



Essex County **News** Trail Association

Volume 23 Number 1

Winter/Spring 2004

From the President

Don Curiale

Dear Members,

The year 2003 will go down in history as a very exciting one for the Essex County Trail Association.

As President, I couldn't be happier. The Association worked hard, stayed in budget, welcomed new members, communicated with the new landowners, reached goals and completed projects and programs. All this was accomplished to preserve and maintain trails in our community for the purpose of passive recreation:

- ◆ Beaver Deceivers installed and fine tuned
- ◆ Causeways restored to link pathways
- ◆ Major cleanup of Muddy River trail in Ipswich
- ◆ A newly signed Ipswich easement with the Marini family
- ◆ Regular maintenance and cleanup of major trails
- ◆ Two newly opened Appleton Farm trails
- ◆ \$1,000 gift from the deSieyes Family

- ◆ Newly planned Topsfield Equestrian Center
- ◆ Barowy Trail opened in Biolabs
- ◆ Successful Poker Ramble, Day at the Races, Trail Ride, and Equine Fair

In closing, may I take this opportunity to sincerely thank ECTA Board of Directors, Officers, and Area Reps for the consistent and loyal dedication. Most of all, I thank you, our members, for believing in us. Let us continue to work together in 2004 for more trails, invaluable easements, and dedicated open space.

Trail Talk

Ipswich

Two new trail events occurred in Ipswich recently. Muddy River trail off of Mitchell Road was cleared by ECTA, and a road on Marini Farm was recently opened to horses.

This letter from the town of Ipswich applauds ECTA's efforts to clear a trail that was for all

intents and purposes unusable.

Dear Mr. Curiale,

We are aware that the Essex County Trail Association recently conducted a voluntary cleanup of significant debris and trash which had been dumped along the outer reaches of Mitchell Road and Clamshell Road in Ipswich, in the vicinity of Muddy Run stream. The area had been unsightly and hazardous to walkers and trail riders for years, due to illegal dumping in the area, which is somewhat remote from view. Your group undertook this cleanup at its effort and expense, with the cooperation of the Ipswich Department of Public Works, Board of Health and Conservation Commission. It is just this type of extra effort in advancing community pride and spirit that we believe makes Ipswich the wonderful town that it is. We applaud ECTA's efforts and appreciate the fine work that your group has accomplished in that area. ECTA is a true asset to this community and we are

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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.

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Holly Pulsifer

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Ask the President

(continued from page 1)

lucky to have groups of individuals like yours who take the time and expense to make a positive difference in the area around us. On behalf of all the boards and departments and a grateful community, please accept our heartfelt thanks!

James W. Foley, Chairman
Board of Selectmen

George E. Howe,
Town Manager

And the news was reported by Faith Tomei in the *Ipswich Chronicle*, November 27, 2003:

Trail is Clear Again

Muddy River Trail, a dirt road at the end of Mitchell Road that horseback riders, joggers and snowmobilers enjoyed until it became a dumping ground, is once again free of debris, thanks to the Essex County Trail Association.

ECTA President Don Curiale said his association paid a private trash removal company, B/B Removal, \$4,000 to remove the mounds of debris blocking the wooded path. Trash included construction debris, automotive parts, appliances, tires and years of accumulated trash from the roadway and adjacent wetlands.

The town's trash contractor, Waste Management, at the request of the Department of Public Works, provided two large containers, but ECTA paid B&B to collect the trash and transportation costs incurred by Waste Management for hauling it to the dump.

Now that the debris is gone, Curiale hopes the town of Ipswich

will work to keep it clean.

Bob Gravino, director of public works, said DPW and other town offices will work together to come up with a plan to keep Muddy River Trail clean and safe.

Also reported in the *Ipswich Chronicle*:

Marinis Sign Trail Easement

A road on Marini Farm is now open to horses, pedestrians, and non-motorized vehicles, thanks to the Marini family and the work of several local trails organizations.

The Essex County Trail Association did the legal work and will be responsible for maintenance and enforcing rules on the trail. The Ipswich Conservation Commission and the Bay Circuit Trails Committee also worked on the deal, signed by Michael, Vincent, and Patricia Marini.

The trail is a farm road that goes over the corner of, and round the edge of the Marini Farm property in the vicinity of the farm pond on Linebrook Road. According to David Standley of the Conservation Commission, the road is an important link in the Bay Circuit Trails Network connecting the Ipswich Country Club, town land leased to the Marinis, and Willowdale State Forest.

The easement comes at no cost to the town or to the Marinis. It was approved 4-0 by the Board of Selectmen.

Topsfield

ECTA Area Rep Kathy Tremblay is working with the town of Topsfield to develop a project that

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would turn several acres into an equestrian center. Kathy reports that the project is in its early stages but she envisions exciting and useful programs for the Center. She is developing a preliminary fundraising plan as she works with Topsfield officials and ECTA.

Bradley Palmer

ECTA will be working with local bicyclists this spring to control and help alleviate erosion on major trails leading to and from the "moon" area of Bradley Palmer. Look for trail closures during the wet season.

Appleton Farms

Appleton Farms encourages all ECTA members to become supporters of the Trustees of Reservations. We agree.

ECTA strongly recommends that you become a TTOR member. You will then receive a specially-colored tag to ride through Appleton Farms. The tag **MUST** be visible to Appleton Farms personnel.

Appleton Farms continues to increase their livestock population. Please take note as you walk or ride through.

Biolabs

The Barowy Trail in Biolabs/Ipswich has been redirected to its original location by the Essex County Greenbelt Association.

Myopia Hunt

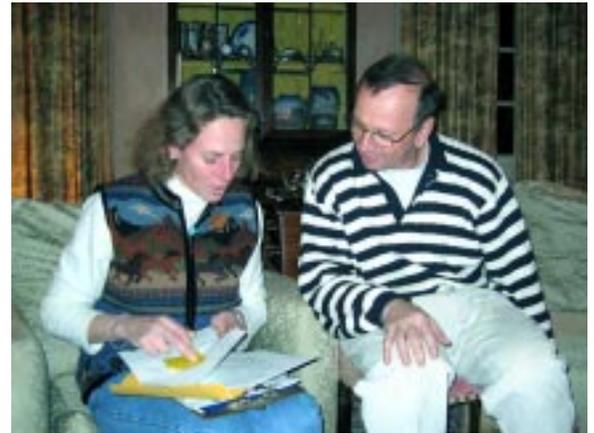
The Myopia Hunt has been working to clear trails in Topsfield. We also thank Myopia for helping our

Rowley and West Newbury riding friends to open and keep clear many trails up there.

Mark Your Calendar

- √ April 6 – Annual Meeting
- √ April 24 – Equine Sale at Topsfield Fairgrounds Arena
- √ September – Look for our upcoming event "A Tribute to the Founders of ECTA."

Don Curiale, ECTA President, and Disa Cheston, Treasurer, review the treasurer's report at the ECTA full board meeting on January 12.



Classified

3-Stall Barn Available

Waldingfield Road, Hamilton/Ipswich

- ◆ 1, 2 or 3 12x12 stalls
- ◆ 2 grass paddocks, tack room, hay loft
- ◆ Hot and cold water/utility sink
- ◆ Full, partial, or rough board. Co-op okay, too.
- ◆ Direct trail access to Julia Bird Reservation, Appleton Farms, Groton House
- ◆ \$200 a month rough board, \$400 a month partial board, \$600 a month full board. Available January 1st.

Call Deb at 978-312-1399

Letters



ECTA,
Thank you for all the hard work and dedication to keep the trails open for us.

Your efforts are very much appreciated.

Laura Delaney
Georgetown, MA

Essex County Trail Association
Post Office Box 358
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