



WALDEN WOODS NEWS

NOVEMBER, 2013

Volume 3 Issue 4

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Trails



Fisher



Garden



Bunco



Dog Faire



Movie Night



Environmental Committee News:



The Environmental Committee finished the blue trail entrance on Last Leaf Circle. The entrance received nearly 200' of new crushed stone to alleviate two major problems: overgrowth and drainage. The committee's volunteers cleared brush, weeds and poison ivy, and sprayed the poison ivy, too.

The trail signs were refurbished and new rustic-style stained 4 x 4 pressure-treated posts have been installed. These are similar to the ones by the U.S. Park Service and the Connecticut DEP for state parks. Committee Chair, Glenn Brand, says, "It's always nice to use rustic materials for sign structures in these types of settings to keep in balance with a more natural look."

In the next few weeks, the committee will clean mold and debris from the small bridge that crosses the trail on Last Leaf Circle. A few structural issues that need attention on the bridge will be addressed as well.

Glenn says, "I wish more of our residents would walk the beautiful trail system we have on the property. It's an easy walk and full of charming age-old hardwood trees and conifers all mixed in with an array of wild mammals and reptiles that live on our property. It's quite a treasure-filled little Ecosystem that we really are fortunate to have here".

Thank you to the Environmental Committee.
New members are welcome.
Contact Glenn Brand at
forestrangerct@gmail.com



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The Fisher cat is Back in full Force in Connecticut

The fisher is neither a fish nor a cat. It is a relative of the North American marten. The marten differs from the fisher in that it is smaller in size. It is sometimes referred to as the Pine Marten.

Adult fishers weigh between four to 15 pounds and are between 26 - 49 inches in length. Males are about twice the size of females. The smallest females have been recorded to be as small as three pounds. The males have been recorded as large as 20 pounds. Their coats are dark brown, with a black tail and legs. Some fishers have a cream-colored patch on the chest. All four feet have five toes with retractable claws. Because they can rotate their hind paws 180 degrees, they can grasp limbs and climb down trees headfirst.

A circular patch of hair on the central pad of their hind paws marks plantar glands that give off a distinctive odor, which is believed to be used for communication during reproduction. Fishers are also known for one of their calls, which is often said to sound like a child screaming, and can be mistaken for someone in dire need of help.

Their numbers drastically declined about a hundred years ago in Connecticut as they were hunted for their brown to black furs.

Find more information on fishers at: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fisher_\(animal\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fisher_(animal))

Find more information on martens at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_marten.

Submitted by Glenn Brand

Note: There have not been any fishers spotted in Walden Woods. Two people have heard sounds that they thought might be fishers.

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Community Garden Committee

Note from Chair – Diane Bernier

DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 2 Yoga – 6:45 p.m.
- 3 Social & Rec – 7:00 p.m.
- 5 Standards – 7:00 pm
- 7 Adults Holiday Party
- 9 Yoga – 6:45 p.m.
- 11 Annual Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
- 13 Movie Night
- 15 Kids Holiday Party
- 16 Yoga – 6:45 p.m.
- 23 Yoga – 6:45 p.m.
- 26 Book Club – 7 00 p.m.
- 31 Community New Year's Eve Party

The gardens have been put to bed, debris cleaned up and now it is time to look at all the catalogues soon to arrive to entice us to buy products for next year. We had a wonderful growing season that culminated in our Harvest Dinner.



The food was wonderful and the company divine. We honored our garden angel, who was very humble. We appreciate all you do for us and the community. Thank you again.



We are taking reservations for next year. Please contact Diane Bernier at 860-219-1419 or at 17 Haskins Road, Windsor, 06095. We would love to help first time gardeners get started.



Bunco Night November 16 was a **great success** with 27 people trying their luck with the dice. We had three people with 13 wins. Congratulation to Sheila Sikora for winning the roll-off for the most wins. Marlene Towers won the roll-off for the most losses.

Watch for another Bunco Night in the spring.



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Social & Recreation Committee has Been Busy with fun Activities *Notes from Chair - Roland Bernier*

Something is always happening in Walden Woods. On September 7, we had our first ever Dog and Bike Faire. It was a great success! Residents arrived with their dogs in the morning, and dogs eagerly participated in events including the tail wagging contest, dress up contest, and of course, the owner/dog look-alike contest (I'm not sure if winning was a good thing in this case!) The various vendors that participated loved the event and said they would be back next year.



Following the dog parade, we geared up for the bike event. Some last minute decisions by the event team led to an early parade start, which did lead to some confusion and disappointment on the part of those who came later. Bottom line, we learned a few things from the event. We will do it again next year but will probably combine the dog and bike portions. For a first-time event, this went remarkably well. We are looking forward to next year with even more participation, more vendors, and more fun.

On October 5, we conducted our annual food and coat drive to benefit the Windsor Food Bank. We were able to donate 60 bags of food, more than 20 coats, and \$100. While this is a serious event for a worthy cause, the volunteers did have fun. We hope the rest of the community enjoyed their role in contributing to the needs of people in the Windsor area. The day was simply beautiful for getting outdoors, moving through the community, and enjoying the changing foliage. We are always looking for volunteers to help with events like this. Perhaps you will join us next year.

Thank you to our Food Drive Volunteers



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The Recreation and Social Committee is busy planning for the Adult and Children's Holiday Parties, and the second annual New Year's Eve Party. Barry Towers is chairperson for a new event in 2014, The Soup-er Bowl Party.

The Walden Woods Social Committee cordially invites you



If interested in participating in a Yankee Swap to take place at 8 p.m., please bring a wrapped gift (value not to exceed \$15)

ANNUAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2013
7:00 PM
AT THE MEETING HOUSE

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Movie Night

Friday, December 13, 2013
7:00 p.m. at the Meeting House

There will be a choice of two Holiday Films. Those attending will get to vote for the one we will watch.

The Walden Woods Kid's Holiday Party

Sunday, December 15, 2013, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
at the Meeting House



Happy Holidays

Come join the fun! Refreshments provided.

Event sponsored by the Recreation and Social Committee
Questions? Contact Dick or Joyce Armstrong at 860-285-0803.

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*The Walden Woods Social Committee cordially invites
you to attend our second annual New Year's Eve Party*



BYOB
Please bring a snack to share.

Music and Dancing!
Karaoke fun!!

Happy New Year!

Tuesday, December 31, 2013 at the Meeting House

8 p.m. to ???

Please RSVP to Roland Bernier at 860-573-6522 or
rbernier73@gmail.com

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SOUP-ER BOWL PARTY



Adult *Soup-er* Bowl Party at the Meeting House.
February 2, 2014 – 6:00 p.m to ???
Please bring a soup, chowder, chili, or stew to share.
Your dish will be entered to win a prize.

R.S.V.P. to: Barry Towers 860 803-8793
Or e-mail barrywtowers@gmail.com
Let Barry know what dish you will be bringing.
BYOB

There also will be Super Bowl Contests and prizes.

All the information you need about Walden
Woods can be found at:
<http://www.waldenwoodsct.com>

