



Essex County

Trail Association

News

Volume 24 Number 4

Winter 2005

From the President

Don Curiale

Run for the Trails

The first Essex County Trail Association "Run for the Trails" took place on October 29, 2005. The "Run" was organized by Coordinator Carol Lloyd

and Director Rick Silverman.

It was a first for several reasons. It was ECTA's inaugural adventure into organizing a five and ten-mile race; secondly, it was the first time the Winthrop and other private properties were open to runners!

The 83 ten-mile participants

jogged through the most beautiful North Shore properties of the Winthrop, Scott Nathan, Elizabeth and Mark Massey, and Ann Getchell families. The joggers enjoyed a well-marked course, a beautiful snowfall, and a challenging competition. There were prizes, food, and refreshments.

ECTA raised nearly \$6000, and would like to thank the following for their generous sponsorships:

Ipswich Cooperative Bank	\$2500
Salem Five Bank	\$125
EBSCO	\$500
Don Greenough Attorney and Estate Planning	\$500
Manchester Athletic Club	\$500
Arthur J. Finkelstein and Associates	\$500

We hope you will run with us next year!

Ed. Note: For race results, including runners names and times, please contact Carol Lloyd at calloyd@comcast.net. We're sorry we ran out of space in the newsletter before we could include the results!

(continued next page)



Photos by Ann Getchell



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.

ECTA Board of Directors

Susanna Colloredo, Chair
Ellen Alden
Susie Banta
Leslie Brooks
Ann Getchell
Carol Greata
Mary Lee Mahoney
Kristal Pooler
Don Curiale
Joseph Sandulli
Rick Silverman
Arlene Maginn

ECTA Officers

President	Donald Curiale
1st Vice President	Leslie Brooks
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 762-8434

West Newbury

George McGowan 363-1877
Nancy McGowan 363-9877

ECTA Board of Advisors

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Scott Solombrino	Bruce Corwin
Nancy Merrill	Al Craig
Jim MacDougall	Lily Rice Hsia
Lois Cheston	Barbara Ostberg
Katrina Hart	Peter Britton

Wayne Castonguay

Trail Advisor

Holly Pulsifer

Legal Advisor

Dorothy Stookey

ectaonline.org

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

New ECTA Officers

Please welcome the following new
ECTA officers:

Ellen Alden – Director and Land
Steward
Susie Banta – Director
Peter Britton – Advisor
Katrina Hart – Advisor
Barbara Ostberg – Advisor
Joseph Sandulli – Director

Easements

ECTA is moving along with ten new
easements in Ipswich and West
Newbury. Directors Ellen Alden, Mary
Lee Mahoney, President Don Curiale,
Coordinator Carol Lloyd, and Legal
Advisor Dorothy Stookey are working to
pull the legal documents and parties
together for signatures. Thank you!

Trail Repairs

ECTA would like to thank the Myopia
Hunt for the mowing in Bradley Palmer
and the cutting of brush and trails in West
Newbury. Thanks to Peter Britton and
Billy Woods for their personal time and
labor in Bradley Palmer, and a special
thank you to Director Ann Getchell for
donating materials and labor for repairs of
trails and help with the “Run for the
Trails” fundraiser.

Poker Trail Ramble 2005

Sue McLaughlin

After a rainy Saturday, the weather on
Sunday September 18th was perfect for
the annual Poker Ramble trail ride. Forty
eight riders and one walker enjoyed the
pleasant day in Bradley Palmer and
Willowdale State Parks. A Poker Trail
ride is fun for everyone picking up cards
along the trail to make a poker hand. In
using both parks this year, the ride was
made longer after crossing Topsfield road
with our helpful crossing guard, Bonnie
Hurton. Kay Joseph and Sue
McLaughlin organized this year’s ride
and provided lunch for all participants.
Jean Hyde and Rolanda Dane marked the
trails for both riders and walkers and

Rolanda and Buck checked the
trail before everyone went out.
Deb Stanton parked trailers and
helped pick up trail markers at the
end of the day. Arlene McGinn
checked riders and walkers out
and helped with the poker hands
on their return. The best cash
hands were given to: 1st – Bunny
Nutter; 2nd – Kelly Hewes; 3rd –
Judy Gallagher; 4th – Carol Sav-
age. Other ECTA door prizes
were also given.

Equine Expo 2006

By Sue McLaughlin and Kay Joseph
Equine Expo 2006 is in the plan-
ning stages for Saturday, April 22,
2006 at the Topsfield Fairgrounds.
You don’t have to wait for April,
though. Donations of used tack
are already coming in for the
ECTA table. Many thanks to
Richard Pennington for his gener-
ous donation of a large trunk filled
with equine items and a saddle,
and to Patrick Kehoe for several
saddle and blankets. These and
other items are already staged for
this year’s fundraiser. Though the
event occurs in April, it’s actually
a year-long effort involving many
phone calls, emails, and meetings
to gather items and enlist volun-
teers.

The silent auction was a great
success last year. Any new items
or gift certificates would be
appreciated for this new favorite.
Exhibitor spaces are available now
for the coming event. Sponsors
are needed to help defray the cost
of running this very large event.
Demonstrations are being planned
with several unusual breeds.

Any suggestions are always
helpful as are volunteers to help
with mailings and the week of the
event.

If you have a donation or need
more information, please telephone
Kay at 978-768-6275 or Sue at
978-468-7715, or email us at
kljoreo@aol.com.



Let's protect our access to the beach and park.
Please pick up shavings, hay, and droppings.

Keep the parking lots clean
at Crane Beach and Bradley Palmer.

Thank you!!!! ECTA.



Illustration by Deborah Stanton

Horseback Riding on Crane Beach

Could anyone possibly be more fortunate than we horseback riders are who live here on the North Shore? Not only do we have a network of beautiful trails through woodlands and state parks, plus access to connecting trails through manicured estates, we also have several miles of beach to ride on in winter.

Crane Beach in Ipswich is open to horses (for a parking sticker fee) from October 1 to March 31. Riders who enjoy this opportunity to get out with their horses in winter should be sure to

adhere to the rules at Crane Beach, starting from the time that they pull into the parking lot to the time that they leave. In recent years, ECTA has tried to make riders more aware of being courteous to others – both riders and non-riders—who use the beach so that we can continue to enjoy this privilege for years to come.

1. Riders are required to defer to the safety and convenience of people – individuals, groups, and small children — walking on the beach. Come to a well-controlled walk

when passing pedestrians and show them every consideration as you share this strip of sand that attracts large numbers of people every day.

2. Pass or approach other riders at a controlled walk and announce your presence if you are approaching from behind. Wait to trot, canter, or gallop until the other riders are at a safe distance. The optimum number of horses allowed on the beach at one time is 50 – sometimes it seems like the entire Essex County equestrian population is there!
3. Clean up any manure and shavings dropped from the trailer upon arrival or departure from the parking lot. Don't leave any reason for complaints – be a good ambassador for ECTA.



Poker Ramble 2005

photos by Carol Savage

There is a fundraising barn tour scheduled next year, October 1, to benefit the ECTA and the Ipswich Animal Shelter. 15 barns will be open to the public from 12:00 - 4:00 on that day. Stay posted for details!

Membership Renewal for 2006

The membership renewal letters will be mailed out in December. I would encourage members to take a few moments to renew their membership when their letter arrives.

Important Reminders:

1. Please be sure to complete and sign all the enclosed permits and ECTA waiver, to insure receiving the appropriate tag(s).

2. All ECTA forms can be found on our website and likewise the TTOR membership application can be found on their website.

3. You must be a current member of the Trustees of Reservation (TTOR) and of the ECTA to ride on the Appleton Farms property - you will receive special ECTA/TTOR tags to ride/walk on the Appleton Farms Trails.

4. If you are observed without your ECTA tag, you may be asked to leave the private property immediately.

Thank you,

Judy Gregg
Membership Secretary.

Welcome to West Newbury Area Reps

By Pam Mansfield-Loomis

ECTA is most fortunate to have added two new area representatives for the town of West Newbury. Nancy and George MacGowan have been ECTA members for more than ten years, and are also members of the West Newbury Riding and Driving Club, Granite State Carriage, and the Myopia Driving Club. They have ridden and driven their horses all over New England, including Acadia National Park, Pawtuckaway State Park, Green Mountain Horse Association, and of course Maudsley State Park, and trails in West Newbury, Hamilton, and Ipswich.

For the past few years, the MacGowans have been gracious hosts to the Myopia Hunt, which rides through part of their land to other long-established trails where they have hunted for about 100 years. Just this past fall, the McGowans granted access to their trails to ECTA members. As long-time residents of West Newbury, they know many landowners who allow them to ride or drive their horses on private trails, and they are hoping to work with them to gain

permission in some locations for additional ECTA member access. Their own thirteen acres connects to land belonging to Nancy's mother, who still drives at age 80, and her sister. West Newbury has many trails and the well-established equestrian center, Pipestave.

Nancy has lived in West Newbury most of her life and "grew up around horses," she says. "My mother and grandparents were all very active with horses. We raised them, and trained and showed them in both pleasure and endurance. I've always ridden here – we used to ride for hours and hours until it got dark." George joins her in enthusiasm for enjoying the trails, although it was not his original avocation. "George was an avid ocean racing sailor before he met me, then he became a convert to riding and driving," Nancy explains. He even shoes their horses, and built the jumps on their property.

Now they spend some of the winter months in Southern Pines, North Carolina, where "You can ride from dawn 'til dusk and hardly cross

Help Us Out

Sue McLaughlin

When walking on trails, please take a few moments to toss small fallen branches off to the side. There are quite a few sticks on the ground after the windy days we have had this fall. Walk your favorite trails without your horse to keep in shape this winter, and carry a bag to pick up trash on the trail. If every ECTA member spent a small amount of time picking up branches and trash, the trails would be safer and cleaner for everyone. If you see a large downed tree or any dangerous situation, call your ECTA area rep and report it so that the problem can be addressed.

over the same trails," says Nancy, who notes that there are thousands of acres that are open to riders, and all landowners allow a 15-foot easement that makes it possible to drive a pair of horses through. "It's amazing there are so many horse people down there. As you ride by, landowners wave and say hello."

Hunting Season

Massachusetts for Deer
Archery 10/17-11/26
Shotgun 11/28-12/10
Muzzle loader 12/12-12/31

Hunting is not allowed on Sundays. There are many dates for birds and other animals.

Even if you think you are walking or riding in a safe area, wear orange or clip on a bell.

-- *Sue McLaughlin*

New Trail Opened at Appleton Farm

This year saw the opening of a beautiful trail along Waldingfield Road, leading to Goodhue Street and making it easier for riders to hack from Appleton to Groton House and on to Bradley Palmer. We asked Wayne Castonguay to tell us the history of this trail, and he graciously replied:

Most of the trail (as evidenced by the tree lined avenues) was a former part of the overall designed landscape on the farm and was used as an equestrian trail for many years.

It was never public since this was in the area of the family's estate house (called The New House-Mrs. Appleton now lives in the laundry cottage that was attached to the mansion which was torn down in the 60's). However, the family welcomed the hunt to come through that area from time to time.

Although this entire section of the farm is still Mrs. Appleton's private area (it is closed to the

public), she graciously allowed the opening of a horses only trail.

ECTA graciously offered to do much of the clearing work needed to open the trail.

Part of the trail uses the original back driveway to the New House (by white gate on Goodhue Street). That corner of the farm at the intersection of Waldingfield Rd and Goodhue St is known as Kent's Corner.

Half of the trail is in Ipswich and the other in Hamilton.

This entire area was once meticulously landscaped and had many formal gardens. In this area were the Barberry Kennels where the Appletons raised famous AKC beagles, the vegetable garden for the house, wells and walls, a formal walled garden, and the peach orchard which includes the largest and most ornate stone wall on the farm (the cleared area near the trail entrance



The tree-lined trail parallels Waldingfield Road in Ipswich.

on Waldingfield Road).

All of the evergreen trees were planted, most of which were formally manicured hedges which have since grown up into full grown trees.

The Pond along Goodhue street was constructed in the 1930's to add a landscape feature in the estate area. There are many more old roads and trails in this area which will become available to the public in the future.

The field near Kent's corner is named Jimmy's field after the Colonel's brother Jimmy Appleton who died very young. The field along Goodhue Street is called the Playground (we don't know why).

We plan on making further improvements to the trail.

New Equine Crosswalk

By Kay Joseph

ECTA wants to thank Patricia A. Leavenworth, District Highway Director for MASS HIGHWAY and the Ipswich Police for having a crosswalk and new crossing signs installed at the trail crossing Route 1A in Ipswich between Biolabs and Appleton Farms. Everyone who rides or walks between these important trails is thankful for this safety issue being addressed by the Commonwealth.



The entrance to Appleton Farms. A new crosswalk helps riders and walkers cross busy Route 1A between the popular trail and Biolabs. Photos by Pam Mansfield-Loomis.

(The email below concerns the two rivers 40B Pescosolido project)

To Neighbors and Friends:

This is to report on the Zoning Board Association meeting October 20, 2005. We had great neighborhood attendance with Laura Cleary, Bob Stone, Rosie Morgan, Ralph Williams, Bill Mantz, and forgive me if I have missed anyone. The hearing convened shortly after 7:30 and we were heard first. Our presentation took over an hour.

Our first speaker was Don Curiale, President of the Essex County Trail Association. Don's eloquent written summary of his presentation is attached. After his presentation he was questioned by the Board members. One member, Tim Perkins, was particularly aggressive, asking loaded questions laced with legal phrases. For example, he asked "What possible good is there in asking for a trail other than your personal pleasure?" and "Given that the railroad crossing is illegal, why should we consider granting a trail easement?" The tone of these questions was disturbing and we should all convey our appreciation of Don's courage to subject himself to this process. Of course, we answered the questions. What possible good is there in a trail system? It adds value to the property of everybody in town; witness the towns with highest property values — Lincoln, Dover, and Carlisle — and note that they all have extensive public trail systems. Given that the railroad crossing is illegal? No one has ever determined that the rail crossing is illegal. The T itself has paved the crossing to facilitate passage. The crossing has been open and used for over 100 years.

Bob Weatherall was next. Bob



Letters

presented copies of the April 2005 letter from the Planning Board and a paper excerpting provisions of the Ipswich Community Development Plan. Bob covered a wide range of objections to the project including traffic and impact on the river. However, the thrust of his presentation was that the project was not in accord with the Development Plan which recom-



*Entrance to the Pescosolido property.
Photo by Pam Mansfield-Loomis*

mended 40B development closer to the town center and which recommended the preservation of outlying open space. The Chairman asked him why the Planning Board objected to this project but approved the YMCA project. Bob replied that the YMCA project was closer to town, and within walking distance of the YMCA and the train station, facilities that 40B resi-

dents would use. Open Space Committee member Ralph Williams added that the YMCA project yielded 48 units of 40B housing (100% affordable units) while the Pescosolido project yielded only six units of 40B (25% affordable). ZBA member Fierro asserted that the ZBA could disregard the town plan, but agreed with us that the town plan was a factor that the 40B regulations required the ZBA to weigh. Again, our thanks to Bob for subjecting himself to this arduous process.

Joseph G. Sandulli via email

Dear Don,

My husband Chuck Wigo and I were unable to attend last night's ZBA meeting but wanted to extend our thanks to you for making your presentation on behalf of ECTA. Although we are not riders, we agree with you 100% that this is truly a unique feature of our particular section of Ipswich and should be preserved and protected. Once eliminated it will be gone forever.

Many thanks for taking the ZBA grilling. You deserve a hearty pat on the back from all of us.

*Your Neighbor,
Janet Park (via email)*

To ECTA:

I heard rave reviews about the ECTA running event from a colleague who participated. Despite the first snow storm of the season, I understand it was a wonderful event. Congratulations to ECTA and thank you, Ann.

Dorothy Nelson Stookey

ECTA Review of 2005

√	Trail work in Bradley Palmer	\$11,000
√	Emergency trail repairs in Bradley Palmer	\$ 9,000
√	Installation of new beaver deceivers and repairs	\$ 4,000
√	Repair of ECTA Beal easement bridge in Wenham	
√	Opening of new Appleton Farms trail	
√	Procuring 8 new West Newbury easements	
√	Procuring 2 new Ipswich easements	
√	Developing an ECTA Foundation and Management contract	
√	Received a \$2000 Essex National Heritage Commission grant	
√	Equine Expo in April	
√	Day at the Races	
√	Annual Fall Foliage Ride	
√	First annual "Run for the Trails"	
√	The addition of 2 new Directors and Advisors	
√	Myopia Carriage Event at Waldingfield	
√	Poker Ramble in Bradley Palmer and Willowdale	
√	Appleton Farms and ECTA partnership	

Bradley Palmer and ECTA

Susan Hamilton, Regional Director for the Division of State Parks and Recreation, Department of Conservation and Recreation, is a key liaison between ECTA and Bradley Palmer. She recently agreed to explain a little of the relationship our organization has with hers, and a bit about recent improvements made to the park.

I have overall responsibility for the Northeast Region which is comprised of over 30 state forest and park properties that span from Salisbury up at the northern most end of the region, over as far west as Ashburnham, and as far south as Hopkinton and Ashland. I oversee the management and operations of these facilities along with 60 dedicated staff in the field. The facilities are open and available 365 days a year. A wide range of visitors with various interests come to enjoy these special places. Staff maintains the facilities, coordinate programs, oversee all the recreational use, forestry projects, education programs, and improvements. Within this region, there are ocean beaches, fresh water swimming areas, campgrounds, pools and wading pools, group day-use areas, miles of multi-use trails, historic and culturally significant sites,

lakes and ponds, and a working farm.

Stephen Burrington, Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Recreation, oversees the operations of the agency. This "new" agency was created a few years ago combining the former Department of Environmental Management (DEM) and the former Metropolitan District Commission (MDC). There are 3 new divisions – Division of State Parks and Recreation, Division of Urban Parks and Recreation, and Division of Water Supply Protection. Within these Divisions, the Commissioner oversees, parks, parkways, pools, campgrounds, day-use areas, trails, dams, lakes and ponds, grants, land acquisition, historic resources, etc. He also oversees several key Bureaus that offer programmatic guidance to the divisions. These include ranger services, forestry and fire control, recreation and special services and events.

In September of 2004, a supplemental budget was passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Romney that included money for Bradley Palmer and its 9 satellite areas. In particular, \$100,000 was provided to Bradley Palmer and its satellite facilities to rehabilitate and

Trail Updates

- Winthrop Estate Trails Closed
Dec 1 - May 15
- Please respect signs on
Appleton trails indicating trails
closed for winter

ECTA in the News

ECTA is featured in an article entitled "ECTA Preserves Local Trail Systems" on page 25 of the December issue of *Horseman's Yankee Pedlar*. The front cover is a beautiful winter photo of Myopia Hunt.

restore the trails. Since it became "official," the Department has held several meetings with key stakeholders, most notably the Essex County Trails Association, to come up with a plan to spend the money. While this is a significant amount of money, it does not address the trails at all the facilities. Most recently, Commissioner Burrington visited Bradley Palmer and met with key members of ECTA. The plan was presented – over half of the money will be spent on rehabbing the main loop within Bradley Palmer, cleaning up the Civil Defense area and stockpiling materials for future trail projects. The remaining will go to purchasing a tractor with key attachments that will allow the park staff to maintain the trails.

I see the Essex County Trails Association as the unofficial friends group for the park. They have done a tremendous amount of work over the years in the park and their work and effort is very much appreciated. If they, or members of the group, wish to form an official friends group for the park, that would be very exciting and I would be very supportive and grateful. That would be a fine idea.

Welcome New ECTA Members for 2005

Boston

Heidi Eichenberger

Boxford Boxford

Maureen & Katelynn McAllister

Norma Gibney

Karl Prinz

Danielle Gaston

Helen Robinson

Betsy Payne

Dianne Wygle

Beverly Farms

Emily Bailie

Cambridge

Lauren Norton

Deerfield, NH

Avis Rosenfield

Essex

Abby Lincoln

The Kirby Family

Georgetown

Niki Clark

Gloucester

Catherine Col & Stephen Rhodes

Christine Agnor

Ipswich

Chuck & Judy Hill

Marcella Morgese

Deborah Logan

Kensington, NH

Regina Clewell

Lee, NH

Judy Eitler

Manchester

Rober Forward

Merrimac

Lesley Fogarty

Newton

Chris Everest

North Andover

Connie Richards

Peabody

Deanna Tkachuk

Rowley

Joanne Blades

Salem

Rosemary Kennedy

Caroline Bishop

Kimberly Sgroi

South Hamilton

Nicholas & Kim Cutler

Ana Crespo & David Santomena

Meirwyn Walters

Edward Mehm

James Lewis

Arno Kolz

David Blair

Jean Kalland

Kent Wosepka

Topsfield

Sharon Hanson

Wakefield

Perseus LePage

West Newbury

Christine Phaneuf

Patricia Reeser

Wilton, NH

Sheryl Gregory

Winchester

Ava Langlais

Essex County Trail Association
Post Office Box 358
Hamilton, MA 01936

