



Essex County

Trail Association

**News**

Volume 22 Number 1

Spring 2003

*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 Farmís Manager, Wayne Castonguay**

*We hope to see you there!*

*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

Susanna Colloredo, Chair  
Eleanor Andrews  
Leslie Brooks  
Ann Getchell  
Carol Grea  
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	Lilly Kendall
Arlene Maginn	

## Trail Advisor

Holly Pulsifer

## Legal Advisor

Dorothy Stookey

# 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.

## Other News

### Day at the Races

Our next major fundraiser will take place on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2003 at Suffolk Downs. Come and enjoy a

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 bridge 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](http://www.ectaonline.org)*



Leslie Brooks

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### **From the President**

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### **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.

### **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 Board's 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.

That's 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 often are not adequate reasons for denial, and even

if there are, the Board is required to state the reasons and if the applicant is able to address them, the Board is then required to approve the project. Many neighbors who are involved in this process express frustration because they believe that the Board has the power to control aspects of development or to halt a proposed project and fails to use that power. But the reality is that the Board's authority is more limited than some people believe and it's often difficult to make that understood.

Having said that, I can also say unequivocally that serving on the Planning Board was a very rewarding experience. I'm pleased to have been a part of the development of the Great Estates Bylaw and to have participated in numerous zoning changes that I believe are part of a positive direction for Ipswich. In my years on the Board, I met and worked with many talented and interesting people, and I developed a real appreciation for the work and creativity required to balance the needs of developers, town officials, and concerned citizens. There is always a need for people to get involved and work for the things they care about, whether it's trails and open space, schools, or the needs of the business community. At the risk of sounding preachy, I can say that for me, the satisfaction of being involved in the growth of Ipswich was well worth the time and effort that it took.



## Equine Paraphernalia Sale/Expo 2003

by Kay Joseph and Sue McLaughlin

The 8<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.



*ECTA board members review information at the January full board meeting at Waldingfield. Pictured are Kay Joseph and Augusta Macrokanis in the foreground.*



## 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



*Nancy Merrill at the January ECTA meeting (lower left). Lois Cheston, Advisor (above, left) and Disa Cheston (above, right).*



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

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## Who's Who in ECTA

### Disa Cheston, Treasurer

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

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### *Disa Cheston, continued*

attending high school, and began riding in the area and attended the local horse shows. When she recalls the early years of riding on the local trails, she notes that she has seen a lot of changes. While accessibility is often challenged, in Essex County a lot is still being maintained, she says. However, there are fewer barns, fewer kids riding, and now we're seeing trail association tags on bikes in Bradley Palmer. <sup>1</sup>

### *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.



*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.*

if 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**

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

**Mark Your Calendar**

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**Equine Paraphernalia Sale/Expo**  
 Topstfield Fairgrounds Arena  
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**April 29, 2003**  
**ECTA Annual Meeting**  
 Topstfield Fairgrounds  
 Coolidge Hall  
 7:15 p.m.

**May 17, 2003**  
**Day at the Races**  
 ECTA Major Fundraiser  
 Suffolk Downs  
 Post time: Noon

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

