



January 2016

# 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,

The Council has reached an important juncture as a result of recent events:

- The Town of Wellesley's purchase of the North 40, and its encouragement for setting-aside conservation land given the Natural Resource Protection Development (NRPD) bylaw, have heightened awareness of maintaining open space. These present opportunities to advocate and facilitate maintenance of conserved open space, which is the role of the Wellesley

*Join or renew your membership for 2016 and help the Council preserve and protect Wellesley's natural open spaces*

### Officers

Fred Fortmiller, President  
 Nancy Bagdasarian,  
 Vice President  
 Jack Whiting, Treasurer  
 Elaine Laffan, Clerk

### Directors

Judith Boland  
 Kent Fox  
 Peter Jones  
 John Spencer  
 Michael Tobin  
 Jean Wiecha

Conservation Council as a Land Trust.

- The Council is pleased to announce that it has accepted a wonderful opportunity to work with graduate students from the Babson Consulting Alliance Program to review operations and future direction.
- Looking to the New Year, a challenge for the Council is to stimulate public interest in conservation which the new opportunities have presented.

We are excited by these opportunities. Come join in!!!

## WCC @ Wellesley Square's July Jubilation

The Wellesley Conservation Council provided information about the benefits of conservation of open space in Wellesley at Wellesley Square's July Jubilation. We had maps of our sanctuaries, our popular "Walks in Wellesley" book (available for sale at the Wellesley Books), and provided animal stickers for the kids.

We were pleased to invite and share our tent with our friends at the Wellesley Historical Society and Wellesley Trails Committee.



*Cheering for the Council's mission at our July Jubilation info table*

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

## Vernal Pool Cleanup

On July 3rd, the Wellesley Conservation Council and the Friends of the North 40 organized a North 40 Vernal Pool Cleanup. The certified vernal pool is located at the corner of Weston Road and Turner Road and had been collecting debris and litter for many years. Included in the haul were: 3 automobile tires, parts from 2 bicycles, a rusting hockey net with pucks, many broken bottles, and empty beer cans with the original pull tabs (circa 1970s). The litter collected was brought to the RDF and appropriately sorted. While salamanders reproduce in the vernal pool in the spring, new footprints of deer and other animals were seen along the side of the pool.

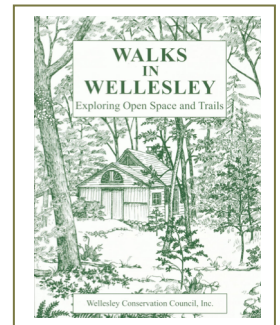


*Pictured are organizers and Council Directors Pete Jones, Jean Wiecha, and Michael Tobin.*



*We held six bird walks in May and June. Come and join us again in 2016!*

The Council's "Walks in Wellesley" publication provides maps and descriptions of the best places to explore including Guernsey Sanctuary, Susan Lee Memorial Sanctuary, Waban Arches, Fuller Brook Path, Beebe meadow, Cronk's Rocky Woodland, Pickle Point, and many more. Buy one for your family at Wellesley Books.



## Fall Program: Shorebird Expedition to Yukon River Delta

Shorebirds are showing the most dramatic declines of any group of birds. Species that undertake hemispheric migrations rely on specific habitats and food sources to survive, but these resources are increasingly under threat from human disturbance, habitat loss and degradation, over-harvesting, increasing predation, and climate change.

Our featured speaker at our Fall 2015 program was Brad Winn, Director of Shorebird Habitat Management, Manomet.org, in Plymouth, MA. Brad provided photographs and stories of the Shorebird Research Expedition to the Yukon River Delta, Alaska in May 2015.



*Brad Winn describing the incredible migrations of shorebirds*



## Woodland Troll and Fairy House Building Event

The annual Troll and Fairy House building event happens every spring at Pickle Point Sanctuary during Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend. On arrival at Pickle Point Sanctuary the children choose a tree and build their own Troll or Fairy House using the natural materials gathered along their walk. It is a magical event and the children have a great time imagining their fairy land!

In years past the children's creations have endured for a long time. The wish of the Council is to expose the children to nature's wonders while having fun.



*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*

## Exploring 50+ Protected Acres

Throughout the fall, long time board member Kent Fox led ongoing and new board members on tours of the Council's protected land across more than 14 properties and 50 acres.

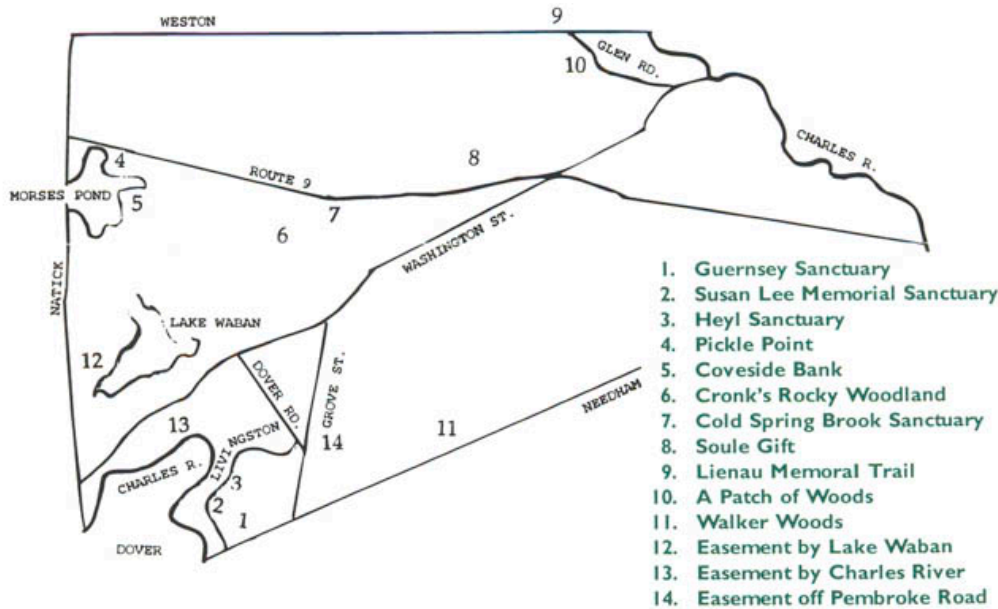


*John Spencer, Elaine Laffan, Jack Whiting, Jean Wiecha, and Kent Fox tour the Lake Waban Easement at Wellesley College*



*Michael Tobin, Pete Jones, Kent Fox, and John Spencer tour Lienau Sanctuary along the north border of Carisbrooke Reservation*

# 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 2016!

You can help preserve, protect, and maintain Wellesley's open spaces by joining or renewing your membership now for 2016. Please complete this application and return it with your annual dues. 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  Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Volunteer opportunities I'm interested in \_\_\_\_\_

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 2016 Membership \$35
- Club or Business 2016 Membership \$50
- Life Membership \$250
- Additional Contribution for Preservation \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my  MasterCard  Visa  
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 Signature \_\_\_\_\_ CVV\_\_\_\_\_

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