



Essex County *News* Trail Association

Volume 25 Number 3

Fall 2006

From the President

Don Curiale

Ascot Stables and ECTA

“Wow,” exclaimed Director Ellen Alden. “I don’t believe it!” joined Susanna Colloredo. Executive Director Carol Lloyd announced to the Directors that Ascot Stables has donated over \$23,000 to the Essex County Trail Association.

Kat and Jerry Kenney made a firm decision a couple of months ago to help the ECTA. (Please see interview article on page 3.) They decided to send a direct mail letter to all their boarders and friends. The result was astounding.

The Board of Directors of ECTA would like to publicly thank Jerry and lovely Kat for a job well done! We are all so proud, appreciative, and honored. Thank you Ascot Stables and boarders.

25th Anniversary Celebration

The year 2007 will be a very special one for ECTA. It marks its 25th anniversary. Yes, we have been on the North Shore for 25 years clearing, pruning, maintaining, negotiating, and preserving. Now we want you to join us in celebrating.

A very special “dinner committee” has been formed to organize our big bash on Saturday, November 18th, 2006 at Turner Hill, Ipswich. There will be a Silent Auction, live auction, dinner, and

dancing. The committee is hard at work collecting items, raffle prizes, and anything else that makes for a successful, fun party and fundraiser. All monies will go to trail maintenance. Look for your invitation for Saturday, November 18th in the mail. Put it on your calendar today!!! It won’t be a party without you.

If you have any ideas or can help in any way, please feel free to call 978-356-7656.

ECTA Online

A new, updated ECTA website design you ask? Yes! ECTA is thrilled to have Cheryl Riley on board. Cheryl plans to work with ECTA’s favorite web host, Neil Ayer. Together, they will redesign the site, improve linkage, and make traveling easier for us. Thank you so much, Neil and Cheryl.

Trail Tales

ECTA has cleared, maintained, or repaired the following trails:

✂ All trails in Biolabs in Ipswich.

ECTA thanks Amanda Smith for mowing.

✂ Pingree Reservation in Hamilton

✂ Major trail link in West Newbury



The Barowy Trail, Ipswich

✂ Trail on causeway behind Brackenside

✂ “Three Pipe” trail in Willowdale

✂ Mowing in Bradley Palmer

✂ Pruning back of brush along main drive in Bradley Palmer

Trail Alerts

Don’t forget to check “Trail Alerts” at www.ECTAonline.org for the latest trail information. This link is brought to you by Director Kristal Pooler.

A dangerous, swampy trail has been closed to riders in Willowdale. A horse and rider went down on this water-covered trail. Both horse and rider are fine. Please observe posted “Trail Closed” sign.

Riders - please “walk” on the trail that touches the old Clark racetrack

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.

ECTA Board of Directors

Susanna Colloredo, Chair
Ellen Alden
Susie Banta
Leslie Brooks
Ann Getchell
Nady Peters
Kristal Pooler
Don Curiale
Joseph Sandulli
Arlene Maginn

ECTA Officers

President	Donald Curiale
Executive Director	Carol Lloyd
1st Vice President	Leslie Brooks
2nd Vice President	Abigail Jackson
Treasurer	Liz Wheaton
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
Lucy Pingree 468-7942

Topsfield

Abigail Jackson 887-6314
Kathie Tremblay 887-8855
Katy Redmond 617-413-4790

Wenham

Beverly Granz 777-3375
Deborah Stanton 762-8434

West Newbury

George & Nancy McGowan 363-1877

ECTA Board of Advisors

Stu Thorne	Don Greenough
Scott Solombrino	Bruce Corwin
Nancy Merrill	Al Craig
Jim MacDougall	Lily Rice Hsia
Lois Cheston	Barbara Ostberg
Katrina Hart	Peter Britton
Ted Raymond	Heidi Hargadon
Susan Lawrence	Don Little
Gerry Kenney	Camilla Rich
Peter Campot	John Pingree
David Santomena	
Wayne Castonguay	
Rick Silverman	

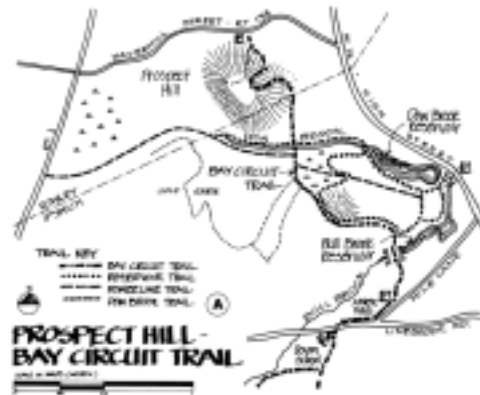
Trail Advisor	Holly Pulsifer
Legal Advisor	Dorothy Stookey
Newsletter	Pam Mansfield

in the Fox Hollow area in Hamilton.

Please do not ride up paved driveway that leads to the old Ski Hill in Hamilton off of Autumn Lane in Hamilton. The neighbors do not want to look at manure.

ECTA News

The Ipswich Bay Circuit Committee has announced a plan to build three horse/pedestrian bridges on a trail going from Prospect Hill in Ipswich to the Marini Farm easement off Linebrook Road. This trail connects to Willowdale. The bridges are estimated to cost \$30,000 to construct. ECTA pledged \$4,000 to this important connector.



ECTA has donated \$2000 in 2006 to Appleton Farms to help with trail and building maintenance.

ECTA welcomes new Director Nady Peters from West Newbury to the Board of Directors. Nady is extremely knowledgeable about the West Newbury trails, easements, neighbors, and landowners. She will be working with Director Ellen Alden, Area Reps Nancy and George McGowan. Thanks for coming on board.

Annual Fall Trail Ride

The annual Fall Waldingfield Trail Ride will be Sunday, October 22 at 11 a.m. at Waldingfield barn. Look for your invitation in the mail.

What Makes a Tree Historic?

(From Terra Firma 2, a publication of DCR)

Many people recognize trees as important natural resources - they clean our air, cool our city streets and protect our watersheds. But many trees are also significant as historic resources, either individually or by contributing to the overall character of a historic landscape. While a majestic oak may mark the site of an important event, an apple orchard may reflect regional agricultural traditions. Ornamental trees in a historic garden may tell us not only about the intent of the landscape designer but also about the aesthetics of a certain time period. Trees in less formal settings, dotting a town common, for example, may not have been planted according to an overall plan, but are not less important in establishing the character of the landscape.

[Massachusetts'] rich collection of historic landscapes incorporates an equally important collection of historic trees. The American sycamore in Sunderland, Mass., is over 112 feet tall, has a circumference of nearly 25 feet, and was standing in 1789 - though it may be much older. It is the largest of its species in the state, and is a Massachusetts "champion tree", a designation based on a tree's trunk

circumference, height and crown spread.



§§§

"Each generation takes the earth as trustees. We ought to bequeath to

posterity as many forests and orchards as we have exhausted and consumed."-- Sterling Morton

Ascot Riding Center Rallies to Raise Funds - *Generous Donation to ECTA to Fund New Work*

by Pamela Mansfield-Loomis

In more than 40 years of riding horses throughout Ipswich and Hamilton, Jerry Kenney, owner of Ascot Riding Center on Argilla Road, Ipswich, has witnessed many changes throughout the extensive network of trails. So when he came upon the newly refurbished and groomed trails in Bradley Palmer, completed through ECTA funding and the help of generous ECTA members, he was so inspired he decided to hold a fundraiser of phenomenal proportions to help with continued improvement of the trails.

“When I saw the work that ECTA had done making the trails inside and outside of Bradley Palmer so much more suitable for riding, especially if you like to move along,” Jerry says, “I thought, ‘this is kind of unbelievable. They don’t do this in this day and age, do they?’ It was hard to believe someone would actually spend that kind of money on trails today, so I inquired about who was doing it and how and I thought maybe they could use some more money.”

Ascot currently has some 200 regular clients. Thousands of students have taken riding lessons on Jerry’s school horses or their own mounts over the years, some enjoying their very first cross country riding experiences with him. A number of students and boarders have been with him for over 25 years.

“I thought I could depend on them to pitch in. If I asked for it, I thought they would be generous and respond to a fundraiser.” He and his wife Kat developed the concept, sent out letters, and kept track of the results. Taking his cue from a recent United Way fundraiser, Jerry set a goal — \$20,000 – but he had no idea if that was reasonable or not. As a visual reminder of the goal and the money raised, an artist working at the

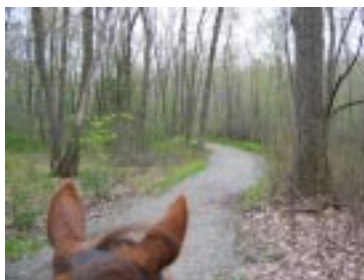


Jerry and Kat Kenney of Ascot Riding Center beside the mural with a trail that grew as donations came in.

barn painted a mural on the stable wall, filling in more and more details of the mural as the money came in. His clients were extremely generous, Jerry says, and some gave as much as they could.

“It feels like a lot of them did it just for me because they know me. We got some great letters from people who haven’t ridden for years, and some from kids. One eight-year-old girl wrote that she was sending her donation because her sister, who is ten or twelve, goes out cross-country riding with me and she gets so upset when cross-country gets cancelled.”

Jerry found the fundraising experience very rewarding, just as he finds giving people an opportunity to learn riding to be very rewarding. At one time Ascot had 40 school horses and 350 students, he says,



A refurbished trail in Bradley Palmer.

offering people who couldn’t afford to own a horse or who didn’t have the time a unique chance to enjoy horses and the trails. Ascot Riding Center keeps eight instructors, including his son and two daughters, very busy. Ascot boarders and students are ECTA members. It is a prerequisite of joining the lesson program.

When the fundraiser stalled at \$14,000, Jerry says they sent another letter out, reminding people that you don’t have to have a horse to enjoy the miles of trails. Within two months of his first letter, he had surpassed his goal and the mural on the stable wall was complete.

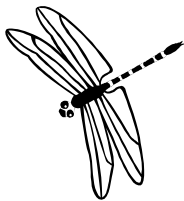
Jerry, now an ECTA Advisor, was present at the very first ECTA meetings nearly 25 years ago. Originally from New Hampshire, Jerry grew up in Lawrence, Mass., and North Andover, where he worked as a groom at North Andover Riding Academy. During his years in Ipswich, he has often ridden to the hounds with the Myopia Hunt.

“I always loved cross-country. I started out at a place with one trail around the park back to the farm, and it only lasted about an hour. I thought that it was pretty incredible when I came to this area.”

“Get Outside” is Good Advice from ECTA Advisor

by Pamela Mansfield-Loomis

Bugs are not an outdoor lover’s friend in summer, and this season we have seen a plethora of deer flies, “B-52 bombers,” the big black pesky flies that target horses, persistent mosquitoes, and fractious bees. Which may explain why huge flocks of bug-eating dragonflies seem to have magically appeared everywhere you look on a sunny day, in dazzling colors, shapes, and sizes.



Gossamer fore and hind wings, brilliant blue, green, and ruby-colored bodies, and large watchful eyes are typical characteristics, but in fact the species is incredibly rich in variation, and attracting enthusiasm among bird watchers and similar outdoor enthusiasts.

Learning to identify them is just one of the courses that ECTA Advisor Jim MacDougall has taught at the Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary in Topsfield. “There are two hundred eighty species in the state and about one hundred thirty of those can be found in Essex County,” Jim says. “There are a number of active ones that cruise the forested trails looking for deer flies. They will bump into your hat hawking flies off the brim. That’s just one of a half-dozen groups of dragonflies, each with its own dietary preferences.”

Jim also plans to teach another course of potential interest to trail users: how to use a GPS, or global positioning system. “GPS is one of those miracles of progress that can



ECTA Advisor Jim MacDougall filming butterflies north of Nome, Alaska.

really help someone. They are in our cell phones and if enabled, emergency responders can locate an injured equestrian if that person or someone they are with calls nine-one-one. And in places like Willowdale, Bradley Palmer, or the Greenbelt property behind Pingree School, et cetera, it is important for emergency professionals to get to an injured person as soon as possible and this is the best way. So the course I wish to teach at IRWS is for trail users, emergency responders, event organizers, and sportsmen so they can learn how to use the GPS unit they got for Christmas or a birthday and never really got comfortable with how to use it.”

Jim became most familiar with GPS himself while conducting a dragonfly survey for U.S. Fish and Wildlife in northeast Vermont. He used GPS to identify locations where he collected different specimens, the best routes he found, and where he parked his car.

Jim’s extensive knowledge of the local trails caused ECTA president Don Curiale to ask for his help in marking Willowdale State Forest with blue and red triangles that guide trail users along specific routes that will

safely lead them back to the entrance. As a runner, Jim learned the trail system even better than his wife, he says, who had ridden there since early childhood, trusting the horses to find their way home if lost.

“When we moved back to Topsfield in 1985, I would lead her around Willowdale, me on my bike and she on a cantering 17.3 hand behemoth who seems to enjoy breathing down my neck. Great incentive for staying on one’s bike,” he says.

Jim is a professional wetland scientist who specializes in ecosystems management and biodiversity. He served as property manager at Essex County Greenbelt and vice president of Essex National Heritage Commission. He currently works with a local land survey company and helps with his wife’s family’s Christmas tree farm. At Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary he videotapes wildlife and was involved in the production of a local nature television series two years ago, entitled “Get Outside.” In addition to running and biking the trails at Willowdale and Bald Hill, he enjoys birdwatching in Essex and Manchester. He and his

wife hike each year in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom to study wildflowers, ferns, dragonflies, and birds. They took a special anniversary trip to hike the highest peak in the U.K., Ben Nevins. But from May to October, the fascinating dragonflies and damselflies of Essex County, with names like Green Darner, Blue Dasher, Twelve-Spotted Skimmer, and Ruby Meadowhawk will be part of his ongoing studies at Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary.

To learn more about the difference between a dragonfly and a damselfly, or the species called Odonates, Blair Nikula's book "A Field Guide to the Dragonflies and Damselflies of Massachusetts" is a great place to start. And check the Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary's website for nature courses, including Jim's GPS course on Wednesday, October 4, 2006, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Classified Ads

Purebred Arab, 14.3h., 15 yrs, pretty bay, excellent pleasure driving mare with lots of potential and "go". Great working walk and trot also broke to ride. No vices, great to handle & sound and fit. Breeze trucks, ties, clips, bathes, & is good for vet. She's up to date on shots and shoeing, ready to go to a nice home. (Owner's health is the sad reason to find a new home for Breeze.) Free to a loving home. contact: ngmacgown@peoplepc.com or 978-363-1877 **Purebred Morgan Gelding**, 15.1, 13 yrs, pretty sweet flashy chestnut with flaxen mane and tail. Fabulous ground covering walk and trot, great stamina. Loves being a pleasure trail horse: water, hills, ocean, good with traffic, jumps logs, loves to be groomed and handled. Sound and healthy, up to date on all shots, shoes, dental and worming. Replaced hip doesn't like me riding ngmacgown@peoplepc.com Free to a wonderful home. **Reg. Morgan Mare** age 25, 15 h. rides and drives for companion or light ngmacgown@peoplepc.com.

Fall Barn Tour To Benefit Ipswich Animal Shelter and E.C.T.A.

On Sunday, October 1, eleven barns in Ipswich, Hamilton and Topsfield will be open to the general public from **12 noon to 4 p.m.** This is a wonderful opportunity to view not only a unique assortment of new and old New England style barns but also to see a large assortment of animals including horses, llamas, miniature donkeys, pot bellied pigs, ponies, chickens, ducks, pigmy goats, guinea hens, cows, turkeys and roosters. The proceeds from this Fall Barn Tour will benefit the Ipswich Animal Shelter and Essex County Trail Association. This event will take place rain or shine.

From 2 to 4 p.m., after viewing the barns, the public is invited to the Markos' barn at 18 Mill Road in Ipswich. At that time the "5 Day Weekend Band" will be playing and light refreshments will be provided as well as on sale. Also, Petco will be giving out free souvenirs for cats and dogs. There will also be tables full of silent auction goods for animals where people can place their bids. The Ipswich Animal Shelter and the Essex County Trail Association will also have tables with information about their organizations available.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. They can be purchased in advance at the Ipswich Animal Shelter on Fowler's Lane, the Equestrian Tack shop at Bruni's Market Place in Ipswich on Route 133 and at Petco on Route One in Topsfield. On the day of the event, they can be purchased starting at 9:00 a.m. at Prudy Markos's barn at 18 Mill Road in Ipswich. There is a limit of 500 tickets so the public is advised to get their tickets early so as not to be disappointed.

The following companies are sponsors of this event and their generosity has made it possible:

Choice Graphics, Essex County Co-op, 5 Day Weekend Band, Marty's Donuts, Paws With Inn, Petco, Shamrock Acres Garden and Landscape Designs, Bernard Sullivan Insurance Agency, The Equestrian Shop North and While You Were Out Pet Care Services.

For further information about this event, please call 978 356-7161. If you are an E.C.T.A. member and would like to volunteer your time at one of the barns that day, please call Prudy Markos at 978- 356-7161 or Don Curiale at 978-501-2590.



National Trails Day

Saturday, June 3, 2006

by Katrina Hart

National Trails Day dawned soggy, as did so many days this past spring. ECTA and the Trustees of Reservations planned a joint walk, led by ECTA Advisor Katrina Hart, at Appleton Farms to explore the newly opened trails in the area around Mrs. Appleton's former residence.

As the skies opened, John Hamilton, co-chairman of the Hamilton Conservation Commission, distributed tee shirts and posters to the intrepid walkers: Susanna Colloredo, Judy Milano, and Joe Daley. Despite downpours, we had



Katrina Hart walking the trails on a sunnier National Trails Day

a most interesting stroll. How fortunate we are to have this additional network of pathways to enjoy! The

Trustees' new trail maps of the Grass Rides area include this portion of the Farm.

Equestrians: Drivers need to learn rules

(reprinted from the Gloucester Daily Times)

Essex - Every morning about 5:30, Tammy Kirby saddles her horse Dustin quickly, knowing her window of opportunity is small.

Before too many drivers are on the road, she mounts and heads from her stable on Western Avenue to Pond Street, where she will ride on a trail.

It's a short horseback ride, but it can be a dangerous one for her and her horse when cars are around, Kirby said.

"I'm lucky my horse is calm and doesn't scare off easily," she said. "But I know of other horses that a sudden sound of a car can scare him off and make him run."

Speedy cars and loud trucks make local horseback riders think twice about venturing onto public roadways, Kirby said.

Riders say the problem is that most people don't know the rules that apply when they share the road with eques-

trians.

"You're supposed to slow down," Kirby said. "But that doesn't happen very often."

In Essex, it's not uncommon for drivers to encounter horseback riders. The town has 246 registered horses, according to the Board of Health office.

Police Chief Peter Silva agrees that the roads can be unsafe for horseback riders.

"Thankfully, we haven't had any injuries recently," he said. "People should use extreme caution when approaching a horse."

State law requires drivers to come to an immediate stop when approaching a horse, cow or draft animal being ridden, led or driven if the animal appears to be frightened and if the rider or herder signals the driver to do so.

In addition, drivers traveling in the opposite direction are required to stop and remain stationary until the animal passes.

Silva said the reason for the law is simple: A loud, sudden noise can cause the horse to throw the rider, resulting in

severe injury.

A sudden noise can also spook a horse into running, with the rider clinging to the saddle, Kirby said.

"They are flight animals," she said. "If they sense danger, they'll run."

Kirby said drivers often beep their horn, yell out of the car window or speed around her and Dustin.

"I don't think they do it on purpose," Kirby said. "Most people don't know what the proper thing to do is."

Hope Sanford, 45, is uneasy about riding on the street.

"The only reason I don't like it is because drivers go way too fast," said the 13-year Essex resident.

Beverly Brewer, 55 agrees.

"Many of us that go onto the streets don't do it because we enjoy it," said Brewer, an Essex resident who has been riding for 25 years. "Many of us use the street just so we can get to the trails."

Brewer said drivers should use common sense and treat horseback riders just like anyone else on the road.

"I think we can all share the road safely," she said.

ECTA Welcomes New Director

ECTA welcomes new Director Nady Peters to its staff. Nady, who moved to West Newbury several years ago, became involved in ECTA through talking with the boarders at the barn she and her husband Richard built. She has worked with Director Ellen Alden, resigning Director Mary Lee Mahoney, and Area Reps Nancy and George MacGown on plans for restoring and connecting trails in the West Newbury area. She has graciously agreed to fill the position recently left by Mary Lee, who moved to the Woodstock, Vermont area two years ago.

“I had been very involved with the West Newbury Riding and Driving Club,” Nady explains, “when Mary Lee and a few others started a group that was interested in building a trail system. I was invited to be involved and very eagerly agreed. There are trails but few have been maintained or connected to one another. There is a huge opportunity to do that. You really could ride or walk all over West Newbury.”

In the past few years, ECTA has added “the framework, support, and

expertise” to the trail system in West Newbury. Plans are in place to first link existing main trails from the Pipestave equestrian park and the Riverbend area, to expand the trails and maintain them. Many people in the area were quite surprised at the number of trails there are, Nady said.

Nady rides her registered Morgan, Rocket on the trails near her home, to Groveland Forest, Byfield, and the reservoir off of Cherry Hill. She boarded for several years at Chrislar Farm where she was able to ride in Georgetown-Rowley State Forest just behind the Rowley stable. It was her love of the many horseback riding trails on the North Shore and her desire to have her own house and barn that eventually triggered the Peters’ move from a condominium in Boston. Now Richard also rides a retired dressage horse on the trails, and 24-year-old Rocket loves carriage driving as much as trail riding.

Originally from Belgium, Nady worked in the international business world until starting her own equestrian products business and working as a licensed riding instructor. She is



Nady Peters and “Rocket”

combining her love of business, seeking approval with the town and planning the trail work, with her love of New England nature and horses. Already there are easements allowing a “very nice loop on horseback” from Pipestave, and there are plans to improve trails in the Cherry Hill and Crane Neck areas. In addition to work on the trail system, the goal is to increase awareness and membership of ECTA in West Newbury.

Save the Date!

Black Tie & Blue Jeans Ball

to benefit the Essex County Trail Association
Saturday, November 18, 6 pm

Turner Hill, Ipswich MA
Live & Silent Auction

Dancing to North Shore Favorite “Country Sounds”

for more information, contact Katy at 617-413-4790
or ectaneusletter@hotmail.com



Preserve · Maintain · Respect
www.ectaonline.org

Save the Dates for ECTA - Get Involved!

October 1st
Fall Barn Tour to benefit ECTA and Ipswich Animal Shelter

October 15
Poker Trail Ride - Bradley Palmer and Willowdale

October 22
Fall Foliage Ride

November 18
Black Tie and Blue Jeans Ball

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

