



ESSEX COUNTY TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Preserve, Maintain, Respect

Vol. 27 No. 2 Fall/Winter 2009

Chairman's report

Susie Banta

It takes a village....

Congratulations and a big thank you to the residents of Ipswich! As I write this, the Town of Ipswich has just voted to help fund the protection of Maplecroft Farm, a big step toward preserving a beautiful and important tract of agricultural and recreational land. A portion of the land will remain in agricultural use, a portion will be available for recreational use and there will be a multi-use trail easement held by ECTA that crosses the property from Essex Road (Rt.133) to Argilla Road. I begin my comments with this decision because it is a very visible public example of landowners, concerned individuals and groups working together to help preserve the essence of our Essex County communities. We are also witness to – and happily participants in – many other less visible but equally important acts of generosity and commitment to maintaining and preserving trails and the access to trails throughout Essex County.

We have landowners, such as Barbara Sears who you will “meet” later in this issue, who have worked with us to create easements for public access across their land, landowners who keep their own trails open and support trail improvements and allow access to public lands through their land. We have a hardy group of volunteers –led by our event coordinators and volunteers extraordinaire Kay Joseph and Sue McLaughlin -- who work behind the scenes putting on events; Trail Stewards who keep tabs on the trails in their areas; our very hard working board of directors; our terrific Newsletter editor, Pam Mansfield; and, at the front of our ECTA parade, our tireless Executive Director

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Trail through Sears' property, Hamilton

From the Director

Alex Van Alen

The Future of our Trails

On the evening of October 19, I was at the Ipswich Town Meeting, largely to cast my vote for the town to help fund the permanent protection of a trail and 247 acres of the Raymond Family's Maplecroft Farm. After an enormous educational effort from ECTA and its conservation partners, I am happy to say that the voters overwhelmingly approved the article. I was helping Carol Lloyd the next day to mark the course for ECTA's 5th annual “Run for the Trails” event and she reminded me that we had heard at the meeting that the Town was going to bury a 50 year time capsule as a part of its 375th anniversary. Carol had the great idea of putting one of our freshly printed 2009 Ipswich Trail Maps in the capsule, which will no doubt be an interesting artifact for the residents in 2059.

It made me wonder: What will those residents think when they look at those 50-year-old maps? Will they be disappointed at the trail network that they have lost, or will they be amazed at all that has been preserved? The population pressure is expected to increase dramatically, many large landholdings are almost certain to be split up with the next generation and new landowners and trail users will move to the area. Does this mean that the incredible trail system we enjoy today, both public and private, protected and unprotected, will become fragmented, inaccessible, overgrown or washed out? ECTA wants to make sure the answer to those questions is an emphatic NO.

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Newsletter

Pamela Mansfield-Loomis

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From the Director (cont'd. from page 1)

In order to do this, your Board of Directors, Carol and I are putting systems in place and completing projects at a rapid clip. Our fundamental aim is to be sure that ECTA increases its capacity to protect and maintain our fantastic trail system, while ensuring that we are a strong and sustainable organization well into the future. Due to the support of our members, landowners and volunteers, we feel assured of success.

Many of you may have noticed some of the changes within ECTA. We have a new logo and a new website where you can find out about news and events, and donate, renew or join online. We have completed the 2009 revision of the Ipswich map to join the completed Hamilton/Wenham map and soon to be completed Topsfield and West Newbury maps. We will soon have these maps available for downloading on the website.

Membership

We are also making changes to the way we think about membership support. We believe that there are many, many trail users out there who are not members but who would be if they realized that they benefit from the good work we do at ECTA. The Board and I believe that through better communications and a simpler system of joining, we will be able to bring those trail users under the ECTA umbrella, strengthening our organization and leading to better protection of our trails. To date we have produced a new brochure, developed the joining page on the website, and beginning in 2010, we will be going to a rolling membership, meaning that no matter when someone joins, their membership is good for the next 365 days. This way, people get the full value of a year long membership, regardless of whether they join in January or November. As a result, we will be replacing trail tags with membership cards stating the effective dates. We also received a challenge grant to increase our

membership. This challenge grant pledged to match any membership dues for the first 100 NEW members in 2009. We surpassed the challenge in mid-October and new memberships keep coming in.

The President's Fund

By now, you have all received a letter requesting support for the President's Fund in recognition of Don Curiale's 15 years of leadership at ECTA. These funds are important to sustain our operations while we increase our trail protection capacity. Thanks to the generosity of many of you, we have raised nearly \$100,000 of our \$150,000 goal. We hope we can count on those of you who have not yet given to support our work with a donation. You can either send a check in the envelope provided in the letter you received, or easily donate online at our website.

Trail Stewards/Trail Maintenance

Our Trail Stewards, the avid trail users who report back any trail issues so that we can take care of them promptly, have been busy. We have responded to many requests to clear downed trees, fix holes, repair bridges, mow back overgrown trails, repair wet areas and sign trails for safety. Always feel free to contact the Trail Steward in your area (you can find their names and contact information here or on the website) or you can contact me at 978-312-1548 or alex@ectaonline.org.

Events 2009

Throughout the year, ECTA held several events:

- Annual Tack Sale at Topsfield Fairgrounds Arena
- National Trails Day at Bradley Palmer
- Waldingfield Driving Event
- Myopia Horse show opening night
- Groton House Fall Classic
- Run for the Trails
- Poker Ramble (cancelled due to muddy footing and weather)

Thanks to our volunteers for making these events possible. Check our website www.ectaonline.org for upcoming events.

Trail Clearing Volunteer Style

Alex Van Alen

On Saturday, September 26, ECTA had a volunteer trail clearing day at 315 Sagamore St in Hamilton. Nearly 20 volunteers showed up to reclaim a lost trail. Armed with saws, loppers, weed whackers and a walk behind brush-hog, we cut a beautiful path through the woods and up the hill. It is wide and high enough for equestrian use. The volunteers worked fast and hard, clearing saplings and cutting branches, but by the end of the morning, they all

wanted more. We will be sure to plan another one soon, and many thanks to this hearty group.

The vacant property is owned by Windover Properties, who have generously agreed to place a trail easement with ECTA over the land. The 40 acre property is for sale and although it has been subdivided into 4 lots, it would be ideal for one owner as a horse property, with trails leading in many directions.



Volunteers helped to clear trails on Sagamore Hill this fall.

Chairman's Report (cont'd. from page 1)

and Director of Trail Preservation, Alex Van Alen and Carol Lloyd. In other words, it really does take a village...no, actually it takes a team (and six villages!), to keep our wonderful trails maintained, preserved, and accessible. So, it seems an appropriate time of year to reflect on our great appreciation for our wonderful landowners and the committed individuals who work so hard to keep our trail system open.

As a trail user, or just a trail 'believer', please enjoy our fall edition

of the ECTA Newsletter and catch up on all ECTA has been up to the past few months. Finally, we encourage you to become an active member of the team. Let us know of trails that need improvement (check out our new website ectaonline.org to find the name of the trail steward near you), volunteer when and where you can (call Alex at 978-312-1548), donate if you can (it takes six villages, a team, and \$\$\$\$!), and have a....

Happy **Thanksgiving!!**



Sue McLaughlin and Kay Joseph

Spotlight on Volunteers: Kay Joseph & Sue McLaughlin

Pam Mansfield

Although Kay Joseph and Sue McLaughlin each support ECTA individually, you seldom see one without the other close by. Both are known for their tireless teamwork on the annual spring ECTA Tack Sale, now in its 15th year, the summertime driving event at Waldingfield, and the popular Poker Ramble held in the fall.

Throughout the year they are busy promoting and planning the tack sale that benefits ECTA with much needed funds. They send out announcements, solicit sponsorships, acquire used items for the ECTA table, round up donated items for the silent auction, and bring in vendors with unique and interesting goods that are sure to please. Held at the Topsfield Fairgrounds each April, it is more than an expo. It is THE spring event known far and wide to equestrians, and brings in a few non-equestrians, too. The demonstration ring is always lively thanks to their tireless scouting for talent and interesting topics ranging from mammoth donkeys to canine agility, and sidesaddle riding to

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Top left: About 50 runners at the starting line are welcomed by organizer Carol Lloyd. Middle: Beautiful trails at the start of the race. Bottom: Carol Lloyd and Sussan Lawrence check in entries inside the barn. Top right: Carol Lloyd, Devon Farm hosts Linda and John Donovan, and Alex Van Alen pose before the ECTA banner with "Honey" in the barn.



5th Annual ECTA Run for the Trails

Pam Mansfield

The popular ECTA Run for the Trails gave runners an opportunity to enjoy miles of beautiful trails on Saturday, October 24 at 11 a.m. This special 5 and 10-mile race introduces runners to some of the privately-owned trails that ECTA maintains and preserves throughout six towns in Essex County.

This year's event was once again graciously hosted by John and Linda Donovan at Devon Glen Farm in Hamilton and wound through both public and private trails providing little-known spectacular views of the countryside. Runners fondly recalled last year's event that began at the Donovan's barn where chickens, horses, and Guernsey cows looked on.

With inclement weather disrupting many outdoor events this fall, the threat of rain and the occasional drizzle kept the number of entrants down to 50, but spirits were high. The mud boosted demand for clean pairs of running shoes after the race, said Dave of New England Running Company, one of the sponsors who helped make the event possible. ECTA's Director of Trail Preservation, Carol Lloyd, who organizes the Run for the Trails, added that Salomon donated four pair of running shoes for a raffle. We couldn't host such a professional event without our sponsors: Institution for Savings, EBSCO, Brinck Lowery, First National Bank of Ipswich, Manchester Athletic Club, New England Running/Salomon Sports, and Coastal Greengrocer who provided refreshments in the barn. Prizes were awarded to winners by age groups and distance.

Runners registered either as individuals or with running clubs. "Olin College had the winner and second place in the men's Open 10 mile race and they had the winner of the woman's Open 10 mile race," Carol reported. We had so many volunteers who were fabulous and the YMCA and Gills Running Club did the finish line for us, they were the best!! John and Linda Donovan were great too. They stayed the whole time and were gracious and cheery - the perfect hosts!"

Landowner Profile - Mrs. Barbara Sears

Pam Mansfield



Farmland, open spaces, and foxhunting are a way of life in Middleburg, Virginia, where Mrs. Barbara Sears grew up riding with the hunt as a child. "Riding was second nature," she says, reciting the adage that the outside of a horse is good for the inside of a person. After she married and moved to Hamilton, she rode with Myopia Hunt where her husband, Francis (Bunny) Sears, was Master of Foxhounds (MFA). From her 57-acre farm, she could ride for miles on trails that connect to Sagamore Hill in one direction and Appleton Farm in the other. The Hunt was smaller in the earlier days, she says, and she and Bunny as well as other members would walk 15-20 couple of hounds in the dark each early spring morning, a responsibility of the Huntsman now. On weekdays, no more than 20 members would ride, and the kennels, well, the kennels were nothing like they are today, where she says one could practically eat dinner in the facilities.

The Sears' have hosted the Landowners' Picnic for the past dozen years, and she continues the tradition, a popular event attended by 250 neighbors and hunt subscribers in October on what was a perfect fall day this year. Frequently, she also hosts a joint meet,

where several hunt clubs ride together, bringing their horses in trailers that they park on her property, and they start and end their ride at this junction of wooded trails that echo with the sound of hounds and hooves both present and past.

It is no surprise that Mrs. Sears would like that tradition to continue for generations to come, which is why she has permanently preserved her Hamilton estate by establishing a trail easement with Essex County Trail Association and conservation protection with Essex County Greenbelt Association. Over the years, she has seen many changes as land is sold and new homes are built, altering the landscape and barring access to trails. What was once a contiguous trail to Sagamore Hill has some interruptions

now, but the trails through her property remain open. "I love having people come through here as long as they don't damage the place," she muses. Most riders and walkers who belong to ECTA know to wave and say hello if they see landowners and express their appreciation for the opportunity. The trail easement will continue to make that possible, and the Sears' children, who also grew up riding, have homes on adjacent properties. Her two boys, in particular, grew up riding their ponies, helping to whip in with the hunt, and assisting with dragging the scent prior to the meet.

Although she has lived in Hamilton many years, such was her love for the thrill of foxhunting in Virginia, Mrs. Sears traditionally headed south with her horses for part of each year. These days she continues to ride her faithful hunter, Nelson, on the network of trails in Ipswich, Hamilton, and Topsfield. Riding offers a spectacular way to enjoy long expanses of the countryside, made possible only through the generosity of landowners like Mrs. Sears who allow people to continue this tradition.

Mrs. Barbara Sears and "Nelson."
Below the trail on the Sears property
protected by an ECTA easement.



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 Nancy Morgan, Danvers, MA
 Hew & Rosie Morgan, Jr., Ipswich, MA
 Ben Morrill, South Hamilton, MA
 Fred & Liz Morris, Manchester, MA
 Jill Morris, Newburyport, MA
 Trish Moseley, Hamilton, MA
 Dale Movalli, Gloucester, MA
 Martha Moylan, Beverly Farms, MA
 Julia Mueller, Cambridge, MA
 Deirdre Mulkern, Ipswich, MA
 Jennifer Mulstay, Newington, NH
 Jill Mundy, Ipswich, MA
 Jack Murray, Beverly, MA
 Megan Murray, Ipswich, MA
 Rachel Murrin, Rowley, MA
 Chris & Dinny Nadai, Essex, MA
 Cindy Nickerson, Merrimac, MA
 Bunny Nutter, Topsfield, MA
 Ted & Kim Ober, South Hamilton, MA
 Ann O'Brien, North Andover, MA
 Bobbie O'Brien, Topsfield, MA
 Michael & Nancy O'Connell, Wenham, MA
 Barbara Odiome, Hathorne, MA
 Sharon Offenstein, Pepperell, MA
 Karen O'Hanley, Ipswich, MA
 John & Maureen O'Neil, Boxford, MA
 Brenda Orlando, Newbury, MA
 Michael Ort & Kimberly Hackett-Ort, Salisbury, MA
 Barbara Ostberg, Ipswich, MA
 Paula Ouellette, Rockport, MA
 Kim Pagley, Newbury, MA
 Lori Paradise, Groveland, MA
 Oliver & Barbara Parker, South Hamilton, MA
 Carolyn Parrott, South Hamilton, MA
 Joanne Patton, South Hamilton, MA
 George Patton, Jr., South Hamilton, MA
 Elizabeth Payne, Boxford, MA
 Jennifer Pearson, Beverly, MA
 Tony & Linda Pearson, Hamilton, MA
 Kathie Peck, Newbury, MA
 Carol Pelletier, Rowley, MA
 Paul & Cecily Pennoyer, Locust Valley, NY
 Dean & Ann Perkins, South Hamilton, MA
 Oliver & Mellissa Perrin, South Portland, ME
 Richard & Nady Peters, West Newbury, MA
 Robyn Petersen, Ipswich, MA
 Joanne Peterson, Manchester, MA
 Kristin Peterson, Danvers, MA
 Christine Phaneuf, West Newbury, MA
 Dick & Susanne Phippen, Wenham, MA
 Bob & Jean Pietrillo, Rowley, MA
 John & Dianne Pingree, Hamilton, MA
 William & Lucy Pingree, South Hamilton, MA
 Michael & Marlene Pippens, South Hamilton, MA
 Deirdre Pirie, Hamilton, MA
 Kristal Pooler & Ron Farren, Gloucester, MA
 Daniel & Betty Poor, Ipswich, MA
 Kim Porter, Ipswich, MA
 John & Margaret Potorski, Georgetown, MA
 Linda Prestero, Boxford, MA
 Lynne Preston, Hamilton, MA
 Nat & Holly Pulsifer, Ipswich, MA
 Neil & Betty Raymond, Ipswich, MA
 Katy Redmond, South Hamilton, MA
 Mary Reinhalter, South Hamilton, MA
 John Rendall, Wenham, MA
 Carrie Rennie, Merrimac, MA
 Mark Renzi, Essex, MA
 Camilla & Carrie Rich, South Hamilton, MA
 Joan Richards, Ipswich, MA
 Susanne Richey, South Hamilton, MA
 Heather Richter, Beverly, MA
 Cheryl Riley, Peabody, MA
 Mary Rimmer, Newbury, MA
 Millard Ring, Rockport, MA
 Carlos & Diane Riva, South Hamilton, MA
 Susan Robie, Marblehead, MA
 Tim & Lisa Robinson, South Hamilton, MA
 Clifton & Sarah Robinson IV, West Newbury, MA
 Evan & Katharine Rochman, South Hamilton, MA
 Carly Rodgers, West Newbury, MA
 Avis Rosenfield & Tim Mallette, Deerfield, NH
 Donna Rourke, Rowley, MA
 David Rousseau, DVM, Essex, MA
 Diana Rowan, Cambridge, MA
 Lauren Rowland, West Newbury, MA
 Kathleen Rowlett, Merrimac, MA
 Laura Russell, Ipswich, MA
 Laurel Ruzicka, Newburyport, MA
 David & Lou Ryus, III, South Hamilton, MA
 Doug & Lori Sanders, South Hamilton, MA
 Martha Sanders, Topsfield, MA
 Susan Sandler, South Hamilton, MA
 Joe & Chris Sandulli, Ipswich, MA
 Patrick & Hope Sanford, Essex, MA
 Charles & Allison Sargent, Salisbury, MA
 Carol Savage, Boxford, MA
 Ginny Sayre, Rockport, MA
 Manfred Schach von Wittenau, N Stonington, CT
 Chris & Eroica Schenck, Wenham, MA
 Iris Schnitzer, Boston, MA
 Peggy Schrage, Marblehead, MA
 Rebecca Scofield, Gloucester, MA
 Barbara Sears, Hamilton, MA
 Philip & Susie Sears, Hamilton, MA
 Thomas Sears, South Hamilton, MA
 Fern Selesnick, Marblehead, MA
 Bruce & Ellen Shain, Hamilton, MA
 John Shane, South Hamilton, MA
 Rise Sheehan, DVM, Wenham, MA
 Deborah Siebels, Boxford, MA
 Julie Siemasko, Newbury, MA
 Benjamin & Donna Sieradzki, Georgetown, MA
 Arthur & Cynthia Sinclair, Saugus, MA
 Nancy Slombo, Newton, NH
 Cary Smallhorn, Beverly Farms, MA
 Amanda Smith, Ipswich, MA
 Andris & Barbara Smith, Beverly, MA
 David & Terri Smith, Marblehead, MA
 Hope Smith, Hamilton, MA
 Joanne Smith, North Andover, MA
 Laura Smith, North Hampton, MA
 Nancy Smith, Ipswich, MA
 Ernest & Lois Sneddon, Topsfield, MA
 Ginny Sohn, Beverly Farms, MA
 Scott & Maryann Solombrino, Essex, MA
 Sally Soucy, Essex, MA
 Jane Spellman, Ipswich, MA
 Linda Spellman, Topsfield, MA
 Katherine St. Peter Blair, Rowley, MA
 Kathleen St. Pierre, South Hamilton, MA
 Joe & Gussie Stanislaw, South Hamilton, MA
 Deborah Stanton, Wenham, MA
 Debbie Staub, Boxford, MA
 Jim & Kate Stavis, South Hamilton, MA
 Phil & Marilyn Stearns, South Hamilton, MA
 Linda Stebbins, Kensington, NH
 Ruth Stellatella, Rowley, MA
 Linda Stern, Charlestown, MA
 Robert Stevens, Peabody, MA
 John Stevenson, South Hamilton, MA
 Campbell Steward, Topsfield, MA
 Gil & Sally Steward, Jr., Wenham, MA
 Albert Stewart, Essex, MA
 Fenton Stirling, Winchester, MA
 Karyl Stoia, Lynn, MA
 Pam Stone, Essex, MA
 Susie Stone, Ipswich, MA
 Dorothy Stookey, Hamilton, MA
 Daniel Streeter, Newbury, MA
 David Strouss, Ipswich, MA
 Marcia Strouss, Essex, MA
 Holly Stump, Ipswich, MA
 John Sullivan, Topsfield, MA
 Jill Tallman, Norwell, MA
 Martha & Robin Tattersall, Essex, MA
 Frank & Andrea Tavares, South Hamilton, MA
 Cathy Taylor, Topsfield, MA
 Brendan & Peggy Teeling, Ipswich, MA
 Immie Thayer, Ipswich, MA
 Sally Thomson, Ipswich, MA
 Dena Thornton, Rowley, MA
 Deanna Tkachuk, Groveland, MA
 Deb & James Towne, South Hamilton, MA
 James Towne, III, Gloucester, MA
 Kathie Tremblay, Topsfield, MA
 Paul & Susan Tully, West Newbury, MA
 Deborah & Brooke Tyler, Rowley, MA
 Lisa Tylus, Methuen, MA
 James Van Alen, Boston, MA
 Alex Van Alen Family, Ipswich, MA
 Rex & Esther Vanier, South Hamilton, MA
 Anne Veeder, Manchester, MA
 John & Pege Verani, Ipswich, MA
 Anne Vinsel, South Hamilton, MA
 Mabel Vogel, Beverly Farms, MA
 Pamela Walker, Amesbury, MA
 Ruth Wall, Salem, MA
 Wall Family, Ipswich, MA
 Robin Wallace, Newburyport, MA
 Evelyn Walsh, Ipswich, MA
 Sandy Weatherall, Ipswich, MA
 Candace Weaver, Belmont, MA
 Lindsay Welch & Kim Pallotta, South Hamilton, MA
 Bill & Liz Wheaton, Hamilton, MA
 Sydnye Whitaker-Wilke, Wakefield, MA
 Audrey White, Jamaica Plain, MA
 Debbie White, Ipswich, MA
 Lisa White, Boxford, MA
 Nicholas & Missy White, South Hamilton, MA
 Peter & Winkie Whitman, South Hamilton, MA
 Michele Wiese, Ipswich, MA
 Lesley Wilbur-Allen, South Hamilton, MA
 Rob & Jane Wild, West Newbury, MA
 Robert & Darlyn Wilkinson, Topsfield, MA
 Holly Willard, DVM, and Tom Falzareno, Georgetown, MA
 Mary Williams, Rowley, MA
 Ralph Williams, Ipswich, MA
 Joe & Janine Willwerth, Boxford, MA
 Ashley Winfrey, Rowley, MA
 Valda Winsloe, Ipswich, MA
 Jana Winsor, Rowley, MA
 Angela Winthrop, South Hamilton, MA
 Freddy & Susie Winthrop, Ipswich, MA
 Johnathan & Sidney Winthrop, Boston, MA
 Fred & Alice Winthrop III, South Hamilton, MA
 Ollie & Linda Wolcott, Hamilton, MA
 Susie Wong-Rapuan & family, Atkinson, NH
 Joanne Wood, Rockport, MA
 Josh & Wendy Wood, Hamilton, MA
 Michael & Cynthia Woods, South Hamilton, MA
 Fraley Wright, Hamilton, MA
 Laura Wright, Georgetown, MA
 Cheryl Young, Peabody, MA
 Pat Zarba, Rowley, MA
 Heidi Zenger and John Adama, South Hamilton, MA
 Katie Zinn, Ipswich, MA
 Lauren Zonderman, Newbury, MA



national recognition of the importance of being outside – the importance of continuing that fundamental relationship between humans and the rest of the natural world.

I am not pretending to be a scholar of Scandinavian eco-social interactions, but I do firmly believe that just being outside, not stewarding in a paternal way, not studying it, and not demanding a right to be there, but just being there, hanging out with nature like an old friend, is necessary and strengthens me.

Open Air Life

Alex Van Alen

Recently, I came across a Scandinavian term, or concept that struck me in its resonance and necessity in our times. The term is *friluftliv*, which translates into “open air life”. In America, many of us have come to understand our rights to wildness in Aldo Leopold’s famous quote, “There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot. For us of the minority, the opportunity to see geese or wild flowers is a right as inalienable as free speech.” And we also accept the stewardship of the natural world in the words and works of John Muir and Teddy Roosevelt. But I believe *friluftliv* expresses another important niche in our connection with the natural world, apart from our rights to enjoy it, and our protection of it. Namely, it is a *need to be outside*, a need for us to continue a relationship that humans have had with their

environment for millions of years. It is a need both from the personal perspective, but also from a larger social view: in order to be physically, mentally and emotionally healthy, society needs more people to be outside, more often.

I am reminded of a trip I took about ten years ago to see a good friend from grad school who was studying rivers in northern Sweden, not far south of the Arctic Circle. We paddled, camped and fished for days on end while checking his plots. Even though we were in remote parts of the country, there were small red cabins dotting the landscape around every bend. My friend explained to me that nearly every Swedish family had one of these, and that whether they were professors, bank executives or truck drivers, the majority of Swedes spent several weeks or more every year at their cabins picking berries and fishing. These second homes and long vacations were not a luxury that only the wealthy could afford, but rather seemed to me to represent a

There are days that I feel inundated with emails and phone calls, and I know that those will always happen. I know that they are a necessity to getting my job done. Additionally, my children are coming to that point where they and their friends will be wanting video games and their own computers and making a racket for more television. And I know that to a degree, those things are going to be a part of growing up for them. During a recent ECTA volunteer trail day, however, I saw several teenagers transformed after a few hours of hard outdoor work, from hardly wanting to get out of their car, and wishing they were at home with a video game on a Saturday morning, to asking with scratched up hands and dirty clothes when the next work day was. They had just had their contact with *friluftliv*, the open air life, and while ECTA can’t provide a little red cabin for all of our members to take their families to for weeks on end, we can provide that contact right where we live.

Off the Trail

Some notable recent achievements of ECTA members when they are not on the trails:

- Congratulations to **Advisor, Donald Little** and **Chairman, Susie Banta**, who took Champion and Reserve Champion in the Master's Classic at the 2009 Fidelity Investments Jumper Classic riding their horses Mr. Nighttime and Nike.
- **Norma Gibney** competed at the 2009 Grand National and World Champion Morgan Horse Show in Oklahoma placing in World Champion Hunter Pleasure Amateur Masters and Grand National Road Hack Hunt Seat Finals riding her horse Treble's Johnny B. Goode.
- Newsletter editor **Pam Mansfield** won the Quarterdeck poetry contest held to commemorate the Gloucester Fisherman's Statue.
- **Barbara Odiorne** organized T.H.E. Farm commemorative event honoring the memory of "Dr. Bob" Orcutt, Sr. and Pat Tataronis-Orcutt. The event benefits T.H.E. Farm therapeutic riding center and Strongwater Horse Park in Tewksbury. **Ellen Alden, Felicity Beech, Pat Zarba, and several other ECTA members** were on hand to help organize and host the event, which included demonstrations by local equestrians. **Heather Hull-Colby and husband Scott Colby** offered hay rides through Strongwater Park.
- Look for "extra" **John Donovan** in "The Proposal," a movie filmed in Essex County. Hint: he's on the airplane.

On the Trail

Carol Lloyd

The ECTA has a number of major trail repairs underway. The exciting part is that we are managing them according to our Townwide Trail Management Plans. We are working closely with the Conservation Commissions resulting in very positive and productive relationships. Another exciting piece is that we have partners in every case who have donated money to assist us in the trail repair. Our projects for the fall include:

Bradley Palmer State Park

Partners: Dept of Conservation and Recreation, Bradley Palmer State Park, Topsfield Conservation Commission

Approximately a year and a half ago, ECTA, with help from Jim McDougall (GPS), Arthur Page (Trail Repair) and Stephen Engle (Map) put together a trail management plan for Bradley Palmer State Park. All of the trails were GPS'd and areas of concern were indicated and put on a map. Using this as a guide, the ECTA applied for a grant from DRC's Recreational Trails program and received \$30,000 to maintain certain

trails within the Park. The trails that the ECTA proposed to repair with the State's grant are in the area off of the Asbury Street Parking Lot. The start of these trails are in standing water and then they vary in condition from wash outs with a lot of large rocks to wet muddy areas.

Winthrop Causeway (off of Winthrop Street)

Partners: Winthrop Family, Hamilton Conservation Commission

The Winthrop property has a wonderful trail system and is an important link from Appleton Farms to Bradley Palmer. It has been made available to ECTA members for years and the trails are beginning to show the wear from years of use. ECTA is working with the Winthrop family to determine trail maintenance priorities which include the control of beavers on Black Brook. We have looked at this basin in some depth and feel that if we can control the water level and flow at this end, then we will be better able to solve the Pingree School trail maintenance issues.

The location that we will work on this fall is the causeway off of Winthrop Street – approximately 100 feet

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Repairs recently made to the trail off of the Bradley Palmer parking lot make for solid footing past the pond.

Spotlight on Volunteers

Cont'd. from page 3

equine massage.

A bit less work but still a demanding task, they put on the Poker Ramble that as many as 75 riders and some walkers and bikers have enjoyed for the past several years. They organize volunteers, marking of five and ten-mile trail routes with permission from landowners, produce maps, lunches, and, as was the case this year, deliver the sad news that the event had to be cancelled due to muddy footing after a bout of rainy weather.

Sue and Kay never fail to take on responsibility for a number of other ECTA tasks whenever needed, including making lunches for the Waldingfield driving event, stuffing envelopes, producing flyers and manning registration desks. It's no exaggeration to say that whenever ECTA has needed something done, it's often Kay and Sue who come to the rescue.

In addition, each has held the position of Trail Representative, now Trail Steward, in their towns for several years. Sue is a Hamilton Trail Steward and also a member of the Chebacco Woods Management Committee. She is vice president of the Chebacco Lake and Watershed Association and leads a walk to familiarize visitors with Chebacco Woods trails. She has lived on Chebacco Lake most of her life. Sue rides her horse Zuie, a Selle Francais, in Chebacco Woods and on Crane Beach as well as other trails.

Kay has served as Trail Representative for the town of Essex for more than a dozen years. She grew up riding near her home and she and her first horse, an Appaloosa named Oreo, enjoyed learning many trails. She has also ridden on the fall foliage ride at GMHA in Woodstock, Vermont. Oreo lived to be a ripe old age of 36, and Kay now owns another Appy named Gem.

Link to ECTA

If you are not receiving our regular email updates with trail alerts and upcoming events, you could be missing out! Contact Alex Van Alen at alex@ectaonline.org.

We are pleased to announce a new website that will be regularly updated. Make www.ectaonline.org a favorite bookmark and visit regularly to learn what's new.

On the Trail *Continued from page 7*

in length. This section of trail has been washed out completely. There were two 24" culverts originally that collapsed. The water then washed out the end of the causeway completely. The beavers came in and are now trying to dam the washed out section making the trail impassable. The edges of the causeway are being eroded and the causeway is getting narrower. It is a very dangerous situation. The ECTA will repair the causeway, install two new culverts, and then protect them with Beaver Deceivers. The flow in this section of the river is quite significant which will make it important that all of our solutions can accommodate the flow at all times of the year.

Farrington Lane Trail and Sears Causeway

Partners: Hamilton Wenham Open Land Trust; Tom Sears; David and Joan Schelzi; Hamilton Conservation Commission; Ipswich Conservation Commission

Many trails in our six towns are becoming severely eroded and are getting lower because of the many years of use. In some locations this causes the trail to be very wet. In some areas the water level is also rising due to beaver activity. All of this is true for the trail off of Farrington Lane connecting to Gardner Street and the causeway going from the Sears' property in Hamilton and connecting Sagamore Hill.

Our goal with both of these trails is to make sure that all of the brush is cleared so that the trail can begin to dry. Then we will build up the trails

while still allowing the water to flow through them during peak times. This type of repair entails laying down layers of large stone, fabric, smaller gravel and then pack.

In regard to the water level, years ago the ECTA put a beaver deceiver through the dam that runs along Farrington Lane. While this is still working well, the existing pipe could be placed lower in the dam to lower the water level. We are now working with the Ipswich Conservation Commission to get permission to do this.

Easements

Eddy (Ipswich): In September, Jennifer and Tom Eddy generously gave a trail easement to ECTA across their property on Mill Road in Ipswich. This multi-use trail is an important link in the Ipswich River, Julia Bird Waldingfield trail system. Many thanks go to Jennifer and Tom for their foresight in protecting this access for all trail users.

Raymond (Ipswich): ECTA has been working closely with the Raymond family to protect a trail across their Maplecroft Farm as a part of a 247 acre conservation deal. Our partners include the Raymond Family, the Town of Ipswich, Essex County Greenbelt and the Trust for Public Land. Details for the 1.5 mile trail easement are being finalized and we expect it to be signed concurrently with the protection of the property in February. Our gratitude to the Raymonds for their vision to protect access to one of the most iconic landscapes in Ipswich.

ECTA Receives Recreational Trails Grant from Mass DCR

Alex Van Alen

Last June, ECTA received a \$30,000 Recreational Trails Grant from the Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation to complete important trail work at Bradley Palmer State Park near the Asbury Street parking area.

These trails are used by many people, whether ECTA members or not – equestrians, mountain bikers, dog walkers and others – and have been largely unusable for much of the year. The work will greatly improve the visitor experience to Bradley Palmer, and ECTA is grateful to our partners at DCR for helping us help the Park.

With a \$6000 match from ECTA, this grant exemplifies our ability to leverage our limited funds that primarily come from membership dues, and put them to good use on the trails.



New ECTA Signs

ECTA has 2 new signs designed to better inform trail users of our good work and to increase our membership. The first is a 3.5 by 3.5 inch sign that will be placed where we complete trail work.

The second will let equestrians know of our extensive trail work near their stables. If you would like one of these for your stable, please contact Alex.



Rain + Muddy Footing = No Poker Ramble

A rainy fall season and muddy footing forced the cancellation of the Poker Ramble on October 17. Kay Joseph and Sue McLaughlin have organized the event for many years and said: "The weather prediction was for heavy rain and wind on Friday which would have made the trails worse, and some of the marked trails were through private property." Registrants were notified of the cancellation by phone in time for ECTA to cancel the hot lunches that would have been prepared.

We wish to thank the landowners whose property was open to us especially for this event: Appleton Farms, Don Curiale, Susanna Colloredo-Mansfeld, and the Britton and Patton families. We also wish to thank the volunteers who marked and unmarked the trails and were prepared to help: Judy Milano, Janet Egan, Jill Davis, Pam Stone, Arlene Maginn, Deb Stanton, Burnside Pony Club, Pam Mansfield-Loomis and Rick Loomis, Sally Soucy, Kim Hackett Ort and Mike Ort.

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.



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