



# Essex County News Trail Association

Volume 23 Number 3

Fall 2004

## From the President

*Don Curiale*

A couple of weeks ago, my 15-year-old cousin, Samantha, came up from Ridgefield, Connecticut, to ride with me to the hounds in one of the Myopia Hunt runs.

When we returned home after three hours of invigorating trotting, galloping, and jumping, Samantha's mom asked her what she thought of her new experience. Samantha replied, "Mom, let's move up here. You know how our trails by us just end, well, up here the trails go on forever."

Wow! What a testimony to all of you who respect, support, and work hard to keep the open space we have. In spite of the fact that we have lost land, we still are able to enjoy a quality of life unique to our area. We are lucky to enjoy trails that connect private land to public land and enjoy the luxury of not seeing a car for acres and acres.

Samantha will soon return for another ride on our trail network but next time she will be a member of ECTA; a member who has now learned to respect what it takes to keep a trail that seems to go on forever.



### Annual Fall Trail Ride

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, ECTA hosted its Annual Fall Foliage Ride, from Waldingfield through Appleton Farms.

Patrick Keough from Willowbend Farm, Hamilton led 55 riders through the open trails in Appleton Farms. The goal of the ride was to inform riders where they can or cannot ride on the farm. For this special day, however, we were allowed to pass through the Great Pasture. This is normally off limits, but Wayne Castonguay, farm manager, invited

ECTA to enjoy a quiet visit to the top of Pigeon Hill.

The Great Pasture was cleared of trees during the 1930s depression. Appleton Farms hired locals to forest the land, thus providing work for the local community. The views are spectacular and breathtaking.

After one and a half hours, we returned to the Waldingfield barn for cider, apples, and cider donuts.

We thank Susan and John Lawrence, Ann Getchell, Susanna Colloredo, Pam Mansfield, and Beth Knowlton for their organizational skills

*(continued next page)*

*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  
Ellen Alden  
Leslie Brooks  
Ann Getchell  
Carol Greata  
Mary Lee Mahoney  
Kristal Pooler  
Don Curiale  
Rick Silverman  
Arlene Maginn  
Wayne Castonguay

### ECTA Officers

President	Donald Curiale
1st Vice President	Leslie Brooks
2nd Vice President	Abigail Jackson
Treasurer	Disa Cheston
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Membership	Judy Gregg

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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

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Beverly Granz 777-3375  
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### ECTA Board of Advisors

Stu Thorne	Don Greenough
Scott Solombrino	Bruce Corwin
Nancy Merrill	Al Craig
Jim MacDougall	Lily Rice Hsia
Lois Cheston	

#### Trail Advisor

Holly Pulsifer

#### Legal Advisor

Dorothy Stookey

and traffic monitoring. A special thank you to Patrick Keough for his expert leadership, information, advice and good humor.

### New Coordinator

On October 5, 2004, ECTA's new Coordinator, Carol Lloyd, officially began working. Carol will begin slowly with eight hours per week.

This month Carol is working on securing landowners' permission and filing for the installation of three beaver deceivers in Hamilton and Topsfield. In addition, Carol is working with Susanna Colloredo to develop a strategy to join local, regional and national trail groups, coalitions, and land trusts.

Welcome aboard, Carol!

### New Board Director

The ECTA Board of Directors welcomes new board member Arlene Maginn. Arlene has been a Hamilton Area Rep for many years, an ECTA Advisor, and now a Director. Arlene brings strong leadership and organizational skills, knowledge of the horse world and running trails, competence and strength. We are grateful to have her.

### Recent and Current Trail Maintenance Projects

- ✓ Biolabs trails have been widened and pruned.
- ✓ Proposed installation of three beaver deceivers: one in Bradley Palmer, another along Route 1 in Topsfield, and another in the Chebacco Lake area.
- ✓ Procuring and developing five easements in West Newbury.
- ✓ Procuring and developing easements in Ipswich: one at the Pescosolido property.
- ✓ Working with Bradley Palmer officials to develop a work plan to restore many of the eroded trails.

- ✓ Clearing of debris on the Bradley Palmer trails.
- ✓ Removal of several large trees in Chebacco Woods.
- ✓ Regular maintenance of Woodbury Street trail in Hamilton.
- ✓ Emergency repair of Hayscale trail from Pingree School into Bradley Palmer

### Trail Updates

**PLEASE DISPLAY TAGS AT ALL TIMES** -especially in Appleton Farms

#### After Dec 1st.....

All trails on Arbella Farm (Winthrop) close

Only driveway trails in Appleton Farms and Groton House remain open all year.

Horse trailer parking for Appleton Farms on Cutler Rd, along Highland Street, or at Bio labs.

### Be Considerate at Crane Beach

*Augusta Macrokanis*

As of October 1, Crane Beach is open to horses and dogs. On October 1 there already were piles of horse manure left in the parking lot! Please be considerate and clean up after your horses in this area. Also, please LEASH YOUR DOG on the beach. This is the rule set forth by the Trustees of Reservations and Ipswich has a leash law that includes Crane's Beach. If you want your dog to run, there are many lengths (20-30 feet) of cotton/nylon leads available at Petco-type stores that will allow your dog to run freely but still give you control. We all enjoy this beautiful place and want to share it with our four-legged companions, so please act responsibly.

**ectaonline.org**

*Make ECTA online your electronic connection to your trail organization.*

*Bookmark*

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

# Founders' Tribute

*Don Curiale*

On September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2004, the Essex County Trail Association hosted a cocktail party and silent auction at Waldingfield, home of Arthur Finkelstein and Donald Curiale. The Tribute was held as a fundraiser to honor the founding members of ECTA. Ann Getchell, Arthur Finkelstein, Myopia Driving Club and Scott Solombrino sponsored the fundraiser.

More than 145 guests saluted:

Joan Appleton  
Jean Blackburn  
Mary Lee & Jerry Mahoney  
Susanna Colloredo  
Sally Soucy  
Neil Ayer, Sr.  
Ann Getchell  
Ginny Mann  
Nancy Merrill  
Susie Stone

ECTA Advisor,  
Scott Solombrino,  
did a great job of  
giving the introduc-  
tions. All silent



*Mrs. Angela Winthrop and  
Mrs. Joan Appleton*

auction items, wine, and food were donated. ECTA officers made the hors d'oeuvres which were served by Pingree School students who volunteered to help.

ECTA raised over \$15,500 for the afternoon. YEAH!!!!

ECTA would like to thank the following for all their contributions for the tribute:

ECTA Area Reps  
ECTA Board of Directors  
Kaminski Auctioneers  
Arthur Finkelstein  
Marcorelles Package Store  
Equestrian Crossing  
Suffolk Downs  
Trish Mosely  
Jon Gray

Gingi and Joe Tuthill  
Turner Hill  
Janine Wilworth  
Scott Solombrino  
Myopia Driving Club  
Ann Getchell  
Mighty Quinn  
Gordon Flowers  
Bart Kellerman  
Kay Joseph



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# Realtor Tea

*Kristal Pooler*

The Fifth Annual Realtor Tea was held on October 21st. Michael and Marlene Pippins hosted the event at their home, Brackenside in Hamilton. Realtors from Newburyport, Hamilton, Ipswich, West Newbury, Beverly, Essex, Topsfield, Manchester and Gloucester attended the event. The tea was established because agents are often the first point of contact for people new to our area and they are in the perfect position to introduce them to the trail system and open space. Many local Realtors are active members of ECTA.

Dorothy Nelson Stookey, counsel for ECTA and regional counsel for The Trust for Public Land addressed the group with an informative presentation. Stookey pointed out to the agents that there have been numerous studies conducted that indicate the positive effect that preserved open space has on property values. Stookey stressed that it is possible and necessary to strike a balance between development and land conservation. She showed slides of successful ECTA projects as well as projects she was involved in through The Trust for Public Land.

Refreshments were served and a splendid time was had by all.



*Kristal Pooler, Mr. & Mrs. Michael  
Pippins, Don Curiale*



*Photos by Ron Farren*

Dear Don,

Enclosed is a donation of \$150.00 to put towards the excellent work that you do to protect and maintain open space and trails in Essex County. We especially appreciate that West Newbury is now included in the towns that you serve and we look forward to our association with ECTA. Our only fundraising is done by running the three events at Pipestave Hill in the summer and fall and we had to cancel one event because of weather. This year we are finally making the substantial investments to replace the deteriorating wood ring fence, improve the footing in the other ring and improve signage at the equestrian area at Pipestave, so we must limit the dollar amount of our donations this year. We wish you a very happy holiday season and keep up the great work!

Sincerely, Amy Bresky  
W Newbury Riding & Driving Club

Dear Don,

It was truly an honor to have the opportunity to speak on Susanna Colloredo's behalf. I know that sort of thing leaves Susanna uncomfortable, so it means a lot to me that she was pleased. Of people I would like to emulate, Susanna is at the top of the list!

You, Don, did an amazing job organizing and hosting that event. Successful financially, successful in generating goodwill in the community, successful in providing well-deserved acknowledgement for the hard work of amazing people who conceived the ECTA and made it a reality. Congratulations to you.

Warmly,  
Linda Donovan

Dear Don,

Thanks so very much for having such a great party to honor those special people. Jean Blackburn was a great friend. Her husband was the track vet and got us each a three-year-old. Mine turned out to be fantastic. She hunted and evented and did dressage - also worked in our program for the



## Letters

disabled and did a demonstration at Neil's first international event at Ledyard. Among other things in between all of this she produced four fillies! Jean and I used to ride together and trim trails on these two. We had a great time.

Thank you again, love,  
Marj Kittredge

Dear Don and Arthur,

What a beautiful party for the founders. A spectacular day but so generous of you to have all of us at Waldingfield. It was so touching to hear the stories of Mrs. Appleton, Susanna, and all. And naturally you know how I feel about Mary Lee and Jerry. It was a wonderful afternoon.

-- Gingie & Joe Tuthill

Dear Don and Arthur,

Thank you for a wonderful party - Don, your idea was a smashing success - Congratulations. Keep up the good work of protecting and maintaining trails.

Love, Nancy N. Merrill

Dear Don,

Thanks so much for a lovely party on Sunday evening! It is so important to do these things to celebrate the history and hard work from those who have been involved for so long.

-- Susan Arthur

Dear Don,

It couldn't have been a more beautiful day and we thank you once again for all of your energy, time, and effort (for all of our benefit).

Many thanks! Looking forward to next year,  
-- Nancy & Deirdre, Victor & Gaucho

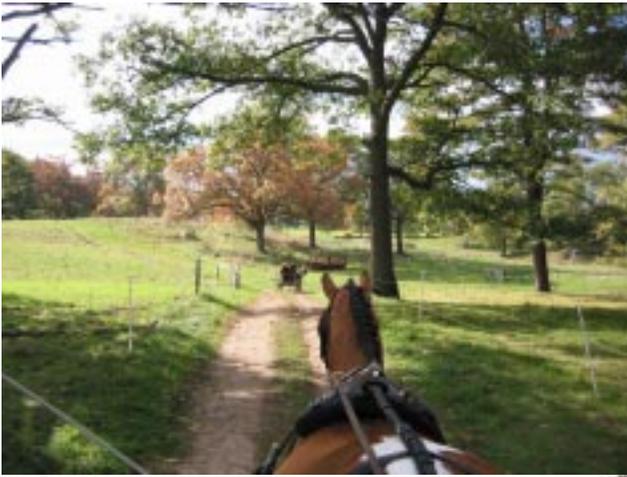
Email to Don with photos of Fall Foliage trail ride attached:

What happened, no trot, no canter, no bees or river, as you can see I'm not the only one who has questions about parking...now that you told over 55 people of "my" space on Cutler Road I am really in trouble.  
-- Happy Trails, Janine Willwerth

Dear driving friends,

I am so thrilled to report that Darius and I completed the Waldingfield DT this past weekend in Ipswich, Mass. (my first time to drive him in competition). I am still on a "high" not only because my green horse finally had enough training and composure to go into a competition, but also because we completed a very challenging course together. Our dressage score reflected a very predictable spook at the judge's umbrella and a very resistant halt at X at the end when he thought he was finished and tried to leave, but overall, he got around the test very well. Only one ball down on cones (I figured we would be counting crashed cones, not just one down ball) including a clear go through the double "L" multiple. And then, time for relaxing. Some drivers brought gourmet picnic food to enjoy at their trailers during the lunch break, and the Trails Association volunteers had good food for sale, too.

No driving that I have ever done in Texas, Florida, or Oklahoma could have prepared me for the terrain at this event. Hills - not that steep for locals who go to Vermont, but enough for flatlanders - a long narrow route along river bank with a drop off with only a ground log for a barrier, tree branches low enough to hit my 17.2 hand horse in the face in hazards, a dressage field rough enough that I recruited a passenger to make sure that I did not flip in the dressage, and then Darius showed what he is made of on the 7K marathon. He really took it well and we made our



time. Only one spook at a life size wooden horse. No refusals. And his size did not hinder him at all in the hazards and was helpful on course (biggest stride there per Larry). All super fun and beautiful. Got to be grateful to my horse for keeping us safe. He did it, not me. Larry Poulin on back as navigator was incredible. The best training dollars I have ever spent was to have this experienced driver on the back to coach me on the course. Of course, many kudos to Larry for sorting out Dan's training issues and getting him broke for driving. Larry has done a super job and let me say, his success with Darius is truly a testimonial to his experience as a trainer. I am so grateful! Also per the show vet, Larry has made my horse very fit.

History Lesson: Ipswich, Mass dates back to the beginning of America. The first act of declaring America's independence from England was performed here. The area is also famous for the lovely Crane Beach, only six miles from the event, and fried clams - equally close! Three kilometers of the course went through Appleton Farm, which is one of the few farms in America dating back to mid 1700s still in operation. The beauty was unbelievable. Part of the route was along an avenue of ancient trees.

The Waldingfield area is where our sport developed in the U.S. As a result, it was a splendid chance to meet drivers that actually were at the first ever combined driving event. Hospitality was at its finest

and the event was organized beautifully by Holly Pulsifer and her great volunteers from the Myopia Driving Club. The horses needing stabling stayed at the various estates along this road. We were stabled at a gorgeous estate owned by Amanda Smith who simply could not have

been more hospitable. She gave my big horse a stall that must

have been 15 x 20 feet and made all types of conveniences available to me, including her golf cart. Darius was a bit taken aback by three potbellied pigs that have free run of the estate. It worked out great because after spasing out all night at the pigs, he had no energy left to be nervous the day of the event.

Beauty: Waldingfield Road has numerous large estates that share their land via an equestrian trail, plus it is protected by the Essex County Greenbelt Association, resulting in access to many kilometers of hunt, riding, or driving trails through all kinds of terrain, plus a lovely practice polo field. Blinding green, lush countryside. At the center of this beautiful road is the incredible Waldingfield mansion which is situated at the top of a hill overlooking the Ipswich River. Lovely terraces down to the river (Hazard 5 - the Western Reels - was situated on one of these terraces). Our course not only crossed the Waldingfield estate, but also went straight down the primary

entrance which has trees braided at the top to make a massive tunnel. Due to the age of these trees, the bases are very knarly and spooky to the horses. Enchanting to the driver.

Anyway, a splendid event. So well organized by Holly Pulsifer. Marc Johnson designed interesting hazards with a western theme - starting with the wooded Hideout, and ending with Shotgun Wedding - where we drove in and out of arches

and white columns. The course maps and hazard diagrams created by Holly were color computer drawn maps which were very helpful.

For those who might want to exit the Texas heat in the summer, in



June and July, there are several CDEs, DTs, and pleasure shows within two hours of Larry Poulin's facility. His facility is located in Petersham, Mass., a lovely, quaint town 250 years old, population 1,100. His farm is at the end of a beautiful road with many 10K loops to take out his driveway. He has built a 40 x 80 perfectly level arena with sand and shale footing all (can drive no matter how much rain). Wild flowers all around. Jan-April he is at Black Prong near Ocala, FL. Due to high demand, this year, 2005, he will be in a 14-stall barn with its own dressage arena called "the secret garden" on the other side of the road from the primary Black Prong facility.

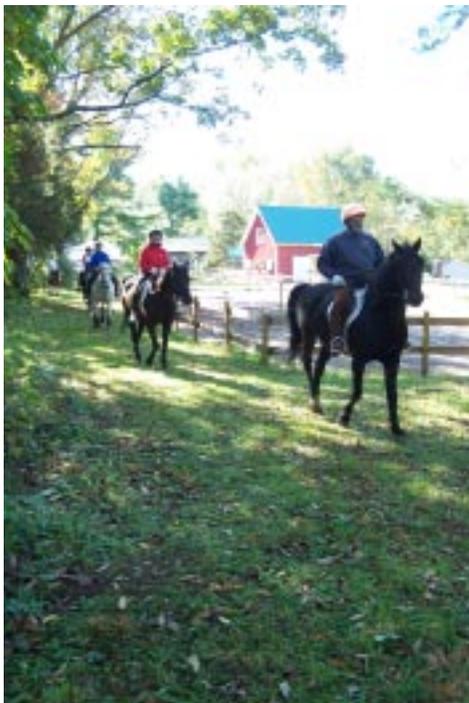
Many thanks to the Myopia Driving Club, Holly Pulsifer and volunteers, Amanda Smith, and Larry Poulin for this magical day. -- Beth Fisher & Darius

*Photos from the October estate-to-estate drive. View from the driver's seat and spectator view along Appleton Farm trail. Photos by Katie and Linda Prestero.*

# ECTA Designates First Trail in West Newbury

*Felicity Beech (press release submitted to local papers)*

On October 3 the West Newbury Riding and Driving Club sponsored an equestrian trail ride to celebrate West Newbury's first trail established by the Essex County Trail Association. Fifteen equestrians participated



in the ride to promote trail awareness among the club's members and land owners, and to introduce them to the benefits of membership in ECTA.

This first ECTA trail is through the yard, barn area and woodland of Sarah and Clif Robinson who opened a new way to allow ECTA members to access the town-owned River Bend property from Main Street. The trail also traverses a short stretch of property owned by Jane and Robert Wild who have permitted horse traffic on their land. ECTA members may use the trail by calling the Robinsons prior to use.

The trail ride on October 3 followed the new ECTA trail to River Bend, along the Merrimac River trail, over the Indian River bridge to Coffin Street then back to the Mill Pond and

Pipestave Hill. Participants enjoyed a tailgate picnic after the ride. "We had a beautiful day," said Ellen Alden, new ECTA board member "We could not have been happier with the turnout for the ride and we are delighted that the Robinsons and the Wilds have been so generous in opening our very first trail. We hope other land owners will be inspired by their example."

Annual membership of ECTA is currently \$20 for individuals and \$30 for families. The Association's primary purpose is to preserve and maintain open land and trails as a natural resource for the benefit of the community. Hikers, bicyclists, equestrians and cross country skiers represent the principal users. All of its trails remain under the control of each property owner who decides when the trails are open and which type, or types, of user is permitted access. The Association provides advice and support to property owners including the clearing and maintenance of trails. It has already developed a network of trails in Hamilton, Wenham, Ipswich, Topsfield and Essex.

West Newbury ECTA board members are Ellen Alden (978-363-1170) and Mary Lee Mahoney (978-465-3726). More information about ECTA is available at [www.ectaonline.org](http://www.ectaonline.org). This web site includes membership application forms as well as back copies of the newsletter that detail events and activities run by the Association.

*Photo: r to l Bob and Jean Pietrillo of Rowley and Rae Knowles of Newbury riding through the first West Newbury trail of the Essex County Trail Association, on the property of Sara and Clif Robinson. Photo by Phil Camp.*

## Sale/Expo 2005

*Kay Joseph*

The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Equine Paraphernalia Sale/Expo will take place on April 23, 2005 at Topsfield Fairgrounds in the indoor arena. Last year we had many great demonstrations and 75 booths. We are planning a larger event this spring. Hold the date open to help us with this large ECTA fund raiser. Start cleaning out your tack rooms now and give us a call for pickup – Kay (978-768-6275) or Sue (978-468-7715) or any of the area representatives. Ideas are always welcome. Many booths are already sold to returnees. Advertise your business or barn in our program. Get a group together for a day of fun and profit. Start planning today.

## Classified Ads

**Barn for Lease:** Waldingfield Road location, Hamilton/Ipswich. 3 ½ stalls (the ½ stall can be used for a small pony. Direct trail access to ECTA trails, Appleton Farms, Greenbelt..2 paddocks grass turnout. Heated tack room/hay loft/electric & hot/cold water.

Room to park a 2-horse trailer \$250 per stall rough board; includes morning feed and turnout. [Deb@county-road.com](mailto:Deb@county-road.com) or call 978-312-1399.

### **Carriages:**

Running Brook Road Cart, cob-sized. Maroon seat. Natural oak finish. Perfect for CDE, arena, and pleasure shows. \$2,000 if new; \$1,200 or B.O. 4-Wheel Challenger, cob-sized. Good for CDE and pleasure shows. Converts to marathon vehicle with expandable axel and metal shafts. Cob-sized Smuker's deluxe harness. \$995 if new; \$750 or B.O. 978-374-0008

# Annual Fall Poker Ramble

*Kay Joseph and Sue McLaughlin*

The Poker Ramble took place on September 19, 2004 at Bradley Palmer State Park. It was a beautiful Sunday after a very heavy rain on Saturday, so the original ride and walk had to be moved due to wet ground. Our trail representatives Jean Hyde and Rolanda Dane took this task in stride and everything went smoothly.

The winners with the best poker

hands were Virginia Frerk (\$40), Pam Anderson (\$30), and Sue Cushing (\$25). Subscriptions to the *Equine Journal* were won by Candia Carr and Sue Sverski. A glass candle was won by Deb Tyler. Everyone had a wonderful ride or walk on a lovely day.

We want to thank our volunteers, Sally Soucy, Abby Jackson, Jean Hyde, and Rolanda Dane for all their help.

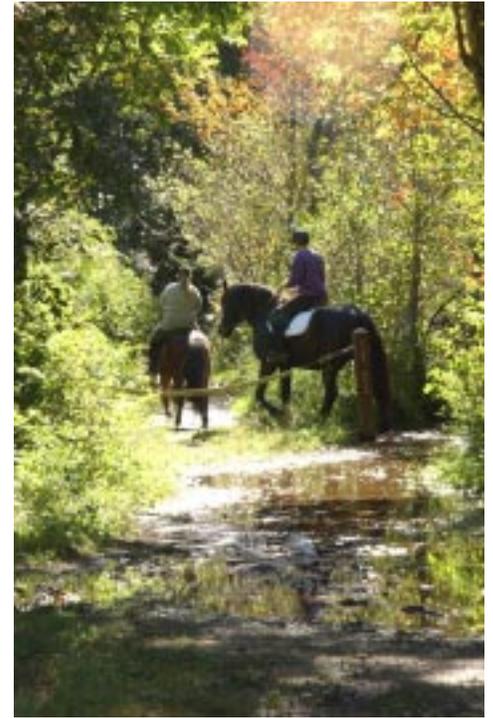
## Preserving a Way of Life

*We have the choice of whether we want our communities as they grow to become a jumble of unsightly development and noisy concrete deserts, or whether we will preserve fresh, green pockets and corridors of living open space that cleanse our air and waters and refresh our populations. We have the responsibility and the capacity to choose, for ourselves, our neighbors, and for future generations. –*

**PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON AMERICANS OUTDOORS**, *Americans and the Outdoors*, 1987



*Photos by Pamela Mansfield-Loomis*



*Photo by Emily Harney shows overflow from beaver work at Bradley Palmer*



ECTA's legal counsel Dorothy Stookey was the speaker at the recent Realtor's Tea. Her presentation on the benefits of trails included the following reasons why trails rank as second most important community amenity out of a list of 18 choices.

### Trails

- Connect neighborhoods and communities
- Provide recreational opportunities –jogging, walking, cross country skiing, riding
- Increase real estate values
- Maintain community character and tradition
- Provide affordable and enjoyable exercise opportunities
- Preserve natural habitat

In the photo, Dorothy and her daughter are walking their dogs on trails near their home. Above is a trail easement that can be used to connect to other trails in Dorothy's neighborhood.

# Tamarack Farm – Past and Present

*Kristal Pooler*

Virginia D. Mann was recently honored at ECTA's Tribute to Our Founders, a fundraiser held at Don Curiale's and Arthur Finkelstein's home on Waldingfield Road in Ipswich. Ginny moved to Tamarack Farm in 1954. Tamarack Farm is located at 494 Essex Street in Hamilton. The farmhouse was built in the 1740s. Ginny was devoted to the preservation of the trails and open space. Ginny and her husband, John, watchdogged the trail system daily. Ginny loved to go on long rides. It was not unusual for Ginny and her friend, Sally Soucy, to hack from Tamarack Farm to Bradley Palmer and back on one day, and to ride off to Manchester the next.

Ginny bred Morgans at Tamarack Farm. She also had a passion for Springer Spaniels. There were 101 litters of Springer Spaniels born at the farm!

Ginny stayed on at the farm after her husband passed on. It was her intention to put a conservation restriction on her property so that Tamarack Farm would stay intact. Ginny was disturbed by the erosion of open space to new development and every trail lost made her more determined to keep Tamarack Farm open to riders and walkers. At the beginning of 2000,

Ginny was told that she had a severe heart condition and that the best that she could hope for was to live for three to five more years. It was at this time that she became very proactive and began to put her affairs in order. Unfortunately, less than six months after her initial diagnosis, Ginny had a stroke. When Ginny passed away in March of 2001, her final wishes were not complete and her desire to preserve her beloved Tamarack Farm in its original form was in jeopardy.

Sally Soucy and George Andrews were named executors of Virginia Mann's will. There were eleven charities and two people named as benefactors of the will. In order to meet Ginny's final wish, everyone had to agree to put conservation restrictions on the property. The property was subdividable and conservation restrictions decreased the value of the property. With the help of the Hamilton Conservation Committee and various others, Ginny's wishes were finally realized and Tamarack Farm was sold with conservation restrictions in place to Kevin Donovan and Michele Stecyk.

Kevin and Michele fell in love with the property at first sight. They put a bid on it the day that they saw

it. Preserving Tamarack Farm was as important to them as it was to Ginny. Michele is on the Hamilton Conservation Commission. Owning a farm and having horses has been a lifelong dream of Michele's. They purchased the property in October 2003. They have been hard at work reviving the farm ever since. They plan to work on the antique farmhouse and to preserve and add onto the wonderful old stone barn that you can see from Essex Street.

Kevin and Michele are clearing old trails and developing new ones that will go around the perimeter of the farm. The trails connect to other trails leading out behind Whipple Street and out to Bridge Street and the old Clark property. It is an intricate part of our trail system. The trail will be open to the public for horses, walkers, and cross-country skiers. Dogs must be on leashes at all times. Kevin and Michele would appreciate it if no one would ride on the main driveway. Please be conscious of the trails during mud season and make sure to display your ECTA tags.

The ashes of Virginia Mann and her husband John are buried in the back of Tamarack Farm. Through the efforts of many people, Ginny can rest knowing that her final wish was met.



# Annual Fall Foliage Ride

Photos by William DeNoia, Janine Willwerth and Joe Willwerth



## Neighbor Questions Horse Trail

*From Ipswich Chronicle*

The Bay Circuit Trail will soon snake through Ipswich from the Ipswich Country Club, and behind Marini's Farm. It will cross Linebrook Road across from Marini's Farm and continue into Willowdale State Forest. Hikers, mountain bikes, and horses will be welcome on the trail.

Ralph Milroy, who lives on Edge Street in what's commonly known as Campinelli's subdivision, is concerned about the horses that will pass along the trail near his home. At Monday's selectmen's meeting, he said his primary concern is with the quality of Ipswich drinking water.

"This trail goes through conservation property, crossing over brooks that flow into our reservoirs," he said, adding that horses will cause severe erosion and skirt

what he understands is a vernal pool. He's also concerned that the trail passes through an area where hunting is allowed.

Milroy has approached conservation commissioner David Pancoast, who assured him that "No Hunting" signs have been posted. He still sees the water quality issue as a problem, however, with horse droppings on the trail that might wash into the drinking water.

Selectwoman Elizabeth Kilcoyne said she understands that the Conservation Commission has approved the Bay Circuit Trail extension and has found that the ConsCom is generally "even and

fair."

ConsCom Chairman David Standley stepped up to endorse the trail and its use by horseback riders. "We struggled with this. We think the trail is a good idea," he said.

Standley said that, working with the Director of Public Safety Charles Surpitski, the town purchased and posted the necessary signs to forbid hunting on property near the trail.

Meanwhile, Water Department head Tim Henry addressed the water quality issue and, in late August approved the trail plan subject to minor modifications. "We will keep the trail far enough away from the vernal pool to keep it safe, and we will protect the wetlands," Standley said.

Essex County Trail Association  
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