



ESSEX COUNTY TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Preserve, Maintain, Respect

Fall/Winter 2011

A View from the Chair

Peter Campot

In the Chairman's letter from last fall, ECTA was focused on trail maintenance and repair, preserving the trail system, fundraising and increasing membership and visibility. Looking ahead, these are goals that the organization remains committed to building upon, and as the new Chairman, I am honored to have been selected to work with the organization as it continues its mission of protecting access to trails and open lands. All of this work would not be possible without the very committed and hard working board, and enthusiastic and creative staff members such as Alex Van Alen our Executive Director, Ashley Hill our Outreach Coordinator, and Carol Lloyd our Director of Trail Management. These individuals are wholly committed to ECTA's mission, and although they are part time employees, they put in for more hours than they are reimbursed and each deserves a special thank you the next time you run into them.

In my new position, I have been trying to promote and speak with as many people as possible. The feedback that I have received to date has been very informative and very sincere. Most everyone is supportive of the organization but many also think we could be doing more or doing things better. I understand this mode of thinking, because at times, I have felt that way myself. But when I take inventory of all that ECTA has accomplished over the past year, it is quite impressive. For example:

- Made improvements to the Maplecroft trail
- Raised more than \$90,000 in trail grants
- Put in place several easements including Donovan/Sagamore Hill
- Held the first ever ECTAthlon - Run, Bike, Ride (Horses) and Kayak event
- Hosted/Sponsored events almost

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Volunteers at our October 1st Trail Work Day, Sagamore Hill

From the Director

Alex Van Alen

Since early 2009, ECTA has been following a three-step mantra in order to connect, maintain and protect the network of 450 miles of open and accessible trails in the 6 towns we serve. The mantra is: Do Excellent Work. Let people know about it. They will support that work and we can do more. A simple process that has brought ECTA success.

Do Excellent Work: The reason we are here! A sample of our accomplishments since 2009:

- Secured several critical trail easements (Maplecroft Farm in Ipswich, Sears in Hamilton, Donovan/Sagamore Hill in Ipswich, Hamilton, Essex, among others)
- Nearly doubled our paying membership (750 member families at the end of 2010)
- Increased our focus to maintain and improve the trails in Bradley

Palmer State Park and Willowdale State Forest, including recently completed repairs on the much neglected Founders Trail

- Mowed many miles of more trails on many more properties than we used to, with hopes of doing even more next year
- Responded rapidly after storms to clear downed trees across trails on both public and private lands
- Vastly increased our grants received (we have exceeded \$90,000 in trail work in 2011)
- Enlisted well over 100 volunteers for thousands of hours to help ECTA with everything from trail work, to events (including the 65 ECTA volunteers who supported the New England Sled Dog Races), to our Trail Steward Program that reports regularly on nearly every trail in our system so we can maintain them rapidly.
- Organized great community events like the wildly successful ECTAthlon in June, the New England Sled Dog Races in January

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ECTA Board of Directors

Peter Campot, Chair
Susan Lawrence, Vice Chair
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Susie Banta
Felicity Beech
Susanna Colloredo
Haskell Crocker
Ann Getchell
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Alex Van Alen, **Executive Director**
Carol Lloyd, **Dir. Trail Management**
Ashley Hill, **Outreach Coordinator**
Judy Gregg, **Membership Advisor**
Pamela Mansfield-Loomis, **Newsletter**

Trail Stewards

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Kay Joseph (978.768.6275)

Hamilton

Sue McLaughlin (978.468.7715)
Diane Curr (781.316.4452)
David Smith (781.307.2020)
Lucy Pingree (978.468.7942)
Liz Wheaton (978.468.7944)

Ipswich

Joe Sandulli (978.356.7163)
Rolanda Dane (978.356.6524)
Kim Caruso (978.356.7163)
Ralph Williams (978.948.7702)
Nat Pulsifer (978.356.3655)

Wenham

Deborah Stanton (978.626.8424)

Topsfield

Kathie Tremblay (978.887.8855)
Abigail Jackson (978.887.6314)
Elaine Robson (978.887.8789)
Joe Geller (978.887.9572 or 7000)

West Newbury

Ellen Alden (978.363.1170)
Felicity Beech (978.363.2021)
Deborah Hamilton (978.270.9129)

Contact ECTA

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View from the Chair (cont'd from page 1)

- every month of the year
- Developed and launched a new and improved website
- Implemented a central web-based membership database
- Executed the largest total amount of trail maintenance and repairs ever

Notwithstanding our successes, I am reminded that there is more to do, but we need your help. This fall, on almost every beautiful weekend, thousands of people will enjoy some aspect of our trail system, but only a small portion of these people will be ECTA members. We need your help spreading the word and encouraging all those that benefit from our efforts to join and support the organization. In this newsletter, ECTA is sending its annual appeal seeking donations for the organization. You will see in this newsletter the incredible results of our efforts. 2010-2011 was on the the most successful years in our 29 year history. At the same time, we are still dealing with economic reality and this year, we ask you to please consider sending something extra in support of our ongoing efforts. Every little bit helps.

If we could get all of our trail users to support the organization we will be able to continue all of the good work that has been done through the years. I agreed to become Chair of ECTA because I believe the preservation of our trail system is invaluable. There are very few places that have the extensive network of trails and open space that we have. If we don't do everything we can to preserve it, we will have shortchanged the future. As Ansel Adams once said, "Let us leave a splendid legacy for our children... let us turn to them and say, this you inherit; guard it well, for it is far more precious than money...and once destroyed, nature's beauty cannot be repurchased at any price."

As Chair of ECTA, and an avid user of the trail network, I promise that I will do everything that I personally can to make ECTA successful as we go forward. I know the Board and the Staff are equally committed, but we cannot do it alone. It is going to take all of us and we hope we can count on you this coming year. We appreciate your continued support.

From the Director (cont'd from page 1)

and our seventh Annual Run for the Trails in September.

- Advocated for projects such as the recent restoration of the Bradley Palmer Footbridge

To let the trail community know what we do, we provide members with Trail Alerts, update our followers through our monthly e-news, give presentations at town halls, produce excellent trail maps and host a great website used by thousands of people every year. And now we have hired Ashley Hill as our part-time Outreach Coordinator to help with communications and our rapidly growing needs of helping our great volunteer corps. Ashley has been working hard on our new database and integrating it with our website so that our communications and membership efforts are more efficient. You will see Ashley at events promoting ECTA and hear from her if you are on our growing email list (you can join it on the website if you haven't already).

With Ashley Hill's outreach and Carol Lloyd's efforts on the trails, ECTA's momentum is snowballing. However, we know that there is much more to do. We have miles and miles of trails to protect, repair, clear and maintain. We have events to hold, landowners to help, and kids to get outside. We thank you for your past support and if we can count on you now to continue that support, you can be assured that ECTA's efforts to protect open trails forever will only grow.

See you on the trails!

Upcoming Events

Watch for updates by email or visit www.ectaonline.org to subscribe to the ECTA email newsletter and announcements.



Membership Renewals

Is your membership expiring? Now that we've switched to a rolling membership, please check your membership card for your upcoming renewal date.

Donovans Donate Trail Easement on Sagamore Hill

In early September, Essex County Trail Association received a donation of the most significant trail easements in its 29-year history from Professor John Donovan and his son, John Donovan Jr. This 1.5 mile trail over Sagamore Hill permanently provides for public access, winding through parts of Ipswich, Essex, and Hamilton. This gift follows the sale of the Donovan Ballfields on Sagamore Street that was completed with the town of Hamilton earlier this year. The Town used Community Preservation Funds to purchase that land at a bargain price, and the Donovans purchased more land and trails to add to their holdings on Sagamore Hill. Through an effort coordinated by Essex County Greenbelt, the Ballfields also include a 38-acre wooded lot with trails that connect to the new ECTA Sagamore Hill Easement. The Ballfields and woods will be protected forever under a conservation restriction to be held by the Hamilton Wenham Open Lands Trust.

The protection of the Donovan Ballfields and woodlands, and now the permanent protection of an incredible trail up and over Sagamore Hill, is a testament to the strong conservation ethic that exists in this area. Three conservation groups and a town worked together with landowners who have a long-term vision for conservation that was the key to making this happen. Having pieced together many parcels of land over the last few decades and personally developing a soccer field and trails on a part of it, Professor Donovan and his son John are making sure that these resources are available to this community forever.

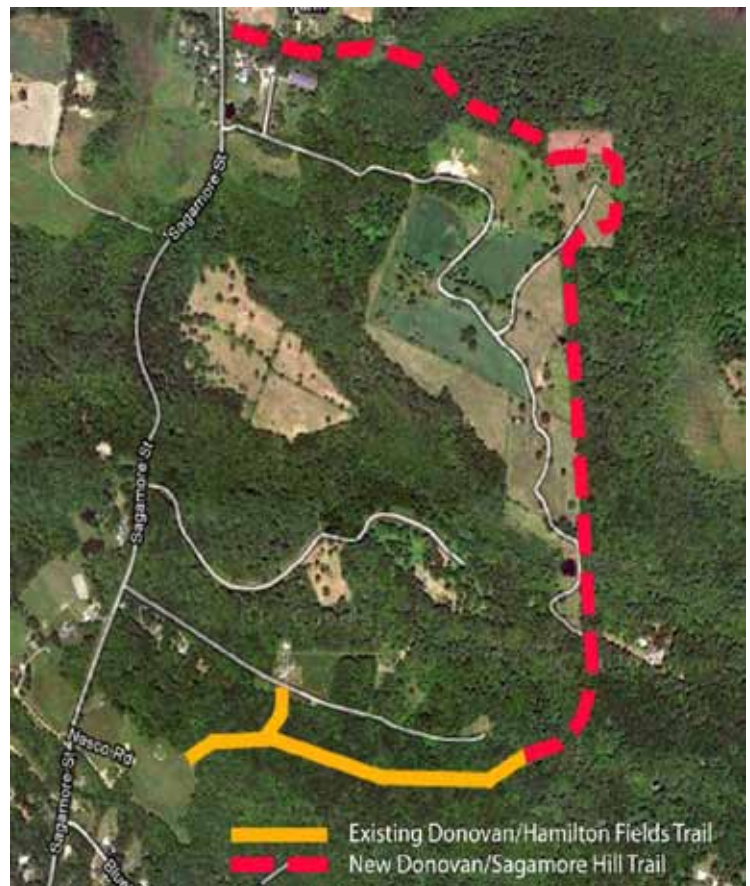
The trail easement allows for hiking, birding, and horseback riding. As it is a working farm, dogs are not permitted on the trail. The trail will also be permanently open to the Myopia Hunt, a traditional use of the trail and lands. Linda Donovan, Assistant to the Master of Foxhounds and member of the Advisory Council to ECTA, has a strong dedication to keeping that sport alive and well into the future. The Donovans also own Devon Glen Farm on Bay Road, another important segment of the Discover Hamilton Trail.

ECTA will be managing the Donovan Hill trail, and we have plans to make significant improvements including signage, repairing culverts, adding new fencing, clearing overgrown areas, and improving footing in some wet areas. This trail will be a gem for the community with connections to the active recreation at the Donovan Ballfields as well as the incredible network of trails throughout Ipswich, Hamilton and Essex. We are thrilled the Donovans' vision for this land is coming to fruition and are especially grateful that we have great conservation partners in Greenbelt, Hamilton Wenham Open Lands Trust and the Town of Hamilton.

Please join us on November 13th for a grand opening celebration and guided walk. Visit our website at www.ectaonline.org for more details on this event.



A view from the top of Sagamore Hill



Thank you to our 2011 Sponsors

- Lead Sponsors: **EBSCO, Suffolk Construction**
- Partnering Sponsors: **REI, Institution for Savings**
- Webmap Sponsors: **Northshore Dressage, True North Gallery, REI of Reading**
- Event Sponsors: **Ipswich Ale/Mercury Brewing, The Equestrian Shop North, New England Running, Pinnacle Bikes, New England SmallCraft, Coastal Greengrocer, First National Bank of Ipswich, Foster Dykema Cabot & Co, Manchester Athletic Club, Farm Family, Essex Co-Op, Donald Curiale & Jenny Delgado, Ron Strong, The Barnyard Maples, Susanna Colloredo-Mansfeld, Just Horses, Back in the Saddle, The Horse Journal**

Technology Update

We are excited to launch our new ECTA on-line membership system this October! Although our members have been able to sign up online through our website in the past, this information has been transferred to a spreadsheet which is then manually updated. We have recognized the limitations of this system and the opportunities allowed by a fully online database. Members will now be able to access their information directly, making it much simpler to check your membership status and update any information. This system will also make it easier to register for our events and make donations via the web. Enclosed in this newsletter you will find the current information we have on file for you. Please take a moment to verify that this information is up to date and accurate. You will also find instructions on how to log in to the system for the first time and create your password. We will still accept new memberships and renewals via mail delivery for those who prefer not to use our online system.

Come visit us on Facebook! We currently have an Essex County Trail Association page on Facebook, with over 330 followers. This is a great way to keep up on trail alerts and upcoming event information, and to post and view comments and photos from our members. We have uploaded lots of pictures from our recent Run for the Trails event and will be adding more albums from past and future events!

Our website continues to be the central location to access our trail maps, general information, news

ECTA Receives Over \$90,000 in Grants in 2011

ECTA wishes to thank the following foundations and agencies who have given grants to support the work we do on our trails.

- **Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation:** Recreational Trail Program for materials and work to repair severely degraded trails in Bradley Palmer State Park.
- **EnTrust Fund** for landowner outreach, mapping and trail easement cultivation in Essex
- **Fields Pond Foundation** for the installation of Beaver Deceivers on New England Biolabs Trail System
- **Kent Lucas Foundation** for general operating purposes
- **New England Biolabs Corporate** Giving for repairs on the Discover Hamilton Trail
- **Town of Hamilton Community Preservation Committee** for Trail Protection on the Discover Hamilton Trail
- **New England Biolabs Foundation** for landowner outreach and increased trail mowing
- **REI** for boardwalk construction on the Discover Hamilton Trail



Warm Up to ECTA at Zumi's

If you get a hot beverage at Zumi's in downtown Ipswich, you may be surprised to see the ECTA logo printed on the insulating sleeve surrounding the cup. That's because the owner of Zumi's, Umesh Bhuj, has an appreciation for open space and trails. He first discovered ECTA when walking on local trails with his family. Umesh says he understands what it takes to maintain trails, and he wanted to learn who was behind the work.

A native of Nepal, born near Mt. Annapurna, Umesh became a certified mountain guide and led groups through the Himalayas before coming to the U.S. to attend college. After grad school, he and his wife opened Zumi's in 2003, and the coffee shop has all the elements of a community focal point one would imagine: 100% organic fair-trade coffees, fresh baked goods, music, art, a gathering place for the locals, and special events. For his community support, Umesh was recognized this summer as the Ipswich Rotary's "Person of the Year."

Zumi's is one of the local businesses that supports ECTA by offering a 10% discount to members. Umesh explained, "ECTA is a product of our community's vision for linking together Essex County's unique communities through a trail system. This truly enhances our quality of life by connecting people with natural areas and creating options for active lifestyles. The trails we plan and build today will shape a legacy for future generations."



Pedestrian and Equestrian Bridge into Bradley Palmer State Park is now open for use after extensive work. See related story on page 8.

ECTA 2011 Events

- 1/9 Cross-Country Ski to the Black Cow
- 1/15 & 1/16 New England Sled Dog Races
- 1/30 Cross-Country Ski to the Black Cow
- 2/19 Full Moon Walk in West Newbury
- 4/12 Annual Meeting and Lecture
- 5/7 16th Annual Equine Expo
- 5/14 Pan Ipswich Challenge
- 6/4 ECTAthlon
- 7/24 Waldingfield Horse Driving Trials
- 8/13 Moonlight Trail Ride
- 9/14 Ipswich Conservation Commission Speaker Series
- 9/17 Run for the Trails
- 10/1 Volunteer Trail Work Day
- 11/13 Sagamore Hill Walk and Lecture

Photos on page 9!

Bradley Palmer and ECTA Join Forces on Trail Work

Last year the ECTA received over \$29,000 of funding from DCR's Recreational Trails Grant. The purpose of this money was to buy materials to fix the trails at Bradley Palmer. These materials included gravel, pack and culverts. If you go to the Civil Defense area of the Park you will see mounds and mounds of materials for us to use. It's truly beautiful!!

The plan is simple - in 2008 we mapped the entire Park creating a Trail Management Plan. This plan included a GPS version of all of the trails indicating where washout areas and muddy areas were. We use this as a baseline for all the work we do there. Before any work is done, we meet with Park Officials, New England Mountain Bike Association, and Myopia Hunt to determine

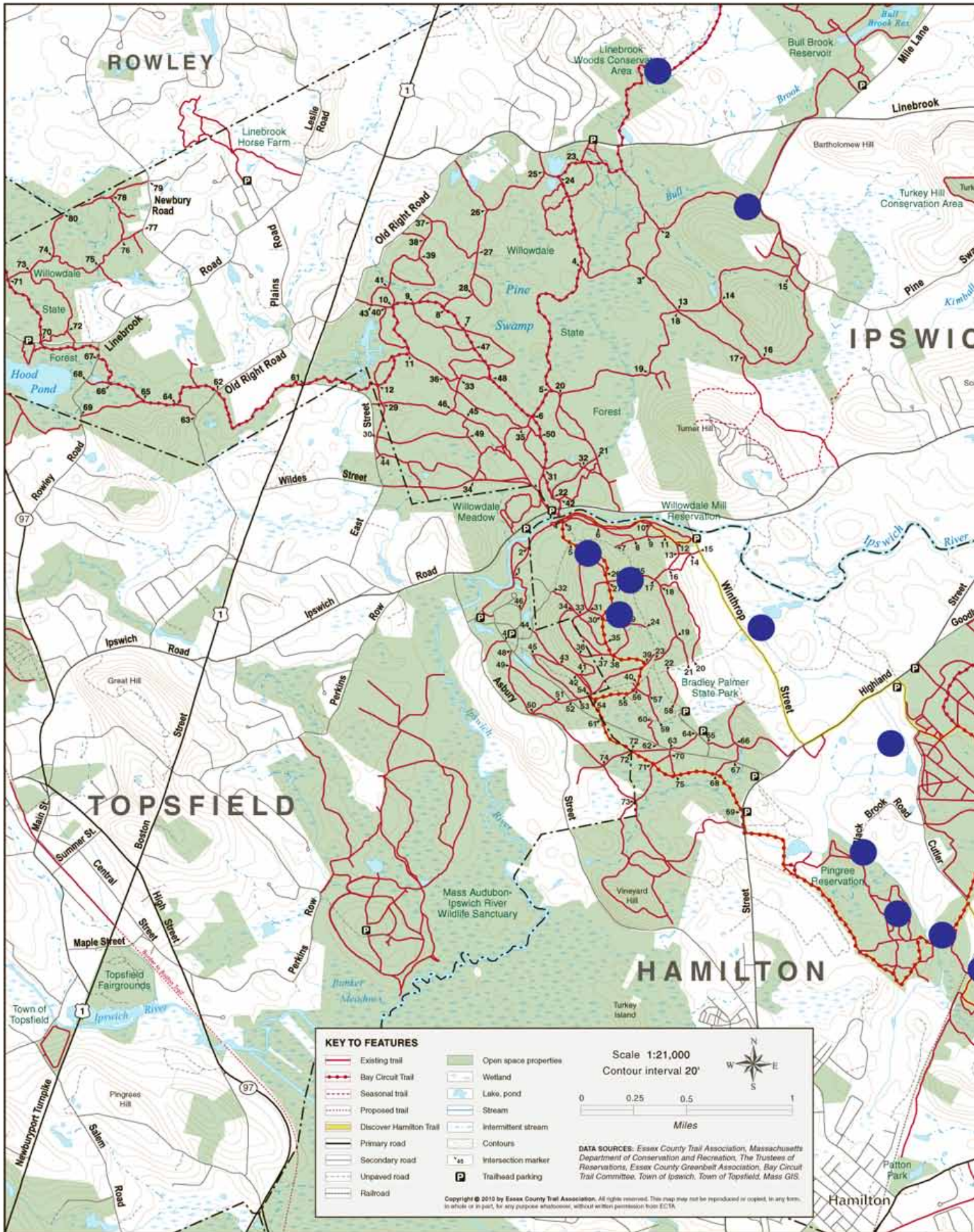
everyone's trail priorities. Once we prioritize the trails, we call in our professionals and go to work.

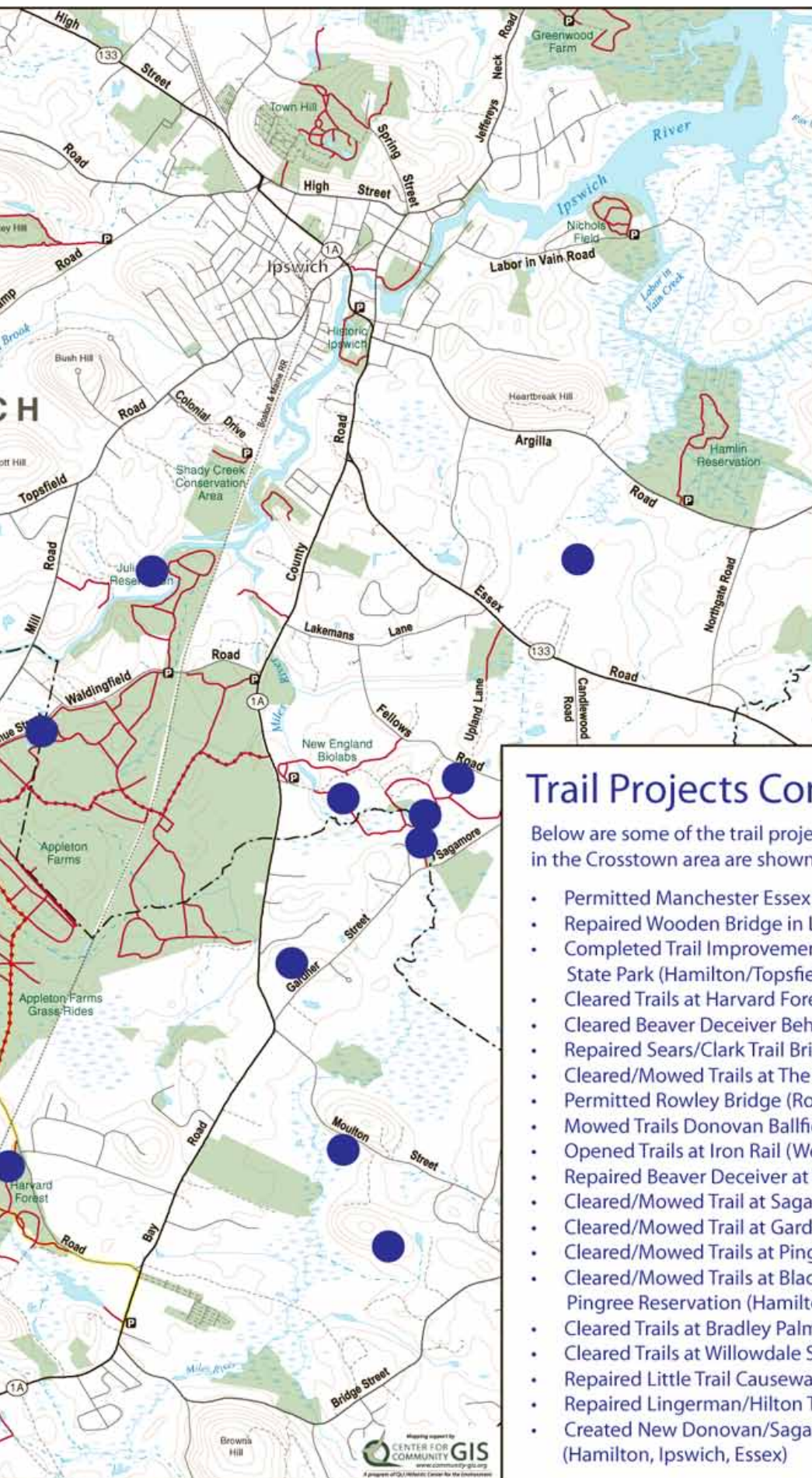
This year it was determined that getting to Moon Hill was a priority. The trails going up the hill have suffered severe erosion over the years and some are becoming impassable. We focused our attention on #5, the Founder's Trail, first. You should all go take a walk - it's beautiful! We added water bars, fixed culverts, graded the trail and added pack. Then we did trails 25-27 and 28-29. Our finishing touches are on the trails we repaired a few years ago, just to make sure with all the storms we have had, that the trails are not washed out and in good condition. We have a lot of materials and will be working away for the next year or so. A very special

thank you to the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's Recreational Trail Grant Program for making these funds available to ECTA to complete this important work in Bradley Palmer.

🌿 Technology Update Continued from page 4

updates and upcoming events. We have detailed information on all of the public trail networks within our 6 towns, which are listed by activity and by town. We also list our trail stewards, who you can contact if there is maintenance or repair work needed on a trail in their area, and have recently added staff photos and bios. Come check us out!





In addition to specific trail projects and clearing, ECTA also provides regular maintenance and mowing of the following locations:

- New England Biolabs Trails (Ipswich, Hamilton)
- Maplecroft Farm Trails (Ipswich)
- Pingree Woods Trails (Hamilton)
- Moulton Street Trail (Hamilton)
- Miles River to Gordon Conwell Trail Connection (Hamilton)
- Gardner Street to Bay Road Trail Connection (Hamilton)
- Gardner Street to Biolabs Trail Connection (Hamilton)
- Collarbone/Cutler Trail (Hamilton)
- Appleton Farms to Goodhue Street Trail Connection (Ipswich)

Trail Projects Completed in 2011

Below are some of the trail projects completed this year, and sites in the Crosstown area are shown on the map.

- Permitted Manchester Essex Conservation Trust Boardwalk (Essex)
- Repaired Wooden Bridge in Linebrook Woods (Ipswich)
- Completed Trail Improvements in Bradley Palmer State Park (Hamilton/Topsfield)
- Cleared Trails at Harvard Forest (Hamilton)
- Cleared Beaver Deceiver Behind Doyon School (Ipswich)
- Repaired Sears/Clark Trail Bridge (Hamilton)
- Cleared/Mowed Trails at The Ski Hill (Hamilton)
- Permitted Rowley Bridge (Rowley)
- Mowed Trails Donovan Ballfields/Woods (Hamilton)
- Opened Trails at Iron Rail (Wenham)
- Repaired Beaver Deceiver at New England Biolabs (Ipswich)
- Cleared/Mowed Trail at Sagamore Street (Hamilton)
- Cleared/Mowed Trail at Gardner Street/Farrington Lane (Hamilton)
- Cleared/Mowed Trails at Pingree Woods (Hamilton)
- Cleared/Mowed Trails at Blackbrook Road/Pingree Reservation (Hamilton)
- Cleared Trails at Bradley Palmer State Park (Topsfield/Hamilton)
- Cleared Trails at Willowdale State Forest (Topsfield/Ipswich)
- Repaired Little Trail Causeway (Ipswich)
- Repaired Lingerman/Hilton Trail (Ipswich)
- Created New Donovan/Sagamore Hill Trail (Hamilton, Ipswich, Essex)

1st Annual ECTAthlon a Huge Success!



On a bluebird day on June 4, twenty-five runners lined up at Bradley Palmer State Park to kick off the starting leg of the first ever ECTAthlon relay race. After completing a 3.5-mile run, they handed their ECTA jersey over to their mountain biking teammate who then sped off on a 3.8-mile ride through the park. Equestrians and their mounts anxiously awaited the appearance of their bike racer in the Black Oak Farm jump field, where they traded jerseys again before setting off on a 4-mile ride through private trails on the Winthrop property.



After carefully managing their ride time to be as close to the optimum pace as possible, riders met up with their kayakers, who started the final leg of the race. Kayakers had a short run down Winthrop Street over the bridge to launch their boats and paddle downriver to Peat Street. Several teams joined back up with their kayakers at the landing and ran the final stretch together to the finish line at EBSCO Publishing, where participants, volunteers

and spectators enjoyed lunch from The Farm of Essex, beverages from Ipswich Ale/Mercury Brewing, and music by the Orville Giddings Band.



The 100 participants came from all over Essex County for this special event. A few teams were sponsored by local businesses, some were comprised of friends and family members, and others were meeting for the first time at the event! The "Vintage Vixens" all-woman team had an average age of over 60. Franz Ingelfinger made it a family affair, paddling the river with his two children aboard his canoe. One of the equestrians postponed her graduation party so she could compete!

Our inaugural first place team consisted of Greg Krathwohl, John Mulkerin, ECTA Board member Joe Sandulli on his mount Simi, and Eric Krathwohl. Greg kicked off their victory by completing the trail run over 3 minutes ahead of the next competitor! John and Eric trained for their legs of the event in the weeks leading up to it, although that didn't prevent John from missing the final turn on the mountain bike course! Eric commented, "I was quite familiar with this patch of the river, but the water levels had continuously decreased over the weeks leading up to the ECTAthlon, so it was sort of new and I did graze the bottom a few times (apologies to Matt Borghesani who loaned me his kayak!)."

ECTA Executive Director Alex van Alen conceived of the ECTAthlon as a way to bring together the diverse users of the trail system in a fun and exciting way, and to highlight the incredible network of trails in our



area. Committee members Carol Lloyd, Rick Silverman, Rob Martin, Susanna Colloredo and Ann Getchell helped develop the idea and bring the event into fruition. The June 4th date was selected not only for the great weather, but also as a celebration of National Trails Day.



We would like to thank EBSCO Publishing, our Platinum Sponsor for the event; Institution for Savings, our Gold Sponsor; as well as New England Running Company of North Beverly, Pinnacle Bikes of North Beverly, The Equestrian Shop North of Ipswich, REI of Reading and New England SmallCraft of Rowley.

A special thank you also goes out to the many volunteers who made this event possible. The success of this year's ECTAthlon has ensured that it will be held as an annual event, and we are all looking forward to next June already!



ECTA 2011 Events



Sled Dog photos courtesy of Hilary Cole. ECTAthlon photos courtesy of Sophiea Bitel.

Faces of ECTA



Peter Campot, Chairman



Alex Van Alen, Director



Carol Lloyd, Trail Manager



Ashley Hill, Office

News Briefs



Sled Dog Racing

Thank you to everyone who helped out at the New England Sled Dog Races - over 65 volunteers came out to make this event a huge success! To get a true feeling for the experience, visit our website at www.ectaonline.org/news/sled-dog-race-video to follow the course from the Musher's point of view. We are looking forward to the 2012 races on January 14th and 15th and hope to see you all there!

Reminder: Hunting Season

Some of our trails cross through lands open to hunting. Please be cautious when using these trails and remember to wear brightly colored clothing and/or vests. For more information, visit the Mass Wildlife website.

- Pheasant, Quail and Grouse
Oct. 15 - Nov. 26
- Turkey
Oct. 31 - Nov. 5
- Deer (Bow)
Oct. 17 - Nov. 26
- Deer (Shotgun)
Nov. 26 - Dec. 10

Also, please be advised that the Myopia Hunt utilizes the trails for their drag hunt on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays throughout the fall. Please visit www.myopiahunt.com for specific dates and locations.

Where to Find Trail Maps

Make sure to visit our website to see trail maps of all the publicly accessible spaces in our area. Full trail maps are also available for purchase at:

Ipswich - River's Edge Gifts, Ipswich Bikes, Town Hall, Ipswich Visitor Center

Wenham - Wenham Sports Stop

Beverly - Pinnacle Bikes, New England Running Co

Topsfield - Topsfield Bike Shop, Gil's Grocery

West Newbury - West Newbury Food Mart, GAR Library

Hamilton - Green Meadows Farm

Reading - REI

Equine Expo

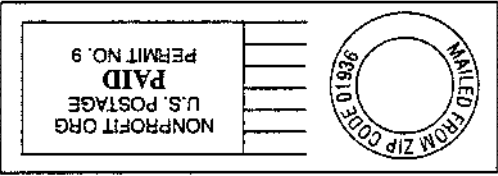
Special thanks to Kay Joseph and Sue McLaughlin for organizing the 16th Annual Equine Expo in April. Their tireless efforts led to another successful year with great vendors and many fun and informative demonstrations throughout the day! They are already busy planning next year's event on April 28, 2012. Sales spaces are available for \$75.00 and sponsorships for \$200.00. Donated items for the sale and silent auction can be received at any time. For more information contact Kay at kljoreo@aol.com / (978) 768-6275 or Sue at sjmclaughlin@verizon.net / (978) 465-7715.

Bridge in Bradley Palmer

Work has been completed on the Pedestrian and Equestrian Bridge into Bradley Palmer State Park and it is now open for use!! The central pier of the bridge has been structurally reinforced, and all new horse-friendly decking and railings have been installed. Thanks to the Department of Conservation and Recreation for managing and funding this project and T. Ford Co. for completing this work ahead of schedule so that we can all enjoy this important trail connection.

Run for the Trails September 17th, 2011





Essex County Trail Association
P.O. Box 358
Hamilton, MA 01936



Volunteer Trail Work Day, Donovan/Sagamore Hill Trail - October 1, 2011