018!

You can help preserve, protect, and maintain Wellesley's open spaces by joining or renewing your membership now for 2018. 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 2018 Membership \$35
- Club or Business 2018 Membership \$50
- Life Membership \$300
- Additional Contribution for Preservation \$\_\_\_\_

Please charge my  MasterCard  Visa  
 #\_\_\_\_\_ Exp.\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_ CVV\_\_\_\_\_

**Save time. Join online!** [www.wellesleyconservationcouncil.org/become-a-member](http://www.wellesleyconservationcouncil.org/become-a-member)