



ESSEX COUNTY TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Preserve, Maintain, Respect

Spring 2017

A View from the Chair

Dear Friends,

Spring is upon us once again and with it comes the annual ritual of the assessment of winter trail damage and needed repairs, clean up, and downed tree removal. I am reminded every year at this time of how fortunate we are that a small, prescient group saw the need to work with landowners to map the trails and maintain and preserve the trail network in Essex County. Thus, in 1982, the Essex County Trail Association was formed. Its stated mission was to maintain and preserve trails for the purpose of passive recreation and for the benefit of the community. That same vision exists today as we celebrate ECTA's 35th anniversary.

Today, ECTA works on over 450 miles of trails in Essex County and holds 30 easements on private property which we maintain and over which we are granted privilege to pass. The Board of Directors now includes 15 people ... there are 27 Trail Stewards who report maintenance and repair needs and 28 members of the Advisory Board whom we call on for assistance on a variety of things. As the world has changed and technology has become a big factor in our everyday lives, it has become even more important to have access to nature and be able to get out into the country to run, cross country ski, ride a bicycle, ride a horse, walk your dog or simply breathe deeply and have a quiet walk in the woods. Our aim is to continue to respect and protect access to the outdoors for everyone to enjoy its beauty every day.

Please help us to celebrate ECTA's 35th anniversary by encouraging a friend to become a member. Thank you.

See you on the trails,

Susan

Susan Lawrence
Chairwoman, Board of Directors

Trail Projects

by Carol Lloyd, Director of Trail Management

PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2016

Ipswich

- Waldingfield Trail along Ipswich River – Permit, Repair and Easement
- Choate Street Trail to Sagamore Hill – Plan
- IRWA across County Road to Meadowview – New Trail Project – Permission from Meadowview was denied

Hamilton

- Trail near Pingree Woods on Rich Property – Repair
- Bradley Palmer – Trail 19 - 21 – Repair
- Bradley Palmer – 31 - 33 - 37 – Repair
- Steps on Trail near Brackensides – Repaired wash out

Topsfield

- Trail along Asbury Street across from BP – Permitted and worked with Myopia to open up.
- Topsfield Townwide Trail Management Plan Renewed

West Newbury

- West Newbury Townwide Trail Management Plan Renewed
- Riverbend Management Plan

General Maintenance

- Beaver Deceiver Inspection
- Cleared Fallen Trees
- Mowed Trails

CURRENT 2017 PROJECTS

- 2015 Recreational Trails Grant – Willowdale – Permit, Repair and Maintenance
- Discover Hamilton Trail – Repair and Marking
- Trail from Villa Road to Chebacco Lake – Repair
- Beals Easement across from Ledyard – Relocation and Bridge Repair
- Trail along the Ipswich River to Mill Road – Permit, Repair and Easements
- Choate Street Trail to Sagamore Hill – Permit, Clear Trail
- Renew Townwide Trail Management Plans for Hamilton, Essex and Wenham
- General Maintenance
 - Beaver Deceiver Inspection
 - Clearing Fallen Trees
 - Mowing Trails

Many of the trail projects that Essex County Trail Association has been working on recently includes permitting. This task is both time consuming and challenging. In 2016, we renewed our Townwide Trail Management plans in Topsfield and West Newbury.

Continued on Page 3



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Equine EXPO 2016

Upcoming 2017 Events

Apr 11	Annual Meeting
Apr 22	Turkey Hill Conservation Area Volunteer Work Day
Apr 29	22nd Annual Equine Expo
May 13	3rd Annual Spring for the Trails Half Marathon
May 28	Sagamore Hill Trail Ride
Jun 3	National Trails Day Walk with IRWA
Jun 17	Summer Solstice Party
Sep 16	13th Annual Run for the Trails

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Contact ECTA

P.O. Box 358
Hamilton, MA 01936
978-468-1133

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Trail Projects, Cont. from Pg. 1

In 2017, we will be renewing the Townwide Trail Management plans for Hamilton, Essex and Wenham. A lot of the trail repairs we do are within buffer zones, so having these plans in place saves us considerable time and money.

The challenge with the permitting has been the changing of state regulations. Two years ago, the regulations for culvert repair and maintenance changed drastically. We are no longer able to replace a culvert in kind as we have done in the past. Now a 2-foot culvert may have to be replaced with a 9.5-foot culvert based on state regulations for roadways. Our important work this year has been to determine the best way to solve stream crossings based on current regulations while keeping the best interest of trail users in mind. We need to ensure the best solution for a positive future.

Trail Repairs along the Ipswich River

The ECTA continues to work on the trails along the Ipswich River. Last year we repaired the trail that goes from Waldingfield Farm down to the river crossing. This year we are working to repair the trail on the other side of the river from Mill Road to just before Judy Little's property. We have received permission for this part of the project from the Ipswich Conservation Commission and work will be done according to the Townwide Trail Management Plan.

Last fall, Tim Hilton contacted us to say that he recently purchased property along the trail and wanted to bring the trail back to its condition of 50 years ago. He wanted to continue to have it used by equestrians as it was in the past. His family has a long history in the area and the connectivity and openness of the past were all very important to him. The Lingerman Family have graciously given their permission for work to be done on their property as well.

The ECTA will repair two wet areas along the river, repair the trail on both sides of the bridge and then continue to where it goes up the hill into the field at Holiday Hill. Specifically we will include water bars on the hill and add fabric/pack/gravel to the wet areas. It is important that we build the trail up as it is very deep from erosion and make it drier. Work will begin in the spring when the ground dries out.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

FOR THE PAST 35 YEARS, ESSEX COUNTY TRAIL ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN 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.

IN HONOR OF OUR 35TH ANNIVERSARY, WE WOULD LIKE TO CALL UPON ALL AVID TRAIL USERS TO NOT ONLY RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIPS, BUT ALSO TO BRING ONE MORE OUTDOOR ENTHUSIAST INTO THE FOLD!

***HELP US CELEBRATE AND
JOIN OR RENEW NOW!***



To the members of Essex County Trail Association,

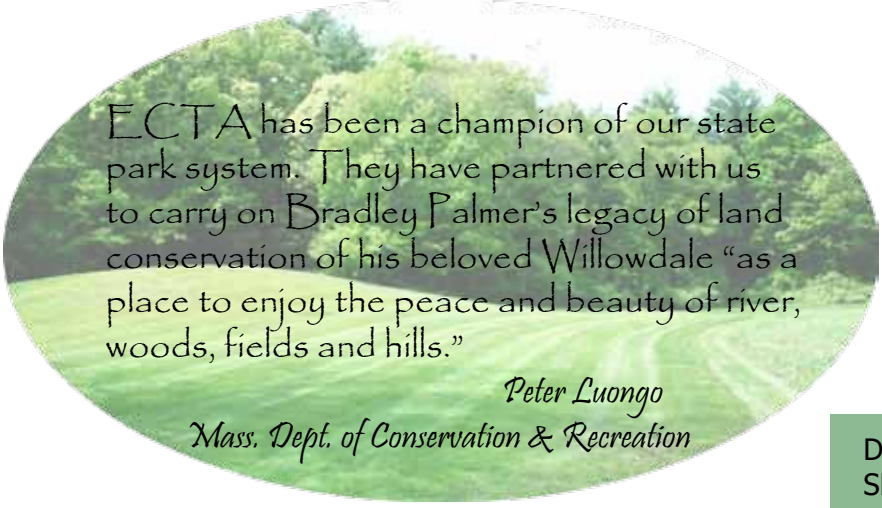
My name is Jerry Kenney. Some of you might know me and some may not. I have been a riding instructor for the last fifty years at Ascot in Ipswich, MA. I've been reminiscing lately. For some of you that have never done that, it's something you do when you have reached the later stage of your life. I've found myself thinking more and more about ECTA, partly because I spend some of my happiest times on a horse riding on the trails in the Myopia Hunt country. These trails have stayed open largely because of a small dedicated group, and I say small, compared to the number of riders that have access to these incredible trails. Trails that we all get to use, especially me and my students.

It is impossible for me to describe the exhilaration our students display the first time out on their favorite pony or horse. For this reason alone, ECTA deserves all the support we can give them. I hope for all that read this little note agree and let the most dedicated people know how you feel.

Thank you from the deepest part of my heart,

Jerry

As we celebrate our 35th year, here are a few thoughts from our friends ...



ECTA has been a champion of our state park system. They have partnered with us to carry on Bradley Palmer's legacy of land conservation of his beloved Willowdale "as a place to enjoy the peace and beauty of river, woods, fields and hills."

Peter Luongo
Mass. Dept. of Conservation & Recreation

Hamilton Conservation Commission and Essex County Trails Association have enjoyed a mutually beneficial relationship for many years. The Commission, working with ECTA's Carol Lloyd, Mike DeRosa and staff at DEP issued the first ever Town Wide Trail Management Permit to ECTA. The Permit provides for an initial review of trail projects by ECTA's Conservation Commission liaison (Carol) and the Commission Coordinator to determine if the proposed trail work is within the scope of permitted activities. If so, ECTA may proceed without further formal action by the Commission. In Hamilton, this system has been in place since 2007 and was recently extended to 2020. Many other North Shore towns have used our Town Wide permit as a model for their own trail maintenance plans. I have reviewed numerous projects with Carol since 2007 and I am pleased to say that this process has clearly been a "win-win" for the Town of Hamilton, the Conservation Commission, the wetlands and for ECTA too.

James M. Hankin
Coordinator, Hamilton Conservation Commission

Congratulations, ECTA! Thank you for your partnership and for your 35 years of outstanding service to our communities. Your commitment and hard work have made our properties better, and our trails more welcoming and accessible to the public.


Ed Becker
President, Essex County Greenbelt

During my tenure as Supervisor of Bradley Palmer SP, I had the pleasure of working with ECTA. I worked with Carol Lloyd on drafting work plans and implementing Park improvements. Through our combined efforts we were able to rehabilitate the Founders Trail, replace collapsed culverts and complete numerous other projects. ECTA's tireless efforts on the Park's behalf have definitely made a difference and have greatly improved the visitor experience at Bradley Palmer SP.

Richard Scott
Former Mass. Dept. of Conservation & Recreation

As a runner and hiker, I am fortunate to live in an area of many beautiful off-road trails, some of which are a few steps from my front door. Many of these trails are on private land and would not be open to public access if it wasn't for the tireless efforts of ECTA and Carol Lloyd. As a trail race director, I am grateful to the extensive repairs made in Willowdale State Forest on our course orchestrated by Carol and ECTA over the years so our race could continue without interruption. And as a Girl Scout Outdoor Trainer I am encouraged by ECTA's promotion of getting out and enjoying the outdoors through outreach, trail races and special events. ECTA is a great resource I share with my trainees for ideas on what to do with their girls outside. That is why I support ECTA. Congratulations on 35 years!

Marty Sullivan



It has been a real pleasure working with ECTA. We completed a long overdue and important project on the Bay Circuit Trail, the Mill River Crossing, which would not have been possible without ECTA staff and their community knowledge, skills and ability to get things done! I look forward to work with them on future projects on the Bay Circuit Trail.

Kristen Sykes

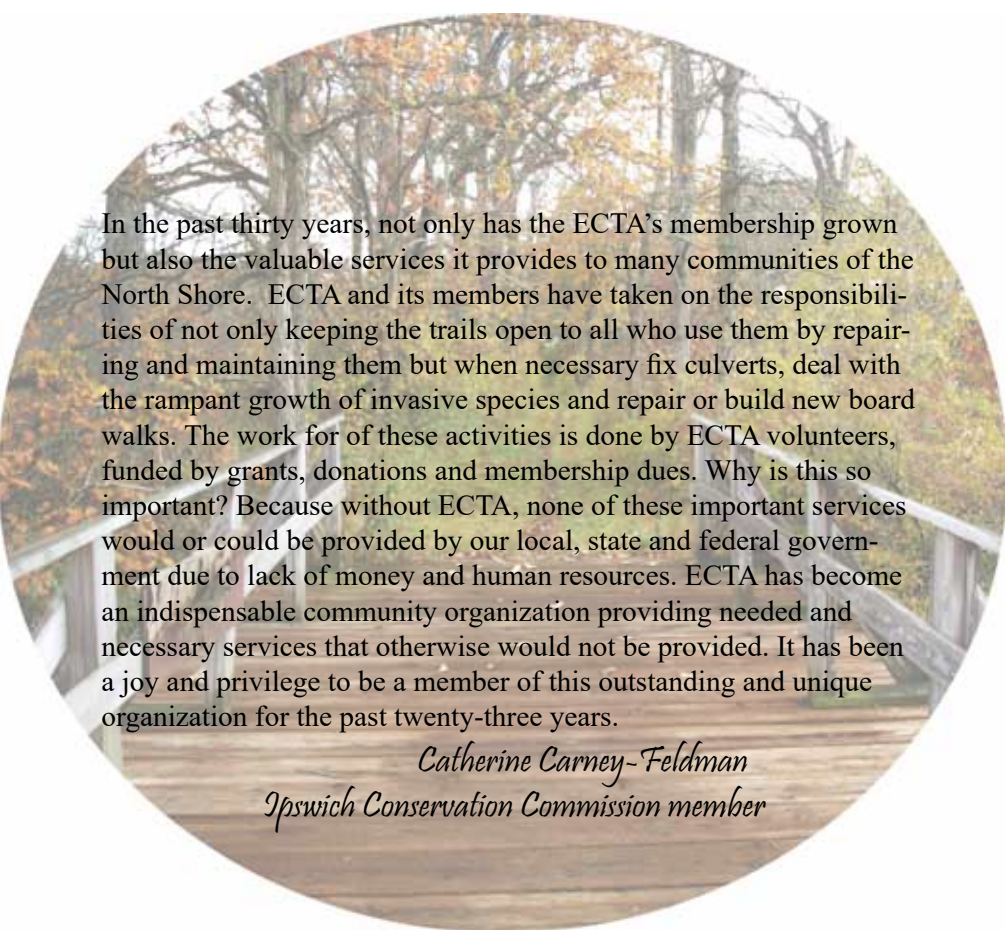
*Director of Conservation Strategies – Appalachian Mountain Club,
Director of Operations – Bay Circuit Alliance*

On the ECTA's 35th anniversary, as landowners, we want to offer special thanks for this essential service so wonderfully provided to keep our pathways to open space – our trail network – open year-round to the many who flock to enjoy our beautiful woods and fields. A special thanks to Carol Lloyd who continues selflessly as a patient communicator and cheerful problem solver. Here's to the next 35 years!

Peter and Bea Britton

Although I am less frequently in the area now, I will always feel very connected to the work that ECTA does. I was honored to be part of their Board a number of years back, and they have made a big difference for the trails in West Newbury. Though not directly contiguous with the other towns that ECTA serves, the organization recognized the riding and trail opportunities there that needed attention and protection and added it in 2003. Since then, ECTA has been instrumental in maintaining trails in this town, as it does in the others, as well as forward thinking in providing resources and expertise in development of more open space use. What I have always especially liked about the group is that they are very accessible; there is always someone willing to talk and help when there is a trail or open space opportunity or issue. It is and always has been a grass roots organization... literally in its appreciation for protecting trails, as well as its willingness to get its collective hands dirty.

Amy Bresky



In the past thirty years, not only has the ECTA's membership grown but also the valuable services it provides to many communities of the North Shore. ECTA and its members have taken on the responsibilities of not only keeping the trails open to all who use them by repairing and maintaining them but when necessary fix culverts, deal with the rampant growth of invasive species and repair or build new board walks. The work for of these activities is done by ECTA volunteers, funded by grants, donations and membership dues. Why is this so important? Because without ECTA, none of these important services would or could be provided by our local, state and federal government due to lack of money and human resources. ECTA has become an indispensable community organization providing needed and necessary services that otherwise would not be provided. It has been a joy and privilege to be a member of this outstanding and unique organization for the past twenty-three years.

*Catherine Carney-Feldman
Ipswich Conservation Commission member*

As a mountain biker and member of New England Mountain Bike Association, I would like to congratulate ECTA on their 35-year anniversary. ECTA has done such a terrific job gaining access and maintaining trails over the years. Mountain bikers, along with riding the trails, also enjoy helping to improve and maintain trails. NEMBA has had the privilege to partner, and assist ECTA on several trail projects over the years. Most recently we assisted in the Mill River board walk project along the Bay Circuit Trail. Thanks again for your service to the community ECTA, and NEMBA looks forward to working with ECTA in the future!

*Frank Lane
President, NSNEMBA*

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We acknowledge below the many donors and sponsors who have given beyond individual and family memberships in support of ECTA. Their generosity makes it possible to fulfill our mission — our heartfelt thanks to all.

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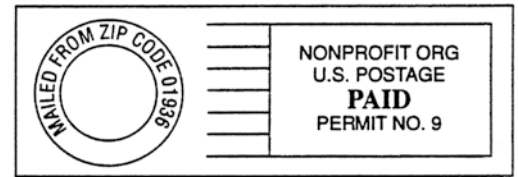
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* List as of December 31, 2016
 Our apologies for any omissions



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