ECTA Invites You to the

Essex County Trail Association Annual Meeting

Tuesday, April 29th, 2003
Coolidge Hall at Topsfield Fairgrounds
7:15 p.m.

Come and enjoy gathering with your fellow ECTA friends. Light refreshments with business meeting to follow. Learn what ECTA is up to and what is happening to your local trails and community.

Special Guest Speaker
Appleton Farm’s Manager, Wayne Castonguay

We hope to see you there!

Visit www.ectaonline.org.
From the President

Don Curiale

Many communities throughout the country have successfully implemented extensive trail networks. These communities realize that trails provide a unique form of recreation and travel close to home. These trails allow many individuals to connect with nature, enjoy passive forms of activities, and enjoy a special quality of life.

We are very fortunate on two counts. We have an extensive network of trails already in place and our local communities certainly understand the importance of these networks. That leaves us with the difficult task of keeping the trails open, viable and preserved. Your loyal support and generosity to ECTA demonstrates your belief in these trails and in the ability of ECTA to get the job done. And I thank you for this.

However, I need your help. In order to keep the trail system intact, I truly believe the method of preservation is easements. I need you to spread the word and stress to all the need for easements in our community. It is the one method that gets the job done and keeps the trail open forever. There are several kinds of easements that can be suitable.

Please encourage your neighbors, friends, relatives and even your own household that you would like to leave a legacy of an open trail for your community.

SPECIAL fun day at the races. Post time is noon. Look in the mail for your invitation. I hope you will join us!!!

A BIG, special THANK YOU to the generous ECTA members who gave us wonderful end-of-year donations. It is truly appreciated.

Beaver Deceivers

Our Beaver Deceiver expert will be returning in the spring to fine tune several of the deceivers that are not operating as well as they should. Some of the trails that we thought would reappear haven’t done so yet. Skip Lisle tells us that additional pipes will have to be added to increase the water flow in order to lower the water table. ECTA has spent the good part of the 2002 donations it received for this purpose. On behalf of the Board of Directors, may I thank you once again for your help.

Pescosolido Property in Ipswich

The developer of this property plans to present a revised development plan to the newly formed neighborhood organization. This group was formed to carefully watch and scrutinize the proposed project of approximately 34 units on 30 acres under 40B regulations. The developer does not have to appear before the local Planning Board. He must appear before the local Conservation Commission and the Zoning Board. The seller has given ECTA a bridle easement to be approved by the seller, ECTA, Conservation Commission and developer.

ectaonline.org

Make ECTA online your electronic connection to your trail organization.

Bookmark

www.ectaonline.org
New Advisor
ECTA welcomes Arlene Maginn of Hamilton as a new Advisor to the ECTA Advisory Board. Arlene is presently a Hamilton Area Rep for us. She will continue this job as well as taking on the new duties of an Advisor. Arlene is one talented person. She is well organized, a capable leader and gets the job done. The Directors look forward to working with Arlene in her future ECTA assignments.

From the President
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Thank You to Retiring Area Rep
ECTA would like to take this opportunity to thank Connie McCrane of Hamilton for her years of work as an Area Rep. A couple of years ago, Connie was very instrumental in obtaining a crucial link for a trail in Hamilton. She has always been a watchdog for us in her Hamilton area. We thank her for her loyalty and wish Connie well in her future endeavors.

Twelve Years on the Ipswich Planning Board
by Leslie Brooks

Leslie Brooks is currently the first vice president of ECTA. She served on the Ipswich Planning Board from 1990 through the end of 2002, and we have asked her to briefly share some thoughts about her years on the Board.

When I resigned from the Ipswich Planning Board at the end of 2002, it was with very mixed feelings. After over 12 years on the Board, most of them as Chairman, I felt ready to take a break from the year-round board meetings and subcommittee meetings and site visits, to say nothing of the occasional special meetings or requests to attend meetings of other town boards. But I also felt I was giving up the opportunity to make a difference in the town, and it was difficult to do that.

I was appointed to the Board in 1990, after having spent a year or so as the Planning Boardís representative to the Master Plan Commission, an ad hoc group formed to deal with what was viewed by some as the rampant growth in Ipswich in the mid-1980s. My concern from the beginning was the preservation of open space in town, and since I realized that it was impossible to prevent growth, my interest in serving on the Planning Board was an effort to at least have a voice in how and where it occurred.

Thatís not quite as simple as it sounds, though, since, although it often seems unfair and inappropriate, people do have the right to develop their land. Much as some or even all board members might like to just deny a particular project, there are often not adequate reasons for denial, and even
Equine Paraphernalia Sale/Expo 2003
by Kay Joseph and Sue McLaughlin

The 8th Equine Paraphernalia Sale/Expo 2003 will take place April 26, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at our regular location, the Arena at the Topsfield Fairgrounds, Topsfield, MA.

We hope to have over 70 booths of new and used equestrian items from antiques to trailers, herbs to saddles, artwork, pottery, books and used tack.

Each year we grow with a larger attendance and many more things for sale.

Demos are still being arranged.

Please keep in mind that donations of anything horse-related helps us all in trail maintenance. We will pick up anytime.

Consider being a Sponsor ó $100 will give you a space to display your banner at the event and a full page ad in the program; or a Patron ó $50 lists your name in the program and you receive a special prize; or an Exhibitor ó $50 will purchase a 10 x 10í space. Contact the event planners, Kay or Sue, to become a sponsor, patron, or exhibitor.

Please mark your calendar for April 26th and plan to volunteer a few hours on the day of the sale. Again, contact Kay or Sue to volunteer.

For more information call:
Kay Joseph at 978-768-6275 evenings, or by email kljoreo@aol.com
Sue McLaughlin at 978-468-7715

Help us publicize this popular event by hanging the enclosed flyer in a location at your barn or visible to the public.

Letters to ECTA

Dear ECTA,

Thank you for your generous contribution on May 16, 2002 for a total of $1,000 to BTA/BOLT, Inc. for the preservation of the Sawyer-Richardson property. While this project seemed to go on forever, the land finally belongs to the Town of Boxford.

Through the support of donors like you, future generations will continue to enjoy this wonderful open space. The Boxford Conservation Commission, who will be caretakers of the property, is seeking an appropriate name for it. If you have any suggestions, please call the BTA/BOLT office (887-7031) or the Conservation Commission office (352-2538).

Hope to see you on the trails.

Sincerely,

Judy Gore, President
Boxford Trails Association/
Boxford Open Land Trust

Dear Donald,

Thank you and the Essex County Trail Association for your kind year-end gift to Appleton Farms, through the TTOR (Trustees of Reservations).

These gifts, as you know, are crucial to all the fantastic things going on at the farm.

Best wishes to you in 2003 and thanks,

Betsy Lawrence,
Appleton Volunteer
Nancy Merrill, Advisor

Active with our neighboring trail organization, BTA/BOLT, since its beginnings in 1978, Nancy Merrill now serves as chairman of BTA/BOLT and is also an advisor for ECTA. She works with Don Curiale and our legal advisor on trail easements.

Nancy enjoys the trails right outside her door in Boxford, where she has lived since the mid 1960s. These days she traverses the woods on snowshoes, although she also rides her Palomino, Fred, both in Boxford and on the ECTA trails in more suitable weather.

She recalls that BTA (Boxford Trails Association) got its start when one of her daughter’s fellow 4-H members found a favorite riding trail closed. Nancy and the other 4-H mothers and some senior riders decided to take a stand and promote preservation and maintenance of

Disa Cheston is ECTA’s new Treasurer, replacing Amy Bresky, her West Newbury neighbor who now splits her time between Southern Pines and her longtime home here. Amy was quick to help Disa learn the ropes and responsibilities, as well as give her a quick course in Quick Books before heading south.

Disa has been active in ECTA and has seen many changes during the last 20 years that she has been riding on the trails. In addition to exercising field hunters for Susanna Colloredo’s husband, Moose, she also enjoys the trails aboard her five-year-old prospective eventer, often teaming up with Susanna. The pair note conditions and changes, and locate new links. Sometimes Disa ventures into the woods on horseback to scout the trails for her husband Chip, who is responsible for all ECTA trail maintenance. He heeds the calls for clearing or making repairs, but sometimes cannot be sure that he can drive a truck back to where he has to work.

Trail clearing becomes a family affair when Disa, her two children, and Chip go out on remote trails to assess the work that needs to be done, or to cut back brush, clear fallen trees, and repair damaged trails together. Family lines run even deeper. Disa’s mother-in-law, Lois, is an ECTA advisor and has long been active in ECTA (see the Winter 2002 issue of the ECTA News).

Disa and Chip grew up in the same neighborhood, with Bradley Palmer virtually in their backyard. Disa moved to Hamilton while still

Whoís Who in ECTA

Disa Cheston, Treasurer

continued next page
Cross-country skiing has been great this year. After a fresh snowfall these skiers enjoyed Chebacco Woods, (left -- Linda Dodge-Bazeley and her new dog ‘Morgan’) and Bradley Palmer (below), where favorite riding trails are frequently traversed by skiers and snowshoers alike these days.

Nancy Merrill, continued

trails for passive recreation. In 1994 the organization became a land trust (BOLT stands for Boxford Open Land Trust), and has since helped preserve countless acres of land. Most recently BTA/BOLT helped Boxford to purchase Wunnegen (the word for ‘beautiful’ in the Massachusetts language of the Agawam Indians), formerly the Sawyer-Richardson property. BTA/BOLT was also instrumental in getting the town to purchase Lockwood Forest, and helped oversee the growth of the Bald Hill Reservation and eventual connection of the 2000 acres to Georgetown-Rowley State Forest via the Bay Circuit Trail. BTA/BOLT currently owns 170 acres of land, including Perkins Woods, 17 acres purchased three years ago as an important connecting trail to Cleveland Farm State Forest and Willowdale.

While she has held several positions in BTA/BOLT, Nancy has also been actively involved in the Bay Circuit program, which links trails around the outer Boston area.

I keep in touch with other trail organizations, she says, because I like to be in the know. Her involvement in land conservation includes getting to know the landowners. For years she worked with the owners of the Lockwood Estate and ran the BTA/BOLT Horse Show and supported the running of the ABC Benefit Horse Trials. She is still an advisor to both shows. The ABC Horse Trials benefits the organization A Better Chance at Masconomet Regional High School.

Nancy has been interested in conservation restrictions since working with landowners along Fish Brook to preserve the land surrounding the stream. Nancy’s passion for land preservation leads her to remind all users of the trails to respect landowners and to be a member of the organization that protects the trails they are using.
Multi-Trail Use Update

The proposed commission will work towards several goals to protect resources, promote safety, and minimize conflicts. BSTRA voices concern for multi-use trail conflicts and trail management. A recent letter from Representative Brad Jones, addressed to BSTRA, will study the Massachusetts multi-use trail system. A member of a proposed commission (BSTRA) was named as a Bay State Trail Riders Association. Should more information become available, we’ll keep you posted.

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9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
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Mark Your Calendar

May 17, 2003

Day at the Races
Suffolk Downs
Post time: Noon
ECTA Major Fundraiser

April 22, 2003

Expo
Equine Paraphernalia Sale/
Topsfield Fairgrounds Arena
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
April 26, 2003

Essex County Trail Association
Post Office Box 358
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