



# Essex County News Trail Association

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Spring/Summer 2005

## From the President

Don Curiale

### RESPECT

by Don Curiale, President

It would be very easy to write, once again, about the “respect” we, as members of the Essex County Trail Association, should have for our landowners. However, I thought I would reword the question: Do our landowners have “respect” for ECTA?

Having read an article featuring “corporate corruption,” it occurred to me how important it is for the consumer to believe and trust in the product of the corporation. There must be respect.

The same can be asked of a non-profit. Is ECTA fulfilling its mission of preserving and maintaining trails to the satisfaction of its landowners? Do our landowners believe and trust in us? I would hope, of course, that the answer is “yes.” Certainly, the Board wants members to be happy but, without our landowners, our trail system would be sharply limited. Our landowners must trust and believe in ECTA so we can maintain and enjoy their trails. But most of all, they have to respect our organization in order to feel comfortable with their financial and land generosity.

Yes, there is a lot more to do in order to improve our Association but I would trust that, after 22 years, we have earned the “respect” from our generous landowners.



On behalf of the Board of Directors, Officers, and Area Representatives, may I extend our sincerest thanks?

### Annual Meeting

On Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, the Essex County Trail Association held its Annual Meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cheston in Topsfield. There were over 60 people in attendance who enjoyed a social hour watching the Cheston’s peacocks run amuck before we started our business meeting.

Mr. Ed Becker of the Essex County Greenbelt Association was our Guest Speaker. Ed discussed the proposed

Congressional revisions on tax easements for landowners and non-profit land group organizations. He also discussed the ramifications these new revisions could have on these land conservation groups. ECTA thanks Ed for a great, informational talk.

### Trail Talk

It is a general rule that most private trails in our area open in the month of May. Generally, this includes Appleton Farms,

Winthrop property, Groton House, Pingree Reservation, Biolabs, Sagamore Hill, Devon Glen, the Myopia Schooling Field and Waldingfield.

This is the time of year when we send our professional, Chip Cheston, out to do regular maintenance on Biolab trails in Hamilton/Ipswich, the Pingree Reservation in Hamilton, and Bradley Palmer State Park.

Appleton Farms has opened a new trail that runs along Waldingfield Road and follows the road curve to Goodhue Street in Hamilton. It is a beautiful ride and is opened to equestrians only. ECTA did most of the clearing for the trail. ECTA sincerely thanks the Trustees of Reservations and Farm Manager Wayne

*(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

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 Arlene Maginn  
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## ECTA Officers

President	Donald Curiale
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## ECTA Area Representatives

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Bea Britton 468-2733  
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Abigail Jackson 887-6314

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## ECTA Board of Advisors

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### Trail Advisor

Holly Pulsifer

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Dorothy Stookey

## From the President

(continued from page 1)

Castonguay for a job well done!

Our ECTA Coordinator, Carol Lloyd, is working hard on beaver deceivers in Bradley Palmer and an additional deceiver at Pingree School. We hope to have them installed by the Palmer Gardens parking lot by the time you read this newsletter. The beavers continue to work hard (please see newsletter article, "Beaver is Back").

Carol is also working on several easements in West Newbury and Ipswich.

ECTA is also working with Essex County Greenbelt on possible easements on their property. Thank you Greenbelt.

ECTA has helped financially and with volunteers for a new Essex/Manchester trail map.

Susanna Colorado is working on updating the Hamilton Trail map targeting large land parcels.

ECTA has filed a grant application with the Department of Recreation and Conservation.

## Environmental Police

If you see a motorized vehicle on a trail or any kind of related problem, you can call the Environmental Police at 800-632-8075.

## Trail Etiquette

Please read the rules of trail etiquette posted on our website! Make sure you are familiar with them.

## ECTA Membership Statistics for the Past Ten Years

Judy Gregg, Membership

### Year-end Totals

1995	402	76 were new members
1996	489	101 were new members
1997	469	69 were new members
1998	644	87 were new members
1999	660	66 were new members
2000	607	55 were new members
2001	647	42 were new members
2002	583	66 were new members
2003	501	21 were new members
2004	564	41 were new members
2005	518	22 are new – as of May 1, 2005

### Trail Use (Members First Choice Indication)

Group	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Riders	318	277	343	373	351
Walkers/Hikers	69	75	67	81	85
Carriage Driving	15	7	14	12	15
Cyclists	6	3	3	4	4
Jogging/Running	6	5	5	2	2
Dog Sledding	0	0	0	1	0
X-C Skiing	1	0	0	0	
Bird Watching	1	1			
Duck Hunting	1	1			
Snow Shoeing	1	1			

Note, not all members indicated trail use each year.

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**www.ectaonline.org.**

The new  
 Appleton  
 trail along  
 Waldingfield  
 road to  
 Goodhue  
 street is  
 officially  
 open!

## Director's Profile – Arlene Maginn

by Pamela Mansfield-Loomis

For most of her many years of membership in ECTA, Arlene Maginn has served as Area Representative for Hamilton. In that role, she also regularly volunteered to tackle special projects such as the Taste of Ipswich fundraiser two years ago, the Day at the Races, the Equine Paraphernalia Sale, the Ipswich mapping project, and the Poker Ramble, helping wherever and whenever needed. Eventually her continued support and familiarity with the goals and structure of ECTA made it a logical move for President Don Curiale to appoint her to the Board of Directors. Now she attends more meetings and has a closer look at the day-to-day goings on, but continues to spearhead assigned projects and help out with such current tasks as the revised mapping project for Hamilton.

Having lived in Ipswich and, for the past 18 years, in Hamilton, Arlene is very familiar with the trails. Her home abuts Appleton Farm. As an abutter, she says, "it's exciting to have the ECTA and



Arlene Maginn, center (third from right), at a past Day at the Races fundraiser that she helped to organize.

Appleton Farm right here where I live." The proximity is an ideal situation for someone who has avidly enjoyed the trails in many ways, from walking her dog to riding her horse. Over the years she and her family have biked on the trails together and they have even held birthday parties in the woods for her two children and their friends, biking in with supplies to host their picnics.

Arlene and her husband came to Massachusetts 28 years ago after watching the movie "International Velvet,"

which was filmed at Ledyard Farm in Wenham. "My husband always likes to watch the credits, and at the end of the movie he read the location where it was filmed, and we both decided, 'let's go there.'" Later, when she met Neil Ayer, who owned Ledyard, she told him how the scenes of his property inspired her move. Arlene is originally from Prince Edward Island, and she and her husband have lived in

Asia and California. "I used to ride my horse in Los Angeles. That was interesting."

They say that the busiest people are the ones who often give a great deal of their time to help out whenever needed, even though they seem to have no time to spare. Such is the case with Arlene, who really has a full plate outside of the ECTA as a pediatric nurse, a potter who teaches in Ipswich, an eventer who is bringing along a seven-year-old mare and also works around the barn to be closer to her horse, a mother, a wife, and now a Director of ECTA.

## Director's Profile – Mary Lee Mahoney

By Don Curiale

Mary Lee Mahoney has returned to ECTA and we are happy!

For many, many years, Mary Lee and her deceased husband, Jerry, wrote the newsletters for ECTA. In the early 80s, Mary Lee was directly involved in the formation of the organization and instrumental in pulling neighbors together to save trails from development. For decades, Mary Lee has worked tirelessly to maintain trail usage. She has developed a special relationship and mutual respect with her neighbors and landowners in West Newbury.

Mary Lee is an ECTA Director. She and her new husband, Mr. Philip Camp, plan to move to Vermont. Mary Lee intends to stay active and involved with ECTA.



## ECTA Director Receives Award on National Trails Day

The Hamilton Conservation Commission celebrated National Trails Day on June 4 in Bradley Palmer State Park. There were activities for walkers, bikers, and trail advocates as well as food and drink for all. Susanna Colloredo of ECTA and Carol Decker of Massachusetts Audubon led a walk through the Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary to visit a working beaver deceiver.

Later, at Bradley Palmer, ECTA Director and former President Susanna Colloredo received two awards for her hard work, efforts, and endless hours in helping restore trails in the park. Senator Bruce Tarr and State Representative Brad Hill were on hand to personally award Susanna. We are all very proud of Susanna's devotion to the trails and her new awards.



# 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Expo – What a Day!

by Kay Joseph

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual Paraphernalia Expo took place on Saturday, April 23, 2005 at the Topsfield Fairgrounds arena. This event is a major fundraiser for our organization to continue its work with trial maintenance.

Over 70 exhibitors showed a wide variety of items and services such as pony clubs, an equine dentist, sports message, and a saddle fitter. We had many rescue groups with horses from Page 1, MSPCA, EPONA, BLM, and THE FARM explaining what each group stood for and what they did to help various animals.

Many people also had items for sale for the horse and rider. New and used tack, riding apparel, trailers, custom embroidery, pottery, jewelry, stable equipment, Winfrey's Fudge, and assorted gifts.

The silent auction was a new feature this year and drew many bidders on gift certificates and a large grouping of new items.

The information table was busy throughout the day, providing free trail maps, publications, and other information about horsecare and land organizations. Our information table took in quite a few new and renewal memberships.

In the demonstration ring we showed Missouri Foxtrotters, Norwegian Fjords, Fresians, a Mammoth Donkey, a Mustang, and two rescued horses whose owners answered questions throughout the day. Windrush Farm gave a therapeutic equitation demonstration. All of the breeds had their state or national organizations present to answer questions about the breeds.

A misty morning and afternoon showers did not stop a large, enthusiastic crowd.

Many thanks to the volunteers who made this Expo the biggest success ever. Plans are underway for next year's Expo on Saturday, April 22, 2006! Please hold that date and consider helping any way you can.

See you all next April.





## Poker Trail Ramble

by Kay Joseph

***We will be holding a Poker Trail Ramble at Bradley Palmer and Willowdale State Parks in Topsfield, MA on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Start is at 9:30 a.m.; last out is at 11 a.m.***

The trails will be marked for walkers and riders. Riders can choose a short 1 ½ hour ride in Bradley Palmer, or a longer ride, which includes crossing the street to Willowdale. We will have a crossing guard as long as horses are out.

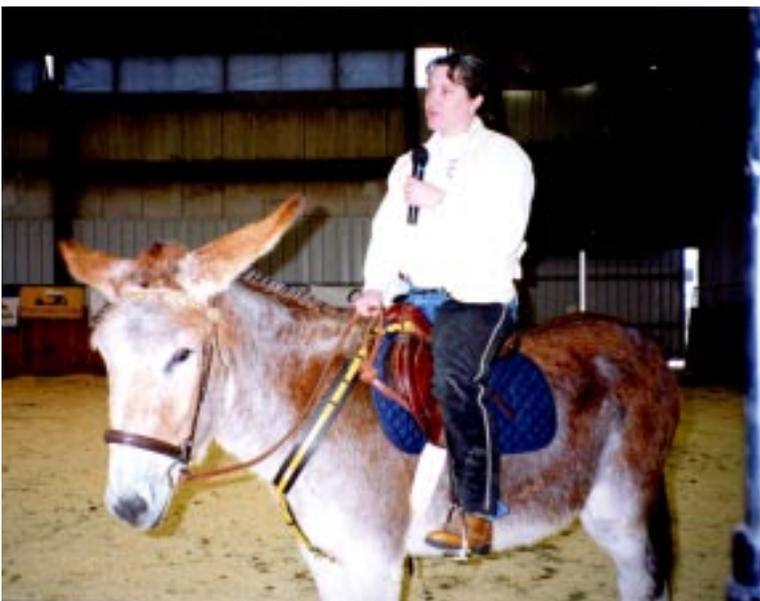
Each person is given a playing card on leaving the start. Three additional cards are in buckets on the trail in Bradley Palmer and the final card is given on return. The top poker hands win cash prizes. Other gifts will be given for other hands.

Lunch is included with each entry. There is no rain date. Entries will be returned if the ride is canceled due to extreme weather.

Entry is \$20 for ECTA members and \$25 for nonmembers.

Please come and enjoy the day with us in the park. If you cannot ride or walk, please consider volunteering! We have many "jobs" available at this fun event.

**For more information and an entry form, please call Kay at 978-768-6275, or Sue at 978-468-7715, or email [kljoreo@aol.com](mailto:kljoreo@aol.com).**



## Equine Expo

photos by Sue McLaughlin

Top left to bottom right:  
Windrush Farm, GraceWorks Pottery (owner Laurie Dombroski), Farm Family Insurance (Barbara Odiorne), Pentucket Pony Club, Overlook Pony Club, Yankee Donkey & Mule Society (Deb Kovac on Apollo)

## The Beaver is Back – and in a Big Way

By Russell Hopping, Ecology Program Manager - The Trustees of Reservations

Reprinted with permission of TTOR

Once trapped to near extinction to satiate the European fur market, the beaver (*Castor canadensis*) has made an incredible comeback in Massachusetts. Beavers were reintroduced to the state during the 1930s and have now spread throughout most of Massachusetts. By 1996 the beaver population in the state was estimated at 24,000, growing to some 70,000 today.

As beavers return to areas they once inhabited, conflicts between humans and beavers are increasing in frequency throughout the state. While beaver dams are excellent at creating new wetlands and wildlife habitat, the resulting ponds can flood roads, trails, and septic systems.

Because of the role they play in ecosystems, beavers are considered a “keystone species,” one that has a disproportionate impact on the community relative to its abundance. Beaver dams and ponds help to control floods, recharge groundwater, mitigate droughts by releasing water slowly, and improve water quality by removing sediment. Equally important, beavers create habitat for numerous other species including many rare species. Beaver ponds provide foraging areas for waterfowl and marsh birds such as bitterns and rails. Reptiles, amphibians, and small mammals like mink and muskrat thrive in beaver-created habitats. Trees that are killed by flooding provide valuable nesting sites for birds including wood ducks and great blue herons.

The Trustees’ position in regard to beaver activity is one of tolerance. Beavers are an important natural component of the Massachusetts landscape and their activity produces highly-productive ecosystems that benefit many species of plants and animals. Our new beaver management guidelines state that beaver activity on The Trustees’ properties should not be interrupted unless it threatens public health and safety, severely affects property abutters, or threatens roads, buildings or other structures.

Beavers have made many of our reservations home, including Field Farm, Peaked Mountain, Swift River, Quinebaug Woods, and Ward Reservation.

## SNAPSHOT



*Don Curiale has lots to say to a local beaver at the Knoxville Zoo in Tennessee*

### A Little Bit of Local History

*Don Curiale recently found this in a newspaper clipping dated December 7, 2003.*

#### **Milicent Tuckerman, Breeder of Thoroughbred Horses, 94**

Milicent Tuckerman, whose ability to breed thoroughbred horses made her well known in the New England horse racing community, died Monday. She was 94 and lived in Westport.

Working alongside her husband, Bayard Tuckerman, Jr., who oversaw the building of Suffolk Downs race track in 1935, Mrs. Tuckerman was an intellectual who applied scientific methodology to horse breeding in a time when it was largely considered an art, said her daughter, Susan of Unionville, Penn.

One of her greatest successes was Rise Jim, bred in the mid-1970s on her 200-acre South Westport farm. The horse won his first race in 1978 at the age of 2. A year later, after many wins in local races, Rise Jim was considered one of New England’s greatest homebreds.

She married Tudkerman – who had sold her her first horse – in 1946, and together, they bred dozens of horses, selling them at Saratoga and other area racetracks.

In the early morning, Mrs. Tuckerman

and her husband headed to Suffolk Downs to give their horses a warm-up, then she returned to their farm, where she spent much of her time tending a lavish garden that spread across the now-130 acre parcel of land. She often traveled around the farm and surrounding area using a horse and cart.

At the track, she worked behind the scenes. “Mother was just sort of the instrument behind the headlines,” her daughter Susan said.

Most summers, the Tuckermans spent at least a month at the Saratoga races, selling yearlings.

She also helped breed hunting beagles as joint master of the Waldingfield Beagles, the oldest registered pack in the United States.

Family members recalled a witty side of the champion horse breeder. Nicknamed Mitty, she worked hard to teach the parrots she kept around to say “Pretty Mitty.”

In addition to Susan, Mrs. Tuckerman leaves three other daughters, Edgeworth W. Ginns of Deerfield, Milicent B. Throop of Westport, and Jane B. of South Dartmouth; a son, Arthur W. Whittall of Austin, Texas; a step-daughter, Phyllis Cutler of South Hamilton; a stepson, Herbert S. of Prides Crossing; 12 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

# Picture-perfect Trails in Bradley Palmer

by Pamela Mansfield-Loomis

ECTA's investment in maintenance and repairs, and the expert work of Peter Britton, have transformed eroded trails leading to Highland and Asbury Streets. Trails have been graded and lined with crushed stone, and culverts upgraded.



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

