



A View from the Chair

To My Dear Friends of Essex County Trail Association,

This is my last official “View from the Chair” newsletter contribution. At the August board meeting I resigned as the Chairman of the Board, and the board voted unanimously to appoint Susan Lawrence as the new Board Chair.

This has been a very difficult decision for me to arrive at because there is still so much to do. But ultimately, that is why I have decided to step down. I have become too busy in my personal (read twin 5 year-old boys) and business (read Olympics 2024 bid) life. These endeavors are both fascinating and rewarding, but very time consuming.

ECTA has made great progress over the years and we have matured as an organization. However, since we do not have a full time director, much of that responsibility falls upon the Chairman of the Board. Much as I have valued and enjoyed the day-to-day responsibilities of managing our organization, I realize it requires and deserves more time than I can currently give.

In my opinion, Susan Lawrence is the perfect person to assume the role, and I believe she will be very successful. She is a long time trail user and contributor to ECTA who has a strong organizational and development background that the organization will benefit from. Above all, she is passionate about our trail system and our organization. I intend to stay involved and to be as supportive as possible, and I hope all of you will do the same.

I would like to say thank you to the following people:

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ECTA’s Vital Role in Land Conservation

How ECTA has become the common link across a wide network of conservation interest groups

Protecting and preserving the vast areas of open space in Essex County takes an astounding amount of time, volunteer manpower, and fund raising. This goal can only be realized thanks to an intricate network of conservation groups, of which ECTA is proud to be an integral part. We have worked very diligently over our 32-year history to form strong partnerships with a number of town, state and private groups all focused on the goal of preserving our open spaces. We’d like to share with you how these partnerships work and the important role that ECTA plays with each of these groups.

Land Conservation Organizations

Essex County Greenbelt Association
As “Essex County’s Land Trust,” Greenbelt’s primary goal is land conservation. Since 1961, Greenbelt has conserved over 15,000 acres and has been responsible for 75% of all Essex County land protected in the last

decade. Many of these properties are open to the public, including the Cox Reservation in Essex, the Julia Bird Reservation in Ipswich, the Pingree Woodland in Hamilton, and the Indian Hill Reservation in West Newbury, just to name a few. ECTA helps Greenbelt keep up with trail maintenance by mowing several properties and by taking on major trail projects, such as the recent trail repair done at the Pingree Woodland.

The Trustees of Reservations

TTOR preserves properties of exceptional scenic, historic, and ecological value in Massachusetts. The organization cares for more than 100 properties and nearly 25,000 acres of land across the state. A few of the TTOR properties in Essex County include Castle Hill and Crane Beach & Wildlife Refuge in Ipswich, Appleton Farms in Hamilton and Ipswich and Long Hill in Beverly. In addition to performing trail repairs on several of these properties, ECTA works closely with the staff at Appleton Farms and Crane Beach to

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Joe Geller (978.887.9572 or 7000)

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Ellen Alden (978.363.1170)
Felicity Beech (978.363.2021)
Deb Hamilton (978.363.5793)
Coltin Omasta (978.771.3928)

View, cont.

To the Staff: Carol, Ashley and Ray, do more than anyone knows, and I am grateful for all they have done and continue to do every day. All the little things that go unnoticed but make the organization run smoothly are truly appreciated.

To the Board: You are a fantastic board and you have been very supportive and have always stepped up to make things happen! You are passionate and very hands-on. Your dedication will continue to be needed and I want you to know how much I appreciate your ongoing help.

To our Members: Without you, the organization would not exist. There is always so much that needs to be done and you have always found a way to support us. I cannot thank you enough!

When you get elected as a board chair, in effect, so does your family. The difference is that they don't get the personal satisfaction but are affected by your time and energy commitment. So finally, I would like to thank my wife Carolyn.

With any luck you will see more of me, but from now on it will be out on the trails!

Thank you,



Peter Campot

Upcoming Events

Aug 24	ECTA Day at Myopia Polo
Sept 14	WNRDC Adventure Trail Ride
Sept 20	10th Annual Run for the Trails
Sept 21	Trails & Sails Rail Trail Bike Ride
Oct 18	Pan-Ipswich Challenge

Visit the ECTA website at www.ectaonline.org for details and for the latest updates. Do you receive e-mailed updates from ECTA? If not, please be sure we have your current e-mail 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!

Contact ECTA

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REI Stewardship Grant Received

We are very excited to announce that REI has selected ECTA to receive an \$8,000 grant for trail work at Prospect Hill and Willowdale State Forest.

The existing Prospect Hill portion of the Bay Circuit trail is severely eroded and, in some locations, extremely hazardous. Uphill portions of the trail have become gullies that continue to erode each year. Just south of the Ipswich/Rowley town line, a section of trail has been so badly eroded by an underground stream that a dangerous hole has developed in the middle of the trail. In coordination with the Bay Circuit Alliance, we have proposed a new route that avoids this eroded area completely, follows a much more gradual slope that is more appealing to trail users and reduces trail erosion.

ECTA will work with volunteers to create a new trail along a gradually sloping ridge line and to close off the existing eroded trail. The rerouted portion of trail is approximately 2,600 feet. We will also improve the trail head leading from Prospect Street into the Dow Brook Conservation Area.

In 2010, ECTA compiled a park wide management plan for Willowdale. We began implementing this plan in 2012 with the replacement of the collapsed culverts on the "Three Pipes" trail, which has drastically improved water flow throughout the area, and the resurfacing of this trail with gravel and stone pac. There are currently three more areas in Willowdale where culverts need to be replaced and the trail surfacing improved. These sections of trail are muddy most of the year and nearly impassable after periods of rain.

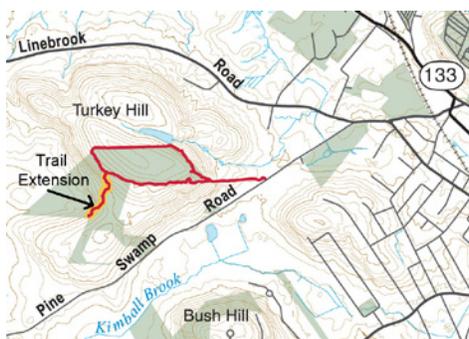
We would like to thank REI for this generous grant allowing us to complete these important trail repairs. Please stay posted for more information about the Prospect Hill trail work day!

Turkey Hill Volunteer Trail Work Day

Essex County Trail Association, the Town of Ipswich Open Space and Americorps joined forces this spring on a volunteer work day at the Turkey Hill Conservation area in Ipswich. On a beautiful April morning, 12 volunteers created 1200 feet of new trail extending into the 26 acre Pelletier Conservation Restriction parcel.

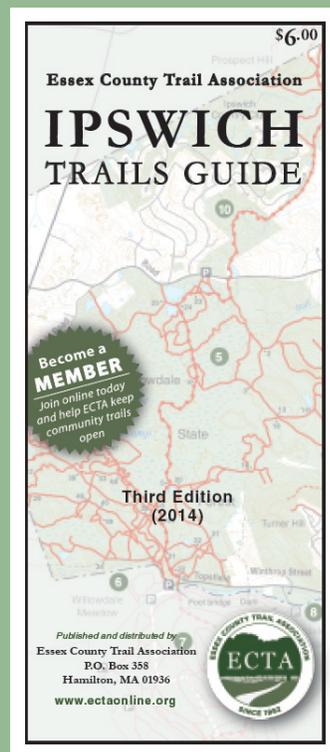
Turkey Hill Conservation Area is a 23-acre property of mature wooded upland, with one of the highest undeveloped hilltops in Ipswich. The existing 1-mile trail on the property follows a steep incline to access the hill, but then becomes a fairly level loop around the top of the hill. The trails at Turkey Hill and the Pelletier property are open to hiking, running, birding and cross-country skiing.

The trail extension currently ends at the border of the conservation restriction, and trail users should follow the trail back up the hill to the loop trail. We hope that this is the start of realizing a long-term vision for a trail network from Turkey Hill to Willowdale State Forest!



ECTA Trail Maps

Our updated 2014 Ipswich trail maps are here!



Be sure to visit our website to see trail maps of all publicly accessible spaces in our areas. Printed trails maps available at:

Ipswich

Ipswich Greetings & Gifts
Coastal Green Grocer
Ipswich Bikes
Town Hall
Ipswich Visitor Center

Wenham

Wenham Sports Stop
ECTA Office

Beverly

New England Running Co.

Topsfield

Gil's Grocery
Topsfield Bike Shop

West Newbury

GAR Library
West Newbury Food Mart

Reading

REI

Welcome to our newest retailer,
Seaside Cycles of Manchester!



Biolabs Grants Support Outreach & Maintenance

We would like to thank NEW England Biolabs, Inc. and the New England Biolabs Foundation for their generous grant awards in 2014. A \$1,500 grant from the Corporate Donations Committee will support ECTA's Maps for Kids Program, which makes our new 2014 Ipswich trail maps available to all students at Ipswich public schools. A \$5,000 grant from the New England Biolabs Foundation contributes to our free Outreach Events Series and helps to support our Trail Maintenance Program.



Get Out and Explore!

Our 2014 Outreach Events Series kicked off in January with our annual Hike to the Black Cow. Despite the ominous forecast, sixteen adventurous hikers meet at Appleton Farms and trekked four miles through drizzle, rain and eventually sleet before arriving in good spirits at the Hamilton restaurant. (A hot cocoa break at Cutler Road helped keep everybody moving on!)

February brought snow just in time for our Ski/Snowshoe to the Village Pancake House. Joe Geller and Joe Sandullui led fourteen skiers on a path through Bradley Palmer State Park, Willowdale State Forest, and the Linebrook Woods and Bull Brook Conservation Areas. Eight snowshoers trekked behind, led by Joshua Regula and trail dog Baron. Any calories burned on this adventure were quickly replenished with the hearty pancake breakfast that followed!



In March, Deb Hamilton carefully led sixteen hikers over the ice and snow-covered trails at Mill Pond and Pipestave Hill in West Newbury and our ever-popular Rail Trail Bike Ride in April drew eighteen cyclists out for a 14-mile ride from Topsfield to Rt. 114 in Peabody.

Deb welcomed us back to West Newbury in late April for the Magnolia and Woods Walk. Sixteen guests started by exploring the gardens at Deb's Middle Street property. The long, hard winter had taken its toll on the magnolia trees but there was still plenty of early spring ephemerals to enjoy. The group then followed a new trail through Greenbelt's Cawley Property.



Joe Sandulli and Dan Mayer paired up once again for the Ipswich River Tree Walk. Forty-five walkers enjoyed a tour of the trails at Ipswich River Watershed Association's Riverbend campus and learned about the native and ornamental trees at what was once one of the greatest landscaped gardens in America.

We hope you can join us at our fall outreach events! Check our website at www.ectaonline.org for the updated events schedule.



ECTA's Summer Party a Smashing Success

The party of the summer took place on June 21st, under the tents at the beautiful Groton House Farm. We're happy to say that the party attracted nearly 300 trail supporters and raised close to \$15,000. This money will help us complete trail projects such as rerouting the Prospect Hill trail and re-decking the Biolabs bridge.

"The Winthrop family was extremely generous in allowing ECTA to host our event on their farm. Having such a special venue was a key reason we reached our attendance goals. We are very grateful to the family", said Caroline Gregory, co-chair of the party planning committee.

The event's lead sponsor, Land Rover of Peabody also had a high turn-out for their customer event - a driving tour of the grounds and a cocktail hour - held at the farm earlier in the afternoon.

"This was the first time we've had sponsorship from such a well-known brand. It was great to see that many of the Land Rover customers stayed and bought tickets to our party once their event was over. We hope to continue our relationship with Land Rover at future events. We're also very thankful that Salem Five Bank stepped up as a supporting sponsor. I'm looking to help ECTA find more cornerstone sponsors in support our mission to maintain, protect and preserve the Essex trail system." said Ray Denis, Director of Development.

No party would be complete without great food, libations and lively music. The summer solstice party delivered these in spades. Henry's

Catering provided an exquisite array of seasonal salads and appetizers, Ipswich Ale supplied refreshing beer on tap and Turkey Shore Distilleries crafted a dangerously delicious "Rum-ade" punch. Parrott Productions set the scene for The Runaround Sound to deliver the ska-infused beats that kept everyone dancing long after the sun had set!

We rely on the support of our members and sponsors and the entire ECTA board wishes to extend a heartfelt Thank You to our sponsors, generous raffle donators, and the many volunteers who helped pull it all together!

Sponsors:
Land Rover Peabody
Salem Five Bank
TGA/Cross Insurance
Ipswich Ale Brewery
Turkey Shore Distilleries
Institution for Savings
EBSCO Publishing

Our Generous Raffle Donors:

TGA/Cross Insurance
(Tickets for Billy Joel, Fleetwood Mac, Red Sox & The Lion King)

Sundara Hair Studio, Slight of Hand Massage, Pax Massage, Susan Lawrence
(Local Spa Package)

The Black Cow Tap & Grill, Serenitee Restaurant Group, The Farm Bar & Grill, Ipswich Fish Market/Chrissi's Café, Not Your Average Joe's, The Four66, The Grog, The Port Tavern
(Restaurant Package)

Eugene McKay, Coastal GreenGrocer
(Carriage Ride & Picnic for Four)

Eurostoves of Beverly, Turkey Shore Distilleries, Haskell Crocker
(Bar Package)

Congratulations to our lucky raffle & auctions winners!

Jamie Cabot, Scott Fabyan, Anne Cadamenos, Christine Lutts, Dennis Barnett, Roger Roach, Michael Madden, Rob Martin.

Thank you to our volunteers!
Haskell Crocker (event co-chair)
Caroline Gregory (event co-chair)
Elisabeth Pundt, Susan Lawrence, Jack Lawrence, Adam Parrott, Evan Parker, Mat Perry, Betty Redstone, Alison Crocker, Pearce Crocker, Russell Baril, Susan Decker, Ann Getchell, Maddie Gregory, Tig Gregory, Bill Montville, Joe Sandulli, Shana Cortez, Dustin Rantala, Abby Powell, Dan Powell

Photo credits: Susan Decker



Conservation, con't.

ensure that the trails are being used properly and issues trail alerts when needed. ECTA also works with Appleton Farms to make sure that our equestrian members have "Green Horse" tags and that dog walkers have "Green Dogs" tags, which are required for these trail activities.

Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation
Mass DCR manages over 140 state parks and forests. ECTA has completed extensive trail work in both Bradley Palmer State Park and Willowdale State Forest, including boardwalks, beaver deceivers, drainage repairs, trail resurfacing and trail marking. Mass DCR also oversees the Recreational Trails Grant, which ECTA was awarded in 2010, 2011 and 2013. ECTA attends the annual DCR Massachusetts Trails Conference, which brings together statewide trail organizations and agencies to collaborate on a number of issues facing our trails today.

Ipswich River Watershed Association
IRWA is dedicated to preserving the health of the Ipswich River and its watershed. IRWA has protected nearly 20 acres of riverfront property at their own Riverbend campus and provides boat access to the Ipswich River. IRWA recently completed a survey of all culverts in the Ipswich River watershed, many of which are part of our trail system. ECTA has collaborated with IRWA to improve the trail network at Riverbend, and looks forward to working with them to repair damaged culverts along the trails.

Manchester-Essex Conservation Trust
MECT is dedicated to preserving ecologically important land and wildlife habitat in Manchester and Essex, Massachusetts. MECT owns and protects almost 1,000 acres of woodlands and wetlands in Essex and Manchester, with the largest property being the Wilderness Conservation Area. ECTA has contributed to MECT's trail mapping efforts in Essex and Manchester.

Essex National Heritage
ENH works collaboratively with

community leaders and organizations throughout the area to preserve and enhance the historic, cultural and natural resources of Essex County. ENH sponsors the annual Trails & Sails event each September, a two weekend series of free guided walks, sails, historical tours and other adventures for all ages. ECTA has hosted trail walks and rides each year for this event. Be sure to join us on September 21st for our popular Trails & Sails Rail Trail Bike Ride!

Myopia Schooling Field Trust
The Schooling Field Trust was established to oversee the protection and management of the Myopia Schooling Field. Located on Bay Road behind Patton Park, this roughly 75-acre property is open to the public for passive recreation, free of

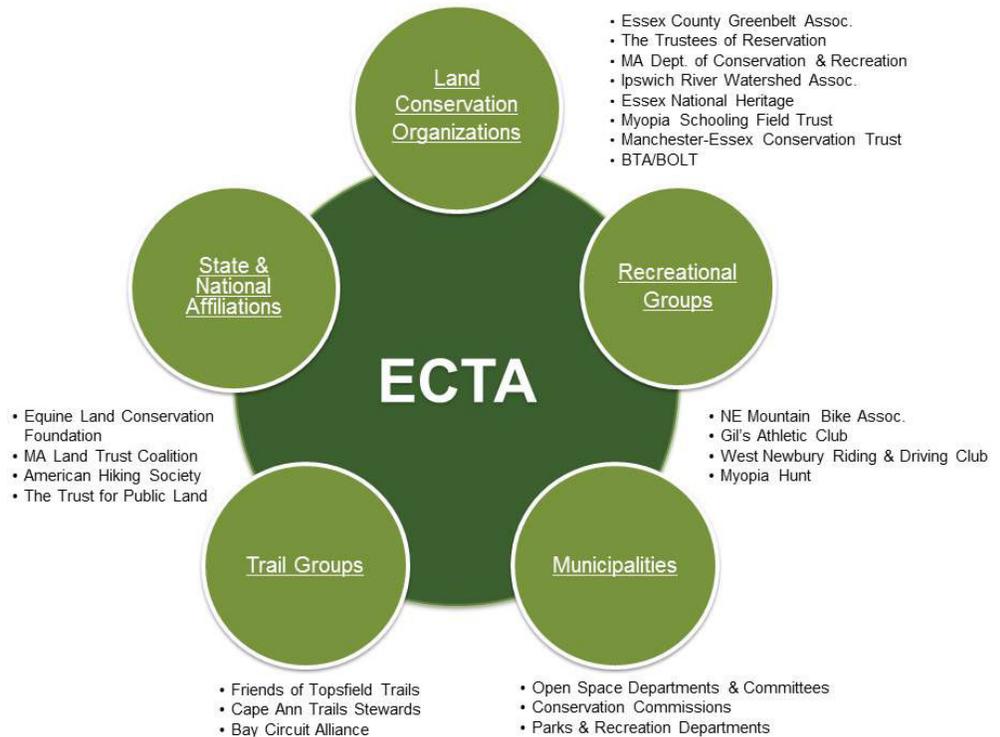
Trail Groups

Friends of Topsfield Trails

The Friends of Topsfield Trails was created in 2007 to recruit volunteers and contributions in support of the trails in Topsfield, with their primary focus being the Topsfield Linear Common (Topsfield Rail Trail). ECTA has worked closely with the Friends in support of this extensive project. In 2010, ECTA volunteers installed railings and decking on the railroad bridge over the Ipswich River. Recently we have been working with the Friends to repair several eroded areas along the trail.

Cape Ann Trail Stewards

An all-volunteer coalition founded in 2012, CATS focuses on helping municipal landowners and



charge. Donations to ECTA's "Schooling Field Fund" assist with the maintenance of the fields and trails on the property. Equestrians who enjoy the use of the field, arena and jumps for training are encouraged to contribute \$100 annually to support this fund and in return receive a special decal for their car or trailer. Donations from all other trail users who enjoy this property are greatly appreciated.

conservation organizations protect, maintain and expand Cape Ann's trail network. ECTA worked closely with the founders of this organization to develop their mission and goals and we continue to collaborate on volunteer events.

Boxford Trails Association/

Boxford Open Land Trust

Originally founded in 1978 as Boxford Trails Association, the organization later expanded to include a land

trust dedicated to preserving and protecting natural and aesthetically important land and wildlife habitat in Boxford. We are currently assisting BTA/BOLT with boardwalk permitting and design in Cleveland Farm State Forest and look forward to helping them develop a Boxford Townwide Management Plan.

Bay Circuit Alliance

Founded in 1990, the BCA has helped to realize the original 1929 vision of an “outer emerald necklace” connecting Plum Island to Kingston Bay. More than 230 miles of trail have now been dedicated, of which 66 are located within Essex County. In 2013 ECTA rerouted and remarked portions of the BCT that connect with the Discover Hamilton Trail. We recently received a grant from REI for work on the Bay Circuit Trail at Prospect Hill and in Willowdale State Forest. We look forward to working closely with the BCA and their new partner, the Appalachian Mountain Club, on this project.

Recreational Groups

New England Mountain Bike Assoc

The mission of NEMBA's 25 New England chapters is to promote responsible mountain biking and to protect and preserve New England trails and open spaces. NEMBA leads recreational rides and runs trail care events across New England. We have worked closely with NEMBA on projects in Willowdale and collaborated on a novice-level mountain bike ride last summer. We look forward to partnering on another ride and a volunteer work day at Prospect Hill this fall.

Gil's Athletic Club

An informal running club based in Topsfield, GAC holds several trail races throughout the year - most notably the Stone Cat Challenge, a marathon/50 mile race in Willowdale State Forest. GAC has contributed to several of ECTA's trail projects in Willowdale.

West Newbury Riding & Driving Club

WNRDC is a group of horse enthusiasts who run various equestrian activities and seek to preserve and improve riding



opportunities in West Newbury. They maintain the cross country jump course and arenas at Pipestave Hill Recreation Area, and also perform trail maintenance on many of the neighboring trails. WNRDC has helped to raise funds for several of ECTA's West Newbury trail projects, including the River Road Trail and the Ocean Meadow boardwalk.

Myopia Hunt

Based out of their kennels in Hamilton, the Myopia Hunt holds meets on trails throughout Essex County. All subscribers of the Myopia Hunt are required to renew their ECTA, Greenbelt and TTOR memberships annually. The Hunt also mows many of the trails starting in late summer in preparation for the fall hunt season, and holds volunteer work days to clean up jumps at properties like the Schooling Field and Bradley Palmer.

Municipalities

In our six member towns, ECTA works closely with Town Open Space Committees and Departments. We recently assisted the Town of West Newbury Open Space with the permitting and design of a significant boardwalk project at Riverbend. We have also developed strong relationships with town conservation commissions. Our Townwide Management Plans have allowed for a more streamlined and simplified permitting process. We have also partnered on events with several Parks & Recreations Departments.

State & National Affiliations

In addition to forging local partnerships, ECTA has also established broader connections through its involvement in and support of state and national conservation organizations. ECTA is a member of the MA Land Trust Coalition, the Equine Land Conservation Foundation, the Trust for Public Land and the American Hiking Society.

A “One Stop Shop”

With such a wide range of land conservation organizations, trail and recreational groups, and municipal departments, there are a lot of different interests and agendas that come together on our trails. With a broad and diverse membership, ECTA is the central link connecting these various groups. In addition, ECTA works extensively with individual landowners whose private trails are essential links between the broader public trail system.

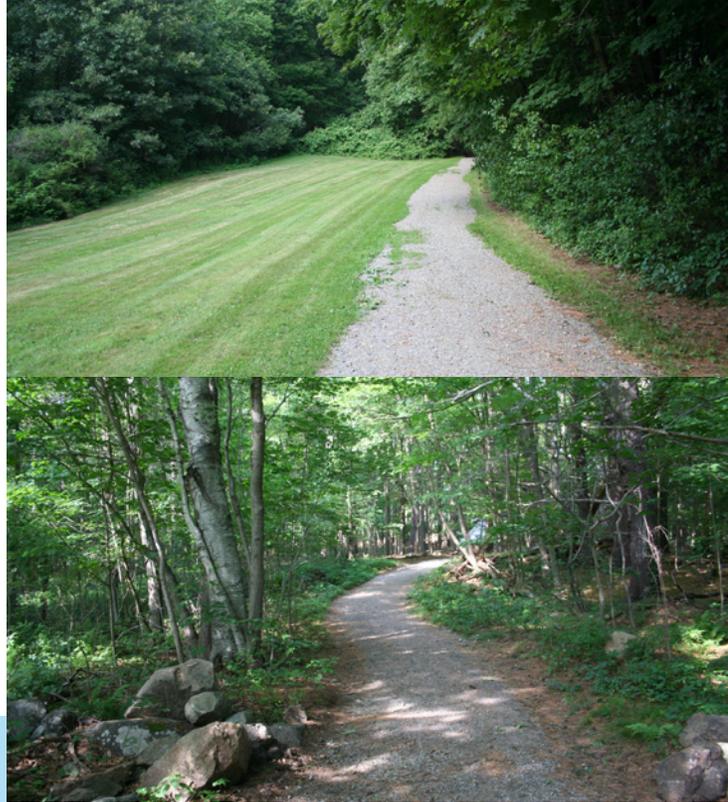
ECTA has the unique ability to handle projects and issues that occur over multiple properties and between different trail users. Our members recognize and appreciate the fact that they can call or email ECTA with any trail issue or question, and we will know who to call and how to develop a solution. We thank all of our members for their support so that we can continue this important work!

A New Look for Bradley Palmer's Highland Street Entrance

Although not as widely used as the main entrance at Asbury Street, the Highland Street parking area is an important gateway to Bradley Palmer State Park. The dirt parking lot was full of potholes and the trail head was an eroded mess of rocks and roots.

Staff at the park reached out for help and ECTA responded. We regraded and resurfaced the parking area, and repaired approximately 500 feet of trail leading to the Highland Street gates. This beautiful trail now provides a welcoming approach to the 721 acre public park.

Bradley Palmer is open year round to all non-motorized trail users, and in the winter snowmobiles are permitted on designated trails.



Trail improvements at Bradley Palmer State Park

Volunteer Spotlight

Originally from Lenox, MA, **Betty Redstone** moved to the North Shore 16 years ago. A self-professed “barn rat” as a child, Betty found her way back to riding in recent years and enjoys exploring the trails at Willowdale State Forest. Betty also walks the trails at many properties in our area and near her home in Swampscott.

Betty heard about ECTA when she was riding with Kat Kenney at Ascot Riding Center in Ipswich. Kat explained as they were on a “ride out” that ECTA helped to maintain the trails they were riding on. After that, Betty attended our annual meeting where she learned much more about the organization. “It was surprising to learn how much open space is available to the public. We are lucky to have someone like ECTA to keep these trails open.”

Now that she is retired, Betty has become more involved with ECTA, helping out at our volunteer trail work days and at many of our events, including the ECTAthlon, Summer Solstice Party and the ECTA Day at Myopia Polo. Betty hopes to help in the office this fall with some of our administrative work and we're happy to have her on board!

Joshua Regula was born in Olympia, WA and lived in the Seattle area where his grandmother introduced him to the joys of a simple walk in the woods. His family moved to Hudson, NH when he was 12. Josh and girlfriend Bryn Barror (also an ECTA super-

volunteer!) live in Ipswich with Baron, an Australian Stumpy Tail Cattle Dog, and their cat Harley, “who Bryn won't let me take hiking.”

Whether hiking or snowshoeing, Josh and Baron can be found most often on Bay Circuit Trail and connecting trail networks in Willowdale State Forest, Prospect Hill and the Bull Brook Conservation Area. “There is nothing better than laying down fresh snowshoe tracks. The quiet of the woods after a new snowfall is amazing.”

“A few years back I was laid off and moved from Somerville to Beverly where I found myself caring for dogs to pay the bills. I started section-hiking the BCT with the dogs and saw ECTA signs everywhere. I did some research to see what the organization was all about and was blown away by the amount of open space preservation they were responsible for and couldn't help but get involved. Now I'm happy to be a Trail Steward for my absolute favorite parts of Ipswich. Protecting wildlife habitat from development and ensuring public access to the most picturesque properties in the area is a shared priority. I can walk out my back door to literally hundreds of miles of trails and that wouldn't be possible without ECTA and the cooperation from all the landowners. We are very lucky to have such a passionate group of people preserving our undeveloped spaces.”





New trails off of Bridge Street

Bridge Street Trails Open!

We are very happy to announce that the Bridge Street trails are now open! These equestrian trails connect the Gathering Farm and Aquilla Farm neighborhoods to Yellow House Field and trails across bridge street.

When the existing trail connection was closed, ECTA responded by working with adjacent landowners to develop a new trail route. Openings were cut in the existing stone wall and a fence was installed to create a trail leading to the new Eaton and Clark trail easements. The Eaton easement connects to Bridge Street and creates a safe crossing point to access the trails on the south side of the street. The Clark easement links up with the “Magic Trail” and access to “Yellow House Field,” a large open field with cross country jumps.

The trail project was funded in part by the American Quarter Horse Association/Tractor Supply “STEP” Grant. ECTA worked with neighborhood residents and barns to raise the remaining project funds.

We would like to thank Lisa & Bill Eaton, Bobby & Carol Clark and the Bos family for generously allowing trail access across their properties so that we could restore this important equestrian trail network!

Accessible Trails Highlighted at Annual Meeting

ECTA welcomed guest speaker Chaz Southard at our Annual Meeting in April. Chaz discussed the benefits of outdoor spaces and the importance of making these spaces available to everyone.

Guests were encouraged to think of accessible trails not just as trails for those with disabilities, but as inclusive trails that are beneficial to a wide range of trails users. Accessible trails, defined mainly by a flat, hard surface and minimal slope, appeal also to daily walkers, families, the elderly, dog walkers, people with injuries and illnesses, the mobility impaired, and really anyone looking for an easy, safe trail.

Accessible trails have the additional benefit of being sustainable trails. In order to maintain a flat, even surface, accessible trails must be durable. Erosion and runoff have to be considered and carefully managed so the trail surfacing will hold up. Although initially costly to construct, a properly installed accessible trail should last many years with little maintenance.

Chaz highlighted Bradley Palmer State Park’s Heart Healthy trail as an example of an accessible trail in our area. Not only does the trail meet the functional needs for accessibility, but it also provides appealing experiences with a variety of forest environments and

views of the Ipswich River. Guests also commented that the Topsfield-Danvers Rail Trail is a great local accessible trail.

We look forward to working with Chaz to identify areas with potential for accessible trails. If you have any thoughts on potential trails, or if you are interested in learning more about trails and accessibility, please contact us!



Equine Expo 19 Years Strong!

Volunteer event chairs Kay Joseph & Sue McLaughlin celebrated another successful year of the annual Equine Expo & Paraphernalia Sale. Over 700 equestrians attended the event which has become the unofficial start to the riding season.

“Horse Crooner” Sharon Linnea Smith started off the morning with her signature melody for equine and equestrian ears. Demonstrations that followed included Trailer Loading & Horsemanship on the Trails with Ben Wallace, Dressage Basics with Pam Walker and Equine Dentistry with Lincoln Barton. New England Equine Rescue shared their success stories and Kim Porter introduced us to her special Chincoteague Ponies.

We’d like to thank the many volunteers and sponsors that make this event possible!

Volunteers:

Terry Burns, Karen Delfuoco, Sharon Elliott, Bonnie Gulick, Ashley Hill, Nancy MacGown, Judy Milano, Emily Paras, Linda Shuksteris, Tabatha White, Susan Lawrence, Ray Denis, Cindy Foote, Kim Hackett-Ort, Arlene Maginn, Pat Morris, Elaine Robson, Faith Evans, Tammy Gardner, Deb Hamilton, Molly & Harry Lister, Ed Cugno, Maureen O’Neil, Joe Sandulli, Brooke White, Deb Stanton, Marie Perreault

Sponsors:

Back in the Saddle, Don Curiale, Susanna Colloredo, Lois Cheston, EBSCO, Farm Family Insurance, Hagstrom Co Inc, Institution for Savings, Just Horses Directory, New England Horse Talk, RB Strong Excavating, Salem Five, The Tiny Barn Farm Emporium, Land Rover Peabody

Remember, donations of tack, barn equipment, blankets, silent auction items and housewares are accepted throughout the year in preparation for this annual event!

Perfect Day for ECTAthlon 2014

Thank you to everyone who helped make the 4th Annual ECTAthlon a huge success! We had a beautiful day, with 20 teams running, rolling, riding and paddling from Bradley Palmer State Park to downtown Ipswich. This special event celebrates National Trails Day and brings trail users from diverse backgrounds together to compete as a team.

The Wild Woodsmen returned victoriously to capture the overall team title. They also took home Highest Combined Age! The Lego Maniacs, sponsored by Benjamin Nutter Architects and Jewett Farms, followed with second place overall and were the highest ranking corporate sponsored team. Beniah Lane Farm/Team Tama came in third overall and, with their co-ed hot pink skirts, were also awarded Best Team Attire.

ECTAcetera grabbed the Best Team Name award and Team Pony Darwin was the highest ranking all-female team. The ladies of Red Line/North Shore Cross Fit had the lowest combined age, and Brian Chirco from the Lone Wolf & A Horse Team was granted our “Iron Man” award for

completing the running, biking and paddling events on his own.

To view the full results and individual awards, visit the Online News page of our website. More photos can be seen on our Shutterfly Page or our Facebook Page.

Thank you to all of our sponsors and the many volunteers who helped pull off this wonderful event - we could not do it without you! Thank you also to EBSCO for hosting the finish celebration.

We hope that all ECTA members will help us spread the word about this great event. If anyone is interested in competing, we can always help to find teammates - we’ve matched up several teams the last few years!

Volunteers:

Zach Abuza, Susie Banta, Bryn Barror, Cindy Barclay, Russell Baril, Paul Beech, Sophiea Bitel, Catherine Carney-Feldman, Susanna Colloredo, Ray Cook, Ray Denis, Andrea Ebinger, David Feldman, Ann Getchell, Linda Goldstein, Cathy Gove, Katie Graham, Caroline Gregory, Tig Gregory, Deb Hamilton, Eve Hamlin, Sam Hamlin, Robert

Henrici, Ashley Hill, Susan Lawrence, Jack Lawrence, Carol Lloyd, Tom Mailhot, Rob Martin, Jean Murray, Kim Pedersen, Chris Pulick, Elisabeth Rando, Betty Redstone, Joshua Regula, Paul Rizk, Phil Sachs, Bob Scherer-Hook, Rick Silverman, Ruth Stelletella, Ann Theriault, Claudia Woods-Estin

Sponsors:

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SRH Veterinary
BillieBo Farm
Clearview Farm
Beniah Lane Farm

*ECTAthlon Photo Credits:
Sophiea Bitel & Ashley Hill*

Help ECTA Make Trails and Build Bridges

It is with a great sense of pride and accomplishment that we report in the pages of this newsletter some of the many projects ECTA has undertaken and completed in the past year. All this work has been funded in large part by YOU - the ECTA members who have responded so generously to our appeals.

The 2013 Matching Gift Campaign was so successful that the same benefactors who stepped up to double your donations, and put us

over the top of our goal, have again this year pledged matching funds up to \$25,000. Keeping 450 miles of trails in six communities open and accessible is an ongoing challenge, for which we need all the support we can get.

Please give or pledge what you can by November 1st, and ECTA will get twice the bang for your buck!

With many thanks,
Ray Denis, Director of Development
978 239 2024 or Ray@ECTAonline.org

Thank You to Our Lead & Sustaining Sponsors!



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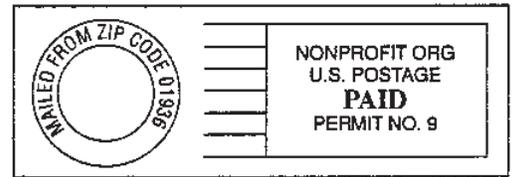


RUN-ROLL-RIDE-PADDLE





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



The Essex County Trail Association is dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of open trails in our communities for the purpose of passive recreation and for the benefit of the environment. ECTA works to build coalitions with national and local associations, to serve as liaison between membership and landowners, and to encourage responsible trail use.