



Essex County

Trail Association

# News

Volume 21 Number 1

Summer 2003

## From the President

*Don Curiale*

It's hard to believe that ECTA has entered its 21<sup>st</sup> year. Our official Annual Meeting was held in late April at the Topsfield Fair grounds at the Coolidge Hall. Advisor Al Craig donated the space.

About 45 members participated at the meeting, where we reviewed ECTA year 2002. I would like to thank all for attending and supporting the Board and Officers. It is one of the few occasions where Area Reps, Officers, and Advisors are recognized and applauded for their hard work and loyalty to the Essex County Trail Association. Thank you.

At the meeting I pointed out a recent Boston Magazine article that ranked about 147 Massachusetts towns as the healthiest towns to live in based on air pollution, breast cancer, health clubs, open space, etc. As you know ECTA serves five local towns. Here is how they ranked in the article:

#120 Topsfield ñ 42% open space  
# 69 Hamilton ñ 46% open space  
#46 Essex -- 29% open space  
# 21 Ipswich ñ 48% open space  
# 6 Wenham ñ 39.6% open space

I hope you find this information as

interesting as I did and let it inspire you to get out there and enjoy the trails and open space.

## Trail Talk

### *National Trails Day*

Yes! June 7<sup>th</sup> is National Trails Day and of course ECTA will be heading a Trail Walk led by Board member Elly Andrews. You should have received your invitation by mail. I hope you will attend and enjoy a fun and informative walk.

### *Pescosolido Property Update (Rt 1A and Lakemans Lane)*

The seller of the 29 acre property in Ipswich is trying to work with a new developer with a more creative and environmentally more sensitive proposal. As of this writing, the hope is to conserve and protect the acreage at the edge of the property and develop the center of the land as a housing cluster. The seller continues to promise ECTA a bridle trail easement through the property.

### *Beal Easement on Walnut Road, Wenham*

I was upset to discover deep horse ruts on the trail easement on the old

Beal land in Wenham in late March and early April. I roped off the trail until things could dry out. It is the responsibility of ECTA to protect and monitor this trail and I do hope that the local riders will be kind to this property and trail in the future. Thank you.

### *Scott Property, Mill Road*

Please ride around newly planted cornfield. All trails are open as usual.

### *Blackbrook Road*

Notice to all walkers using trails on Blackbrook Road going to Pingree Reservation: Please leash your dogs. We have received complaints from landowners about loose dogs chasing horses.

ECTA continues to work on trails and trail issues with the following organizations:

Essex County Greenbelt  
Myopia Hunt  
Myopia Driving Club  
Land Trust Alliance  
Essex National Heritage Commission  
Conservation Commission

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*The Essex County Trail Association is dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of open trails in our local communities for the purpose of passive recreation and the benefit of the environment. The ECTA works to build coalitions with national and local associations, to serve as liaison between membership and landowners, and to encourage responsible trail use.*

*Visit [www.ectaonline.org](http://www.ectaonline.org).*

## ECTA Board of Directors

Susanna Colloredo, Chair  
Eleanor Andrews  
Leslie Brooks  
Ann Getchell  
Carol Greata  
Kristal Pooler  
Don Curiale  
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President	Donald Curiale
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2nd Vice President	Abigail Jackson
Treasurer	Disa Cheston
Secretary	Marianne Lynch
Membership	Judy Gregg

### ECTA Area Representatives

#### Essex

Kay Joseph 768-6275

#### Ipswich

Augusta Macrokanis 356-1047  
Jean Hyde 356-0523  
Rolanda Dane 356-6524

#### Hamilton

Bea Britton 468-2733  
Sue McLaughlin 468-7715  
Susie Richey 468-4205  
Arlene Maginn 468-4644

#### Topsfield

Abigail Jackson 887-6314

#### Wenham

Beverly Granz 777-3375  
Deborah Stanton 626-8434

### ECTA Board of Advisors

Stu Thorne	Don Greenough
Scott Solombrino	Bruce Corwin
Nancy Merrill	Al Craig
Wayne Castonguay	Jim MacDougall
Lois Cheston	LilyRice Hsia
Arlene Maginn	

### Trail Advisor

Holly Pulsifer

### Legal Advisor

Dorothy Stookey

W. Newbury Rider Association  
Realtorsí Association  
Ipswich Visitorsí Center  
Appleton Farms/The Trustees of  
Reservations

## Day at the Races

The Day at the Races was held at Suffolk Downs on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2003. Each attendee had a winning time. The following raffle prizes were given away at the event:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize ñ a beautiful 13í x 10í semi-antique carpet donated by Kaminski Auctions
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize ñ Hamilton Athletic Club Health and Wellness package
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize ñ One riding lesson with international trainer Eric Smiley
- 4<sup>th</sup> prize ñ One dog grooming session at the Ipswich Animal Hospital
- 5<sup>th</sup> prize ñ Framed ECTA Ipswich map

All winners will be announced in our next newsletter.

I would also like to thank all the generous people and businesses that contributed the prizes to help replenish our maintenance programs for 2003.

## Beaver Decievers

Director Susanna Colloredo has been checking our clever ìdeceiversí and is working with our professional ìdeceiverí Skip Lisle to make sure

things are in order. If you are interested in seeing one, walk over to Bio Labs property and Farrington Lane. Hopefully, the back trails will be dry enough to allow you to get close to the site.

## Maintenance Program

ECTAís professional trail man, Chip Cheston, took his time this season to get out there to open all the trails. Chip made this wise decision to discourage useage of the trails when the ground is soooooo soft and muddy. By late May, all should be back to normal.

## Equine Paraphernalia Sale

I would like to publicly thank Kay Joseph and Sue McLaughlin for all their persistent hard work in making the Equine Paraphernalia Sale Day (April 26) a big success once again. Their tenacity and passion for ECTA is inspiring and their fundraising skills are remarkable. We owe them our gratitude for raising so much money for the trails. Thank you.

## Real Estate News

I have enclosed an article that recently appeared in the Salem Evening News. I hope you enjoy it. (See article on next page.)



*Photo: Volunteers busily assemble Day at the Races invitations at the home of ECTA president, Don Curiale.*

## Wenham Home Nestled in Scenic Horse Country

By Elizabeth Ross, Essex County Newspapers Real Estate Section -Reprinted in part with permission

Drive down a winding road off Walnut Street in Wenham and you'll come across a contemporary colonial with an arched front entry and dramatic Palladian windows.

Isn't it time to think about a special dream house? Realtor Peter Dorsey says it is.

Horse lovers would enjoy this home's picturesque location. Across Walnut Street is Ledyard Farm, a well-known horse training facility. In back of the property is a golf course and land owned by the Myopia Hunt Club.

Those who enjoy viewing equestrians from afar will be in for a treat. Set away from the lawns and partially covered by trees is a bridle trail that winds along the edge of the property.

A conservation easement allows trail riders to pass through the property. The trail, maintained by the Essex County Trail Association, is part of the ambience of the house and adds to its appeal, says Dorsey.

Buyers looking for a new home will find this one appealing for many reasons. But location is probably the home's biggest draw. It is very private. And it's in the Ledyard Farm area.

### Outdoor enthusiasts enjoy network of trails

Did you know that Essex County is home to miles of outdoor trails that crisscross through some of the most scenic areas?

The trails are maintained by the Essex County Trail Association (ECTA), a land preservation organization with 750 members. Started in 1982, ECTA promotes education and preservation of trails for horseback riders, mountain bike riders, joggers, and walkers. Members use and

maintain trails in the towns of Essex, Hamilton, Wenham, and Ipswich.

It started out with mostly people that ride and use the trail network, says Pam Mansfield, ECTA's newsletter editor and office secretary. While 75 percent to 80 percent of its members are horseback riders, more people with different interests have joined the group over the years. In the winter, the group even shares trails with dog-sledding teams. And a lot of people support the organization because they

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### Land owners agree to let trail users pass through their property provided they respect their rules and those of the organization.

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like to see open space and they don't even use the trails, says Ms. Mansfield.

While some of the trails wind through public park land, other routes cross through private property. Land owners agree to let trail users pass through their property provided they respect their rules and those of the organization (See "Trail Etiquette for Trail Users.")

The trails ECTA maintains are marked by signs, and riders are asked to attach special tags on the bridles of their horses. Also, if a bridge is out or a tree falls down, for example, the group will do the necessary maintenance work. The trails are closed to motorized vehicles.

These days, ECTA is finding ways to control the growing beaver population. The animals are disrupting trails in several areas by causing flooding.

### Trail Etiquette for Trail Users

The Essex County Trail Association encourages its members to show respect for the trails they use. Below are some suggested tips for trail users.

- ✓ Park your car in a safe and legal place.
- ✓ Absolutely no smoking or campfires in either the woods or the open trails.
- ✓ Be polite and friendly to fellow trail users, land owners, and trail neighbors.
- ✓ Right of way: Mountain bikers would use caution near hikers, and both hikers and bikers should yield to horses for the safety of all.
- ✓ Avoid walking on very wet trails. Horses and mountain bikes especially should stay off wet trails to avoid damage. For some trails, the only recovery from this damage is expensive rebuilding.
- ✓ Protect wildlife, plants, and trees. Do not pick wildflowers or approach animals, particularly nesting ones.
- ✓ Keep children and pets supervised and under control. Keep dogs on leashes.
- ✓ Take your litter home with you, and pick up any litter you see. One hiker can compensate for several thoughtless people with little effort. Clean trails and woods encourage others to be neat and landowners to welcome trail users.
- ✓ Keep to marked trails, especially on private land. Walk around the edge of farmed fields.
- ✓ Don't make unnecessary noise. Quiet enhances your own experience and that of others and increases your chances of seeing wildlife.

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# Turner Hill Trails

by Pamela Mansfield

Sometimes it seems you could walk or ride for miles through the countryside in Ipswich, Hamilton, and Topsfield. Where one trail ends, there is always another just around the bend, you learn ó if you're fortunate enough to know the way or to be accompanied by someone who does. As ECTA members, we're privileged to use private trails that often provide a link from one public trail system to another. Such is the case with the Turner Hill trails that link Willowdale State Forest to the Winthrop family land, and eventually Bradley Palmer State Park and Appleton Farm.

As property ownership changes, or as properties are developed, the trails also change, and ECTA keeps abreast of these changes through contact with the landowners. ECTA recently learned more about the trails that members have long enjoyed at Turner Hill, off Topsfield Road in Ipswich. Until 1997, the property belonged to the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette and was used for ministry and spiritual retreats. The estate was originally the home of Charles Goodnough Rice and Ann Proctor Rice. This year marks the centennial for the old Rice estate. The elegant

Elizabethan mansion was built in 1903, and the Rices lived and entertained

**"The historic entrances – the trails out back to Willowdale at the top of Turner Hill will be the same."  
-- Charlie Reed,  
project manager.**

there for forty years.

Now belonging to the Turner Hill Properties Association, this historic place is undergoing a major restoration and is evolving into a new kind of retreat for a new generation. Consisting of 311 acres, only 25 acres are actually being developed for a new residential community, a golf course, and spa, fitness, and racketball facility. The original mansion will be opened as a 26-room inn next year at this time, while the golf course will open on Labor Day of this year. Construction has begun on the first of the private

homes.

Project Manager Charlie Reed is excited not only about the future of Turner Hill as an elegant new attraction north of Boston, but also about the trail network, which he offered to show me the very day we spoke

“The historic entrances ñ the trails out back to Willowdale at the top of Turner Hill will be the same,” he explained. “There will be four or five designated parking spaces for trail users. The town has discouraged parking on Topsfield Road for safety reasons. Most of the trails will be open twelve months of the year. Horseback riding, walking, and passive recreation like cross-country skiing will be allowed. Where some of the trails overlay the golf cart trails, we'll have to close access for part of the year, but the north-south connection back to Willowdale will be open year round.”

Because “the whole property is under such a state of construction,” Charlie said the trails are basically being avoided until the network opens this fall. He says pathways will be clearly marked with signs. ECTA members will find the historic trails as well as a few others to enjoy.

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## Wenham Home Article

*Continued from previous page*

Trails located at New England Biolabs, the Miles River and Willowdale State Forest have been affected.

To solve the problem, ECTA has hired a man from Vermont who builds what are called “beaver deceivers.” These long tube-like “flow devices” are placed in waterways where beavers would normally build dams. The tubes allow water

to pass through them so the beavers go elsewhere. “They realize their little plans won't work, and they move somewhere else,” says Mansfield. But the deceivers are costly at \$1,000 to \$2,000 each. So far, ECTA has spent about \$10,000 on them.

Maintaining the trails is a challenging endeavor. The trail system changes as land becomes more developed. But the group hopes to maintain as many routes as possible.



# Letters to ECTA



Dear Friends,

Thank you for hosting a successful Equine Paraphernalia Sale/Expo. On behalf of the MSPCA at Nevins Farm, I would like to thank you for providing us with a booth and for your support. You also do such wonderful work. Thank you and have a great year.

Sincerely,

Brenda, Project Coordinator at  
MSPCA, Nevins Farm

## Annual Meeting



Top: Wayne Castonguay was the guest speaker. Here he is showing onlookers a map of Appleton Farm.

Middle: Judy Gregg (Membership) and Dr. Kenneth Gregg.

Bottom: Fred Winthrop and Marianne Lynch (Secretary).

Top: There was a good showing of members, including Advisor Bruce Corwin and fiancée Susan Eaton.

Middle: Carol Lloyd shows a new map with President Don Curiale's assistance.

Bottom (left): Susanna Colloredo, ECTA Chair, introduces new Board Member Rick Silverman to Legal Counsel Dorothy Stookey.

Top: Katrina Hart, designer of the ECTA logo.

Bottom: Trail Advisors Deborah Stanton and Beverly Granz.

# Equine Paraphernalia Sale and Expo 2003

## Eighth Annual Event held on April 26, 2003

by Kay Joseph

WHAT A CROWD/ WHAT A DAY/  
GREAT DEMONSTRATIONS/  
WONDERFUL SHOPPING

The Equine Paraphernalia Sale and Expo was the BEST EVER. More Attendance, Over 900 people, more booths than ever - 70.

We want to thank all the volunteers who helped on the day of the sale and the day before to make everything go according to plan. To Pushcarts Unlimited our thanks for staying out in the cold and rain to provide warm lunches for everyone.

To our Sponsors and Patrons-OUR THANKS.

A big Thank You to all who donated to the ECTA Table. We have sold more than \$1000 worth of used goods and still have more to sell.

To the people who put on the demonstrations, you were all wonderful and you traveled great distances to give us the best ever.

- √ Cupid and Arrow were introduced by Buck Kalinowski who told their story. These horses have been featured at equine events all over the USA.
- √ Kola, Phaeton and Sugar Babe ó Chincoteague Ponies owned by Tim Harvey, a certified Pat Parelli instructor ó were shown as was Doc, Timís Appendix Quarter Horse, with whom Tim demonstrates the Parelli training methods.
- √ The Exmoor Pony Association International gave a riding demo on a 12-year-old stallion, Braeford of Nonesuch and a 6-year-old gelding, Cabbage Hill Tully.
- √ E.P.O.N.A., a horse rescue group from New Hampshire, brought five of their horses who now have new homes.

Best of all we made over \$5000 for

ECTA to help keep the trail systems in our five towns in the best repair possible for all trail users.

Thanks to everyone and start planning for next year....





*Photos: Tickets were selling at a rapid pace (top), with the help of Deborah Stanton and another generous ECTA member (left) and Rick Loomis (right). The ECTA table was in the center of the arena, and a popular event (center). Sue McLaughlin and Kay Joseph had help with Kay's mother and aunt (bottom). The tale of Cupid and Arrow was a huge favorite with the crowds, who came to watch not once, but twice! (top, this page). From one side of the booth to the other, the ECTA table was fairly loaded with donated blankets and tack (center, this page). Heather Hull-Colby's booth was a hit for those looking for Amish halters and sidesaddle info (third from top). People shopped all through the day (bottom).*

## **ectaonline.org**

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*Get the latest updates on trails, the ECTA calendar, download forms, update your membership, and view the newsletter online. Check out related organizations through our links.*

*Bookmark **[www.ectaonline.org](http://www.ectaonline.org)**.*

*If you have suggestions for the next ECTA newsletter or updates to the web site, send us an e-mail through this site.*

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