



ESSEX COUNTY TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Preserve, Maintain, Respect

Vol. 30 No. 1 Summer 2012

A View from the Chair

Peter Campot

Reading the draft of this newsletter I was personally impressed with how much is constantly going on at ECTA. I think as you read through this, you too will realize that as an organization we have much to be proud of. I also want to emphasize that this is only a small portion of what we are actually doing. There are many other crucial activities underway at all times to protect and preserve our trail system. All of them need to happen regularly and without missing a step.

So how does it all happen? As you are aware, we no longer have a full time executive director. Alex van Alen continues to support the organization on a part time basis and Carol Lloyd overseas trail projects and easements also on a limited part time basis. They both are very dedicated and get a tremendous amount of work done in their part time roles. Ashley Hill is managing the office and is responsible for many other items, including this newsletter. I want to publicly say THANK YOU to all three of them for their commitment and dedication. They have all put in time and effort above and beyond what they are reimbursed for! It is great to work with people who are so committed.

We are very excited to welcome Ray Denis as our newest staff member. Ray brings an extensive background to his role as Director of Development, including work with the MSPCA, the Animal Rescue League of Salem, NH & the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center. Ray has a strong connection to the North Shore and our trail system, and is a technical delegate for the United States Equestrian Federation. THANK YOU Ray for joining us!

Continued on page 2



Pan-Ipswich Challenge participants celebrating at Steep Hill Beach.

3rd Annual Pan-Ipswich Challenge

by Ashley Hill

Thank you to all of the participants who helped raise over \$3,500 at the Pan-Ipswich Challenge on Saturday, May 5th. The overcast spring day was perfect for a walk in the woods!

Walkers set off at 8 am from Hood Pond, travelling through the wooded trails of Willowdale State Forest, Bradley Palmer State Park, Greenbelt's Pingree Reservation and The Trustees' Appleton Farms Grass Rides.

After a brief break with snacks provided by Ed Dick of J. Barrett Realty, they trekked on through the beautiful open fields and meadows of Appleton Farms, New England Biolabs and Maplecroft Farm. Our 20-mile walkers continued down Argilla Road and arrived at Steep Hill shortly after 2 pm.

Our 20-mile running group left Hood

Pond at 10:30 am and followed the same course, arriving at Steep Hill Beach just after the walkers at about 2:30 pm.

Those who still wanted to be part of the fun, but were not able to complete the full 20 miles, met at Appleton Farms Grass Rides to walk or run the second half of the route

We celebrated the Challenge with a cookout at Steep Hill. Thanks to Nancy and Holger Luther for running the grill and Ipswich Ale Brewery for providing the beverages!

Many participants had never been on parts of the Pan-Ipswich route and said that this was a great introduction to these new trails!

We hope you will join us in 2013 for 10 or 20 miles. We are moving the event date to the fall, so watch your inbox for details!

ECTA Board of Directors

Peter Campot, Chair
Susan Lawrence, Vice Chair
Liz Wheaton, Treasurer
Susie Banta
Felicity Beech
Susanna Colloredo
Haskell Crocker
Ann Getchell
Deborah Hamilton
Rob Martin
Dan Mayer
Joe Sandulli
Rick Silverman

ECTA Staff

Alex Van Alen **Dir. Trail Projects**
Carol Lloyd, **Dir. Trail Management**
Ashley Hill, **Outreach Coordinator**
Ray Denis, **Dir. of Development**

Trail Stewards

Essex

Kay Joseph (978.768.6275)
Hamilton
Sue McLaughlin (978.468.7715)
Diane Curr (781.316.4452)
David Smith (781.307.2020)
Bea Britton (978.468.2733)
Lucy Pingree (978.468.7942)
Liz Wheaton (978.468.7944)

Ipswich

Joe Sandulli (978.356.7163)
Rolanda Dane (978.356.6524)
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)
Nady Peters (978.363.1589)

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A View from the Chair (cont'd.)

I would also like to recognize the significant amount of work taken on by our board members. Our 13 board members, some of whom have been with us since ECTA was founded 30 years ago, have made a conscious decision to be a working board in order to allot our limited funds more toward trail maintenance and preservation rather than organizational administration. The only way this is possible is by board members taking on active roles. And that they do. All of our board members are part of smaller subcommittees who meet regularly to accomplish significant tasks and report monthly at the board meeting. A day does not go by that one of our board members is not working on something important. They too deserve a tremendous THANK YOU from all of us.

Lastly I want point out one other great group of people. As we strive to broaden our membership and strengthen our organization it is so important that we not lose sight of the the great support we have had from all of our current members. Your ongoing and continuous support over the years has been outstanding and it is truly appreciated. Together we have done much but we also have much to do. So in closing I just want to say THANK YOU to all of you.

ECTA Presents at Massachusetts Trail Conference

On April 14th, Carol Lloyd, ECTA's Director of Trail Management, presented at Harvard Forest in Petersham to a group of about 50 Massachusetts DCR employees and representatives from various trail user groups, including New England Mountain Bike Association, Bay State Trail Riders, Appalachian Mountain Club, ATV riders, snowmobile riders, and dog walkers.

Carol explained our mission and how we work; our process of trail inventorying and what we do with the data; and how we created and use our trail management plans.

The attendees were very impressed with the work that ECTA has done, commenting on how progressive we were, and what a great service we were providing. Many groups, frustrated by the difficult process of permitting for work in public parks, were excited by our success with the Trail Management Plans and wanted information on how they could adopt a similar model.

One of the takeaways from the meeting was the interest in starting a statewide trail users coalition. ECTA will be included in this group and will receive information as the coalition is being developed.

Upcoming Events

- Sept 7 "Endless Summer" Party & Fundraiser
- Sept 15 8th Annual Run for the Trails
- Sept 16 WNRDC Adventure Trail Day
- Sept 22 Trails & Sails Walk: Riverbend, West Newbury
- Sept 29 Trails & Sails Walk: Discover Hamilton Trail

Visit the ECTA website at www.ectaonline.org for details and for the latest updates. Do you receive emailed updates from ECTA? If not, please be sure we have your current email address. Contact ashley@ectaonline.org to connect with us. Become a fan of ECTA on Facebook to keep up to date with ECTA happenings and give us your feedback!

ECTAthlon 2012

by Ashley Hill

24 ECTAthlon teams showed up "with bells on" Saturday morning at Bradley Palmer State Park, despite a dreary forecast for the day! And all teams finished the race in one piece - one soaking wet, tired & hungry piece, that is!

Our first place team was "BillieBo Blue" from BillieBo Farm in Rowley, MA. Second place went to REI of Reading, one of our event sponsors, and third was the "Wet Bovies."



Best Team Attire was easily awarded to the Willowdale Warriors in their fluorescent yellow ECTAthlon team shirts, who also took home Lowest Combined Age. Highest Combined Age went to the Sandulli-Nylen-Mulkerin team, and Best Team Name was "Team Un-direction." Mark Prestero was the winner of our REI/ECTAthlon Mountain Bike Raffle.

This was the inaugural year for the "Disability Division," in which we had two entries. The Spaulding Adaptive Team had an adaptive mountain biker and an adaptive equestrian, and despite extremely challenging circumstances, brought home the win in this division.



We would also like to recognize Board Chairman Peter Campot who completed all 4 legs of the race himself, and still managed to come in 7th place - congratulations Peter!



Pictures have been posted on our Facebook Page. Full race results can be found on our website.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who made this event possible - it takes a lot of coordination to pull off this event under ideal conditions, let alone in the pouring rain! Special thanks to EBSCO Publishing for saving the day by allowing us to use their cafeteria for the awards ceremony!!

Thanks to our sponsors: EBSCO Publishing, Institution for Savings, New England Biolabs, Ipswich Ale Brewery and REI of Reading.

Thanks to Fusion for sponsoring our T-shirts, and New England Running and Pinnacle Bikes for donating gift certificates for the winning teams. Thank you also to the Winthrop and Colloredo-Mansfeld families for allowing us to hold the equestrian part of the race on their properties, and Bradley Palmer State Park for supporting the event and allowing us use of the shed for race check-in.

Lastly, thank you to all of the competitors who brought a positive attitude and a competitive spirit to the race on Saturday under extreme conditions. We have now run this event under the best of conditions and the worst, and it can only get better from here! We have been getting great feedback from the competitors and will continue to improve this event in 2013! Mark your calendars for June 1, 2013.



Equine Expo

by Sue McLaughlin & Kay Joseph

ECTA's 17th annual Equine Expo was held on April 28, 2012 from 9-3 in the Arena at the Topsfield Fairgrounds on Route One, Topsfield, MA. This popular event drew over 1000 people. Businesses, horse groups, and individuals sold anything equine related (new & used) as well as services for the horse and rider/driver. There is always a table of free information and trail maps and much more.

A demonstration ring in the building went on all day. Demos include Sharon Smith: the Horse Crooner, Cathie Hatrick-Anderson: Bitless Bridle training, Jill Bushmann DC: horse adjustment, Julie Dillon: gaited horses, Kaitlyne Wasman: horsemanship training and the NEER North rescue pony. A silent auction offered many items and gift certificates for bid. There was a food vendor with breakfast and lunch, plenty of free parking.

We wish to thank everyone who donated their time and products from the volunteers to the sponsors to the venders.



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Early Season Trail Walks & Rides

by Ashley Hill

The staff and Board of ECTA made a commitment this year to host regular trail walks and rides that would be open to our membership.

We kicked off the monthly walk series with a "Hike to the Black Cow" on February 11th starting in Appleton Farms. While originally intended as a cross-country ski outing, our mild winter conditions changed the plan. We managed to get the hike in just before one of our few snow storms did blow in!

In March we planned for a hike from Willowdale State Forest to the Village Pancake House - this time we did get snow the night before, but still not quite enough for a ski trip! There were only a few inches of snow, and we enjoyed a great walk and an even better breakfast!



With the Pan-Ipswich Challenge planned for early May, we ramped up our walks in April. On the 7th Deb Hamilton led us through the trails at Riverbend in West Newbury, where we enjoyed views of the Merrimac River and walked through stands of mature tupelo trees. On the 14th we explored Chebacco



Woods and Gordon College trails with Sue McLaughlin and on the 22nd Nat Pulsifer gave us a tour of Greenbelt's Julia Bird Reservation and The Trustees' Appleton Farms, choc full of historical anecdotes!

In May we switched things up with a bike ride along the Topsfield - Danvers Rail Trail. We met in Topsfield Center and went all the way over Rt. 114, where the trail currently ends but will be extended soon to connect all the way into Peabody! Kate Day from the Town of Danvers Planning Department met us in Danvers Center with

refreshments and caught us up on recent Rail Trail work and plans to improve the trail over the course of the upcoming year. The 14 mile round trip ride was easy enough for any novice biker to accomplish.

Guided trail walks and rides have been a great way for members to explore new areas with someone who really knows the terrain. They have also provided an informal environment for members to meet other trail supporters and ECTA staff and Board members. Check your email for updates on summer trail walks and rides.



Trail Projects in 2012

Projects Completed:

New England Biolabs Beaver Deceiver (Ipswich/Hamilton)
Discover Hamilton Trail Beaver Deceiver (Hamilton)
Aquila Farm Trail Improvements (Hamilton)
Coffin Street Trail Easement Clearing (West Newbury)
Dunn Property Trail Clearing (West Newbury)
Discover Hamilton Boardwalk I Construction (Hamilton)
Maplecroft Farm Trail Improvements Part I (Ipswich)
Linebrook Woods Downed Tree Clearing (Ipswich)

Planned Projects:

Discover Hamilton Trail Relocation (Hamilton)
Discover Hamilton Boardwalk II Replacement (Hamilton)
Donovan Ballfields & Woods Trail Improvements (Hamilton)
New England Biolabs/HWOLT Riverside Preserve Improvements (Ips/Ham)
Maplecroft Farm Trail Improvements Part II (Ipswich)
Willowdale "Three Pipes" Trail Reconstruction (Ipswich)
Black Brook Rd - Pingree Reservation Trail Improvements (Hamilton)
Many more projects are in discussion - stay posted!

Routine Mowing:

Maplecroft Farm Trail (Ipswich)
Pingree Reservation (Hamilton)
Harvard Woods (Hamilton)
Donovan Ballfields & Woods (Hamilton)
New England Biolabs (Ipswich/Hamilton)
Several other trails and trail connections in Hamilton!

ECTA Trail Maps

Make sure to visit our website to see trail maps of all publicly accessible spaces in our areas. Printed trails maps available 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 - Gil's Grocery Topsfield Bike Shop

West Newbury

GAR Library
West Newbury Food Mart

Hamilton

Green Meadows Farm

Reading

REI

New Discover Hamilton Boardwalk

by Alex Van Alen

In a classic example of how many people it often takes to make a project work, ECTA recently completed a bridge and boardwalk on the Discover Hamilton Trail.

The bridge, completed in May, was designed by Bob Weatherall of Weatherall Design, completed by several volunteers, permitted through our Hamilton Trail Management Plan, and funded with a grant from our great friends and supporters at REI. The bridge crosses a massive culvert that goes under the MBTA railroad track, over a beaver deceiver which was put in by Skip Lisle of Beaver Deceivers International through ECTA, and funded by the Fields Pond Foundation. Access to the site was permitted by John and Linda Donovan through Devon Glen Farm. A 60-foot boardwalk, funded by REI and the New England Biolabs Corporate Giving Program, was completed in July to replace an existing boardwalk that was in disrepair. Chip Cheston of Tasks Unlimited managed the construction.

This project is one piece in the larger efforts to rejuvenate, relocate, sign and map the Discover Hamilton Trail, a trail that will start at Patton Park and go across several private trails with the very generous permission of the landowners, through Bradley Palmer State Park, a portion of The Trustees of Reservations Appleton Farm Grass Rides, and Essex County Greenbelt's Pingree Reservation.

As written about in last fall's newsletter, ECTA has received a generous grant from the Hamilton Community Preservation Committee to relocate, map and sign the trail, and then to publicize the trail through ECTA and the Town's websites and produce maps for trail users.

We expect the Discover Hamilton Trail Project to be a recreational gem for the local communities and plan to have it completed in late 2012. We want to thank the many people and organizations involved in making this project a reality.



ECTA Featured in National News

by Ashley Hill

Where will you ride tomorrow?

"The Equine Land Conservation Resource, now commonly known as ELCR, was founded in 1997 by a group of concerned horse people who recognized that loss of open land is the greatest threat to the future of all equestrian sport, recreation, and industry. Today ELCR has become the national organization to preserve land and promote access for all types of equestrian use."

ECTA has supported ELCR as part of its Conservation Partners program, which promotes conservation through grassroots outreach, networking opportunities amongst like-minded people and availability of and access to information and educational resources.

This spring, in its newsletter *The*

Resource, ELCR featured Essex County Trail Association in the Conservation Partners Spotlight column.

The article mentions ECTA founding member Susanna Colloredo-Mansfeld and her tireless efforts to create an organization that would work with riders to be respectful, understand property restrictions, and encourage stewardship of the land.

Also highlighted is ECTA's emphasis on landowners and the importance of ensuring that "the experience of open trails is positive for them as well as the trail users."

ECTA's diversity of trail users is mentioned as well, noting our many athletic, educational and social events throughout the year that bring together our different trail users. "ECTA embraces diversity in trail usage for multiple disciplines,

such as walking, running, riding, biking and skiing in a mutually respectful way."

"ECTA has become a model organization in making a real difference for conserving land for future generations of equestrians."

To read the full article and enjoy the entire spring issue of *The Resource*, please visit "Online News" at www.ectaonline.org.



Aquila Farm and ECTA Join Together on Trail Project

by Carol Lloyd

ECTA received a call in early November regarding a trail repair. The causeway between Aquila Farm and Peter Whitman and Pat Tone's properties was in need of major work. Due to years of use the trail had become low in the middle so consequently had become very wet and muddy. The process went something like:

1. Determine what work had to be done and how much it would cost.
2. Get permission from the Hamilton Conservation Commission to do the work as part of our Townwide Trail Management Plan.
3. Get permission from the Landowners, Whitman/Tone, to do the work.
4. Figure out how to get it done under our new guidelines.

As you all know, we have more projects on the docket than we can possibly fund in one year. As a result, those projects that come with Landowner Support, are key trail links, and some resources to complete the work, rise to the top. This project fit those criteria perfectly. This link is important to get from Bridge Street to Bay Road and it was used not only by equestrians but by foot traffic as well.

To figure out the resources available, ECTA met with Deirdre Pirie. It was decided that if we could purchase

the materials, she would have her staff do the work. That alone saved ECTA half the cost of the job. We all worked together to make sure that we followed the guidelines set by the conservation commission. Our trail expert worked with Deirdre's crew to advise the best way to do the work. They did the work brilliantly and the result is the trail is beautiful and dry! A perfect solution to a difficult question!



DCR Grant Received

by Alex Van Alen

ECTA is extremely happy to announce that we have received a \$44,500 grant from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation to help improve, repair and create three critical trail links. Given through the DCR Recreational Trails Program, the grant will allow us to complete important work on trails in the New England Biolabs trail system in Ipswich and Hamilton, the Maplecroft Farm Trail easement in Ipswich, and the Donovan/Sagamore Hill Trail easement in Hamilton, Essex and Ipswich.

By the time you are reading this newsletter, we will have started work on the New England Biolabs Trail System. This system of trails, mostly old farm roads that have overgrown with brush and deteriorated over the decades, provides excellent viewing of extensive waterfowl habitat in the Miles River watershed, gives access from Appleton Farms to Fellows Road in Ipswich and to Gardner Street in Hamilton, and in itself provides a beautiful walking loop.

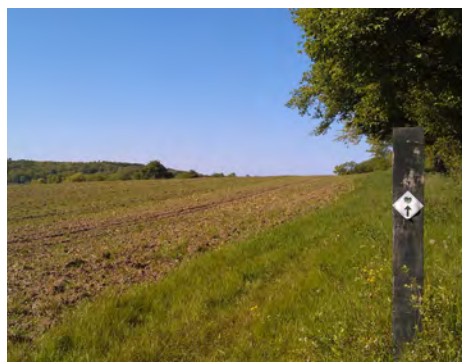


ECTA, through our Townwide Trail Management Plans, will replace several broken culverts, brushhog back the invasive overgrowth that inhibits passage, and where needed, crown the trails with gravel and pac. This, combined with the beaver deceiver that we installed earlier in the spring to keep the water level manageable, will produce a beautiful and very useable trail system. We want to thank New England Biolabs for providing an additional \$2500 toward the trail work, and the Fields Pond Foundation for



funding the Beaver Deceiver that so importantly helps to keep the trail system dry. We also want to thank in advance, Dan Mayer, our newest Board member, for providing significant brushhogging work through Mayer Tree Service on this project.

Since receiving the Maplecroft Farm Trail Easement in 2010, ECTA, with the help of the Raymond Family, has made great improvements to the trail, including culverts, gravel and pac, and mowing. The grant from DCR will allow us to make some further improvements to specific muddy spots in the trail, and to improve fencing and signage. This trail provides a beautiful link from Essex Road to Argilla Road, and is an important connection in ECTA's Pan-Ipswich Challenge.



On the Donovan/Sagamore Hill Trail Easement generously donated

by the Donovan Family to ECTA in 2011, we will be working to complete the connectivity of the trail that starts at the Town of Hamilton's Donovan Ballfields and will connect with trails throughout Hamilton and Ipswich. Additionally, we are working in partnership with the Town of Hamilton on repair, maintenance and mowing of the trail head at the Ballfields, a wonderful place to start a great hike. We want to thank Ryan Scanlon of RP Scanlon Landscaping for providing trail mowing services, pro-bono, on much of the trail system leading from the ballfields.

As we progress with all three of these projects, we will keep you updated through our e-news and on the website. We want to thank the Recreational Trails Program at DCR for their very generous grant, as well as the Raymond and Donovan Families and New England Biolabs for permanently protecting their trails for the community. Without these combined efforts of private landowners, State and Town, foundation, corporate and individual support, our trail system would become fragmented and unuseable. With great partnerships such as these, we are working steadily toward the protection and preservation of the great tradition of trail use in our communities.

New Board Members

by Ashley Hill

ECTA's Board of Directors welcomed two new members in 2011 & 2012.

Haskell Crocker joined ECTA as a Board member last October. Growing up in Manchester, MA, Haskell was familiar with the North Shore area, but it was not until he moved to Topsfield 15 years ago that he was introduced to the ECTA trail system.

When Haskell took up horseback riding 10 years ago, he began actively using the trail system and his interest in its protection and preservation grew. "Until I joined ECTA, I didn't realize how much was involved in protecting the trails."

As a venture capitalist working with early stage companies in energy, life sciences and clean technology, Haskell brings a business sensibility to his work with ECTA. He is most interested in the expansion of our trail network and ensuring more access to the trails.

Haskell is a member of the Myopia Hunt and is Treasurer for the Massachusetts Charitable Society. He, his wife Alyson and their son Pearce live in Topsfield.

Daniel Mayer joined the ECTA Board this March. Dan is the founder and owner of Mayer Tree Service, a full service tree care company with its headquarters in Essex.

As a member of the Advisory Council for The Trustees of Reservation, Dan realizes the importance of preserving access to our local landscape. Dan brings his experience with land conservation to his work with ECTA and looks forward to helping increase public awareness of ECTA and its goals. Dan also serves on the Advisory Board of the Stockbridge School at UMass Amherst.

Dan lives in Essex with his wife and two daughters. When he isn't working Dan enjoys hiking local trails and boating around the North Shore with his family.

The Board would also like to thank its two retiring members, Dorothy Stookey and Heidi Adam. We wish Dorothy the best as she starts her new life in Southern Pines, NC and we look forward to Heidi's continued involvement in ECTA as a member of our Advisory Committee.



Haskell Crocker



Daniel Mayer

2012 Lead Sponsors

Thanks to EBSCO & Institution for Savings for supporting ECTA with Lead Sponsorships!



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REI of Reading
Pinnacle Bike Shop

Get Involved with ECTA

Let us know if you can help with events, projects, and trail cleanup days. Contact us anytime!

Sled Dog Races

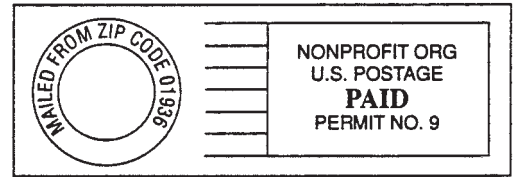
We would like to thank all who volunteered to help at the New England Sled Dog Races. Unfortunately, unusually warm winter conditions forced the cancellation of this year's event.

Proceeds raised from the fundraiser party and raffle were donated to ECTA, MSPCA-Angell, The Trustees of Reservation and Essex County Greenbelt.

The team has already begun planning for 2013 & we are looking forward to an outstanding event!



Essex County Trail Association
P.O. Box 358
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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.

