



Essex County

News

Trail Association

Volume 22 Number 3

Fall 2003

From the President

Don Curiale

I am extremely happy to report that our little "Beaver Deceivers" are working. Trails have reappeared in several areas of Hamilton and Ipswich. We continue to fine tune each site. Membership is up; landowner complaints are down; and we are in budget. In spite of the fact that insurance rates have risen dramatically, the invoice has been paid. Chip Cheston, our maintenance professional, is busy cleaning up after the big windstorm last month. We are planning a neighborhood trail meeting in Hamilton. Even Coordinators Kay Joseph and Sue McLaughlin are already putting their thoughts together for next year's Equine Sale in April.

All the above could not happen except for your continued trust and support for the Essex County Trail Association. Our Board of Directors continue to work hard to earn your trust and loyalty to provide passive recreation on maintained trails. On behalf of the Board of Directors, Officers, and Area Reps,

please accept my personal thanks for all your help.

Ask the President

Who are the members of ECTA?

ECTA was loosely formed in 1982 by a small group of equestrian neighbors. By 1990, by-laws were completed, and a 501.3C non-profit status was attained. Officers were elected, Board of Directors formed, and a regular trail maintenance program was instituted. Membership was approximately 90.

Through the years, ECTA has worked hard to establish a diverse membership of equestrians, joggers,

bikers, skiers, carriage drivers, walkers, and even a dog sled driver (see chart next page).

Membership runs from January 1st to December 31 of every calendar year. We usually reach membership peak in December with 650-750 members. Trails are maintained in Ipswich, Topsfield, Essex, Hamilton, and Wenham.

Last year ECTA fundraised for "Beaver Deceivers." How are the deceivers working out?

The Trail Association raised approximately \$13,000 last year for the purpose of dealing with the flooded

trails caused by beaver dams. Susanna Colloredo worked with Conservation Commissions, contractors, environmentalists, landowners, and neighbors to get permission to install a clever device called a Beaver Deceiver. Susanna then hired a professional beaver expert, Skip DeLisle. Skip and contractors did the dirty work of getting into the waters and mud (along with Susanna) to install the devices.

Three of the devices seem to be working well. Trails have reappeared at the Causeway on the Sears' property in Hamilton as well as the Farrington Lane trails behind Biolabs. The Blackbrook River has receded enough to allow construction of a new causeway across the brook to enter the Pingree Reservation in Hamilton. An additional pipe has been installed in the path behind the tennis courts at the Pingree School. All sited continue to be monitored.

What "rights" do I have on ECTA trails when I am wearing my ECTA tag?

First of all, we must be careful how we use the term "ECTA Trails." The Essex County Trail Association determines policy on ONE trail: the

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The Essex County Trail Association is dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of open trails in our local communities for the purpose of passive recreation and the benefit of the environment. The ECTA works to build coalitions with national and local associations, to serve as liaison between membership and landowners, and to encourage responsible trail use.

ECTA Board of Directors

Susanna Colloredo, Chair
 Eleanor Andrews
 Leslie Brooks
 Ann Getchell
 Carol Greated
 Kristal Pooler
 Don Curiale
 Rick Silverman

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

ECTA Board of Advisors

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

Trail Advisor

Holly Pulsifer

Legal Advisor

Dorothy Stookey

Ask the President

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Beal Easement Trail in Wenham. Other than this trail, we do not make policy for any others.

Wearing a tag does not give any member the right to pass through anyone's private land. In spite of the fact that a trail may have an ECTA sign or you have been passing through the trail for years, the trail still belongs to the landowner. As members, we have the privilege of enjoying the land through the landowners' generosity. The landowner makes the rules and the regulations for ECTA members. We pass through the property with the landowner's permission. ECTA members do not have rights on any private property. Remember – permission should never be assumed. If you enjoy a particular private trail, always make sure that ownership hasn't changed. You never know, maybe new rules have been adopted.

Trail Usage Among ECTA Members

Horseback riding	467
Carriage driving	11
Biking	8
Jogging	4
Hiking/Walking	89
Sled dogs	1
Cross-country skiing	8
Not indicated	99

Essex County Trail Association Full Board Meeting October 28th, 2003

Agenda

1. Approval of minutes of July 29th, 2003 Full ECTA board meeting.
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Membership Report – Judy Gregg
4. President's Report – Don Curiale
 Maintenance Report
 - Beaver Deceivers and Pingree School
 - Willowdale Bog
 - Muddy River Trail
 - Ipswich Country Club Trail
 - Bradley Palmer State Park
 - Barowy Trail
 Neighborhood meeting in Hamilton
 ECTA Fundraisers
 Annual Fall Foliage Trail Ride
 Area Rep job description
 Newsletter contributions
 Calendars
5. Area Rep Report – Abby Jackson
6. Event Coordinator's Report – Kay Joseph
7. New Business

ectaonline.org

Make ECTA online your electronic connection to your trail organization.

Bookmark

www.ectaonline.org

Classifieds

ECTA member seeking roommate. Private home on 2 ½ acres. Includes private bath, bedroom, and den/office. Full kitchen privileges. Washer and dryer. Pets are on premises. Also available: 2 horse stable - in and out shed. Stall needs work. Half acre pasture. Ipswich/Rowley line. Call 978-948-0871.

Definition of an ECTA Area Representative

You are the pulse in the neighborhood, a presence; you know everything that is going on. You know the flavor and the essence of your area. You are open to phone calls. – *Augusta Macrokanis*

Trail Talk

Appleton Farms

All secondary equestrian trails in Appleton Farms will close for the season on December 1, 2003. All driveways and main avenue driveways will remain open all year.

Hamilton

Please use caution on trails in East Hamilton. Due to beaver activity which is being addressed several trails are very wet. One trail passes from Woodbury Street to Myopia and the other runs along Beck Pond off Chebacco Road. The bridges in these areas are unsafe for horses due to water levels.

Remember:

Dusk is much earlier...wear reflective vests and use reflective leg wraps on horses if you will be on the road after dusk.

Please wear a helmet when riding...the life you save could be your own.

Many trails are very wet and bridges are not safe. Be very careful and try not to ride on wet trails.

Pick up after your horse at the beach and other places where you trailer.



Massachusetts Hunting Dates

Archery	Oct 13- Nov 22
Shotgun	Dec 1-13
Muzzle Loader	Dec 15-31
No Hunting on Sundays	

Poker Trail Ramble

By Kay Joseph

ECTA's Poker Trail Ramble took place on a beautiful fall day Sunday, September 14th at 9:30 a.m. at Bradley Palmer State Forest in Topsfield. Equestrians, bicyclists, and walkers enjoyed the marked trails and the adventure of picking up their poker hand of cards along the trail. Lunch was served by the ECTA Café. Over sixty people attended.

For the best hands, cash prize winners were: 1st - Jenn Popp (\$50) with a straight; 2nd - George Patton

The registration desk was set up in the parking area at Bradley Palmer, where more than 60 riders, walkers, and bicyclers checked in before heading out on the marked trails. The Poker Trail Ramble has become another fun ECTA event and fundraiser for trail maintenance. In the picture, Rolanda Dane takes a break from the hectic pace as Abby Jackson signs in a participant. Kay Joseph and helper are at work checking the lists.



(\$40) with three of a kind (Queens); 3rd - Pat Zarba (\$30) with three of a kind (tens); 4th Cally Rockwell (\$20) two pairs. Sixteen other prizes were given for other hands.

We had many volunteers: Rolanda Dane and Jean Hyde - trail markers; Debbie Standton - signs and poker cards; Rick Loomis - parking; Linda Sterns - greeter; Arlene McGinn - starter and finisher; Sally Soucy - poker tallier; Linda Shuksteris - food server; Kay Joseph and Sue McLaughlin - general overall.

The Torch is Passed - Gathering Farm, Hamilton

Kristal Pooler

Buying a farm is always a daunting task. Buying a farm with a history as rich as Gathering Farm is an undertaking of major proportion. In the 70s and 80s, Gathering Farm was home to the USCTA (United States Combined Training Association). While training in Hamilton, the team won Olympic gold medals in 1976 and 1984. Gathering Farm is situated on just over seventeen acres on Bridge Street. The farm consists of two stables with 25 stalls, an indoor and outdoor arena, an apartment, and pastures.

Owned by Maureen Remington and run by international event rider/trainer Jim Stamets, Gathering Farm continued to be a focal point for the North Shore horse community through the 1990s. Jim worked and trained under Olympic gold medallist Tad Coffin and eventually opened his own stables at Neil Ayer's Ledyard Farm in 1986. In 1990, Jim moved his operation to 270 Bridge Street, Hamilton, the present location of Gathering Farm. Jim died unexpectedly of heart failure in 2001, and it was decided that Gathering Farm would be sold.

Leslie Bartolotti is the new owner as of this October. Leslie grew up riding and training out of the Wellesley area. When she graduated from college, Leslie put her business acumen to work as a restaurant owner. In 1996, Leslie came to Hamilton to train at Gathering Farm and the writing was on the wall.

Leslie plans to operate Gathering Farm as a training facility. Bruce Mandeville, Alex Tessera, Allysha Taylor, and Amy Goodnow will all be offering instruction and training from the Gathering Farm facility. Pam Fraser, formerly of

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Letters



Hi Don,
On behalf of myself and the entire Bay Circuit Committee, I want to express our great appreciation for ECTA building a wooden walkway over stones on a drainage path that crosses the Country Club easement. This walkway makes it possible for horses, bicycles, etc. to use this trail.

We have cleared the Country Club trail and marked the continuing trail on town land connecting to this easement. We are working with the conservation committee to develop the trail there. With your help we are progressing on an easement across Mario Marini's land to complete the connection to Willowdale. It is now possible to use the full trail on an unofficial basis!

Once again, please tell Chip that we are very pleased with his excellent work on the walkway. Thank you all!

Ralph Williams

Don,
Thought you would enjoy this. All the best, Lily (Rice-Hsia) (This is an actual letter sent to a man named Ryan DeVries by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, State of Michigan. His response is hilarious.)

Dear Mr. DeVries:
It has come to the attention of the Department of Environmental Quality that there has been recent unauthorized activity on the above referenced parcel of property. You have been certified as the legal landowner and/or contractor who did the following unauthorized activity:

Construction and maintenance of two wood debris dams across the outlet stream of Spring Pond. A permit must be issued prior to the start of this type of activity.

A review of the Department's files shows that no permits have been issued. Therefore, the Department has determined that this activity is in violation of Part 301, Inland Lakes and Streams, of the Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, being sections 324, 30101 to 234.30113 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, annotated. The Department has been informed that one or both of the dams partially failed during a recent rain event, causing debris and flooding at downstream locations. We find that dams of this nature are inherently hazardous and cannot be permitted. The Department therefore orders you to cease and desist all activities at this location, and to restore the stream to a free-flow condition by removing all wood and brush forming the dams from the stream channel. All restoration work shall be completed not later than January 31, 2003.

Please notify this office when the restoration has been completed so that a follow-up site inspection may be scheduled by our staff. Failure to comply with the request or any further unauthorized activity on this site may result in this case being referred for elevated enforcement action. We anticipate and would appreciate your full cooperation in this matter. Please feel free to contact me at this office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
David L. Price
District Representative Land and Water

Management Division

This is the actual response.

Dear Mr. Price,
I am the legal landowner but not the Contractor at 2088 Dagget, Pierson, Michigan. A couple of beavers are in the (State unauthorized) process of constructing and maintaining two wood "debris" dams across the outlet stream of my spring pond. While I did not pay for, authorize, nor supervise their dam project, I think they would be highly offended that you call their skillful use of nature's building materials "debris." I would like to challenge your department to attempt to emulate their dam project any time and/or any place you choose. I believe I can safely state there is no way you could ever match their dam skills, their dam resourcefulness, their dam ingenuity, their dam persistence, their dam determination, and/or their dam work ethic. As to your request, I do not think the beavers are aware that they must first fill out a dam permit prior to the start of this dam activity.

My first dam question to you is: (1) are you trying to discriminate against my Spring Pond beavers or (2) do you require all beavers throughout this state to conform to said dam request? If you are not discriminating against these particular beavers, through the Freedom of Information Act I request completed copies of all those other applicable beaver dam permits that have been issued. Perhaps we will see if there really is a dam violation of Part 301, Inland Lakes and Streams, the Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of the



Annual Fall Foliage Trail Ride

On a cloudy fall Sunday in October, approximately 30 brave ECTA riders met at Waldingfield to enjoy a ride in the countryside. And a beautiful ride it was.

We hacked through Waldingfield, glorious Appleton Farms, and exciting Groton House. As we entered the Massey woods in Hamilton, the group trotted and cantered. Unfortunately, we came upon bees, or should I say, the bees came upon us. Poor Carol Brown was surrounded by them. The bees not only attacked her and her horse, they even went up her helmet. In the end, rider and mount were fine.

The brave souls returned to Waldingfield to Mrs. Kathy Brown's delicious clam chowder, cider donuts, glasses of cider, and great stories from our adventure.

Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brown and to our landowners who permitted us to enter their properties: Mr. Arthur Finkelstein, The Trustees of Reservations, Ann Getchell, Mr. & Mrs. M. Massey, Mr. A. & Mrs. W. Friend, Mr. & Mrs. M. Greene, Mrs. Immie Thayer, and Mr. & Mrs. D. Little.

Save the Date

Ninth Annual Equine Paraphernalia Sale and Expo 2004

Plans are underway for our Ninth Equine Paraphernalia Sale and Expo 2004 to take place on April 24, 2004 from 9-3 at the Topsfield Fairgrounds in the indoor arena. We are looking for donations of items for the ECTA table which we will pick up at any time. Tack, stable equipment, riding apparel, books, prints, anything horse-related are welcome. Exhibitors spaces are available for \$50 (\$5 off if paid before April 1). We have program ads, full page through business cards. Sponsorship and patron of the event was started last year and was a great success. The shows are being booked at this time and anyone who has an idea for a good addition, please call us. We are also looking for volunteers before and during the event. Please call us if you have time to help us with mailing, program ads, cleaning and helping out on the 24th. Call Kay at 978-768-6275 or Sue at 978-468-7715 or email kljoreo@aol.com.



Top: A group of about 30 riders enjoys the scenic vista from a newly opened trail at Appleton Farms. The group traveled through Appleton to reach Groton House Farm and connecting trails for an hour and a half of riding. Below: Mrs. Brown's famous clam chowder welcomed the riders back from their eventful outing.



Riders and walkers alike frequent Appleton Farms year round, and new trails add to the variety of hiking and riding options.

Support Appleton Farms by Joining the Trustees of Reservations

During the past few years ECTA trail users have owed a great debt of gratitude to the Trustees of Reservations for allowing us to ride, hike, and cross-country ski in Appleton Farms. We have enjoyed access to a number of trails on the historic and beautiful property Mrs. Appleton entrusted to TTOR and the organization is making plans to open more trails in the future.

Last year, we suggested that ECTA members make donations to Appleton Farms in recognition of the great privilege we enjoy. The response was tremendous.

This year, as TTOR prepares to make more land available for our use, we encourage ECTA members to show their gratitude by joining the Trustees of Reservations. As members of TTOR, we will receive newsletters and updates on all their reservations throughout the state as well as a property guide and discounts for entry fees (Crane Beach, for example), but we have the opportunity to direct our membership fees specifically to Appleton Farms.

Annual membership is \$40 for one person, \$60 for two, and \$30 for seniors and students. Memberships can be renewed annually one year from the time it was first established. The membership form can be obtained by calling TTOR at 978-356-5728 (Appleton Farms), emailing them at appletonfarms@ttor.org, or visiting their website at www.thetrustees.org. Don't forget to identify yourself as a member of ECTA, and indicate that you wish for your membership dues to be designated to support Appleton Farms. If you already support TTOR as a member, please indicate you'd like your membership renewal dues to benefit Appleton Farms.

Appleton Farms is managed by Wayne Castonguay, an advisor to ECTA. It consists of 658 acres and was first established in 1638, making it one of the oldest continuously operating farms in the country. The Trustees of Reservations has been protecting key properties and open spaces since 1891. It currently owns 94 reservations, and more than 52,000 acres. Visit their website for more details, and treat yourself to a visit to their properties as well as enjoying the many trails open at Appleton Farms throughout most of the year. Most recently, a new equestrian trail was opened parallel to Waldingfield Road, adding variety to the many beautiful routes a rider can choose through the farm.

Please join TTOR today, and designate your dues to support our beautiful neighbor, Appleton Farms.

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Devon Glenn, is the new barn manager. Myopia Hunt Club will be using the indoor facilities this winter. The indoor arena will be available for a ring fee for students working with the above trainers who are not presently boarders.

While riding at Gathering Farm, Leslie developed a real love for the property and for Hamilton. "It was difficult purchasing a horse property given the real estate prices in Massachusetts, especially Hamilton," Leslie said. "The numbers just don't work on a business perform, so you have to have a love for the horse business and the open space that a farm represents. I paid a development price but I look at it as a long-term investment. I've always been a big picture thinker."

The trails will be open to riders and Myopia Hunt will be allowed to come through with notice. Dogs are allowed and must be kept on leashes at all times.

"The trails in this part of Massachusetts are the best. I'm saddened to see that there is a major trail lost every year to new development. I think that we all have to participate to keep the flavor that we have. Trails are extremely important to riders, especially event riders. It is hard to find a place to do 'hill work' now. The area has some incredible assets: Crane Beach, Appleton Farms, Bradley Palmer, Willowdale, Ledyard Farm. I hope that everyone appreciates it."

The barn is in the process of being refurbished. The indoor ring is getting new footing, new mirrors, and an update on the sprinkler system. The pastures are being restored. Local contractor Paul Johnson is putting in new fencing.

"Paul told me that the farm was part of the Clark estate and that at one time, the Clark estate consisted of over 700 acres running from Bridge Street down to Mounnton Street. We need to preserve what we have left," Leslie said.

Leslie is looking forward to continuing the legacy of "harmony" that both Jack LeGoff and Jim Stamets fostered. The torch is passed.



The Myopia Hunt passes through Waldingfield

Letters

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Public Acts of 1994, being sections 324, 30101 to 234.30113 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, annotated.

I have several concerns. My first concern is - aren't the beavers entitled to legal representation? The Spring Pond beavers are financially destitute and are unable to pay for said representation - so the state will have to provide them with a dam lawyer. The Department's dam concern that either one or both of the dams failed during a recent rain event causing flooding is proof that this is a natural occurrence, which the Department is required to protect. In other words, we should leave the Spring Pond beavers alone rather than harassing them and calling their dam names. If you want the stream "restored" to a dam free-flow condition, please contact the beavers - but if you

are going to arrest them, they obviously did not pay any attention to your dam letter - they being unable to read English.

In my humble opinion, the Spring Pond beavers have a right to build their unauthorized dams as long as the sky is blue, the grass is green and water flows downstream. They have more dam rights than I do to live and enjoy Spring Pond. If the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection lives up to its name, it should protect the natural resources (beavers) and the environment (beavers' dams). So, as far as the beavers and I are concerned, this dam case can be referred for more elevated enforcement action right now. Why wait until 1/31/2003? The Spring Pond beavers may be under the dam ice then and there will be no way for you or your dam staff to

contact/harass them then.

In conclusion, I would like to bring to your attention a real environmental quality (health) problem in the area. It is the bears! Bears are actually defecating in our woods. I definitely believe you should be persecuting the defecating bears and leave the beavers alone. If you are going to investigate the beaver dam, watch your step! (The bears are not careful where they dump!)

Being unable to comply with your dam request, and being unable to contact you on your dam answering machine, I am sending this dam response to your dam office.

Thank You,
Ryan DeVries and the Dam Beavers

Winter riding, on the right day, can be an enchanted experience.
Linda Prestero riding Kahlua



- ✓ Answers to frequently asked questions
- ✓ Trail Talk
- ✓ Support Appleton Farms
- ✓ The Torch is Passed
- ✓ Fall Foliage Ride
- ✓ ...and more

What's Inside?

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