



# ESSEX COUNTY TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Preserve, Maintain, Respect

Vol. 32 No. 1 Winter 2014

## A View from the Chair

As I reflect on 2013 and prepare for the coming year, I can't help to be thankful for all that we have accomplished. We capped off the year with the successful and fun Winter Tracks party at Brackenside. It was wonderful to see so many of you at the event, and the positive energy was evident and reinvigorating. But more importantly, it celebrated a year that the organization as a whole can be proud of.

We held activities throughout the year for every type of trail user - skiers, bikers, runners, riders, hikers and dog walkers, to name a few - and I am sure our trails have never been used more than they were this past year. We had many successful trail repair projects underway at all times and we raised funds to do even more next year. We continued to receive permanent trail easements and have several more underway. Our board of directors has never been more active and we have recently strengthened it with the addition of Caroline Gregory and Chris Pulick. Our management team of Ashley, Ray and Carol continue to do a lion's share of work and do it well. We would be lost without their extraordinary efforts.

Our job is to reflect on the past and learn from it so that we may plan for the future effectively. One thing that becomes clear is that no matter how much we accomplish, there is still more to do. There are more trails that need protection, maintenance, improvements and repairs. Much more education is also always needed. In order to meet those needs, we have to grow the depth of the organization. Currently we have about 600 steadfast members, for whose support we are extremely grateful. But with a combined

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*Trail run competitors starting from the Myopia Schooling Field*

## Ideal Conditions for 9th Annual Run for the Trails

The cool September weather was perfect for enjoying ECTA's 9th Annual Run for the Trails. The 5-mile and 10-mile trail run loops started at the Myopia Schooling Field and followed trails through the Harvard Forest, Appleton Farms Grass Rides, the Pingree Reservation and several private properties. The infamous Scilly's Hill was added back in to the race route this year, with the steepest portion on the downhill side.

A record 130 competitors joined us for the event, with 34 runners entered in the 5-mile and 96 in the 10-mile. The 10-mile race is part of New England Running Company's North Shore Trail Series, which features eight local races spread over seven months.

Our overall top finishers for the 5-Mile race were Doug DeAngelis for the men's division and Annika Rogers in the women's division.

James Pawlicki was the top competitor for the men's 10-mile division, and Jennifer Howland

won the women's 10-miler. Congratulations to Jennifer who also took home top honors for the trail series!

Thank you to all of our volunteers who made this event possible, to our event sponsors and to our landowners including the Myopia Schooling Field Trust, Essex County Greenbelt Association, The Trustees of Reservations, the Rich family and the Pallotta family.

Be sure to mark your calendars for next year's event which will be September 20, 2014. See you there!

Volunteers: Jack Lawrence, Amy Blondin, Martin Sullivan, Rich LeBoeuf, David Chechik, Susie Banta, Ann Getchell, Susanna Colloredo-Mansfeld, Ashley Hill, Ray Denis, Carol Lloyd

Sponsors: FirstIpswich Bank, Brinck Lowery, New England Running Company/Salomon, Manchester Athletic Club, Ipswich Ale, Coastal Green Grocer

## ECTA Board of Directors

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## ECTA Staff

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

## Trail Stewards

### Essex

Kay Joseph (978.768.6275)  
Julie DePaolis (978.768.3831)

### Hamilton

Sue McLaughlin (978.468.7715)  
Diane Curr (781.316.4452)  
Susanna Colloredo (978.468.3310)  
Susan Lawrence (978.468.1355)  
Bea Britton (978.468.2733)  
Liz Wheaton (978.468.7944)  
Judy Milano (978.887.8044)

### Ipswich

Joe Sandulli (978.356.7163)  
Ralph Williams (978.948.7702)  
Nat Pulsifer (978.356.3655)  
Joshua Regula (978.210.5212)  
Ashley Hill (978.500.4014)  
Alex Van Alen (978.289.7667)

### Wenham

Deborah Stanton (978.626.8424)  
Sue McLaughlin (978.468.7715)

### Topsfield

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

### West Newbury

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

## View, cont.

population of about 40,000 people in our six member towns and 755,000 people living in the whole of Essex County, you would think we could do better. Our challenge is to increase our membership to a level that will support our needs. Currently it works out that each member is currently supporting about ¾ mile of trail. Needless to say, that is not a sustainable model.

Despite our efforts over the past several years to increase our visibility with additional events, an enhanced website and improved trail signage, we have only been able to move our membership numbers incrementally when we need to move them exponentially. It could be a relatively simple problem to solve - if each one of us identified one new member, we could double our membership!

As with most things, however, that it is much easier to say than it is to

do! Word of mouth is always the best publicity, and you can each help our efforts by spreading the word to your friends and neighbors. The next time you are at the barn, out with your running group or riding with fellow mountain bikers, ask around to see who is a member and take a moment to share with them who we are and what Essex County Trail Association does for the trails they all enjoy.

Your ideas and suggestions are always encouraged, and if you would like to take a more active role in our membership drive, we are looking for several volunteers to lead or support our efforts. If you are interested please contact the office.

I look forward to seeing you all at our Annual Meeting on April 1st and hope that you will invite your friends to join us as well!

Peter

## Upcoming Events

Mar 22	Mill Pond Trail Walk
Apr 1	Annual Meeting
Apr 12	Rail Trail Bike Ride
Apr 26	19th Annual Equine Expo
Apr 27	West Newbury Magnolia Walk
May 24	Willowdale Mountain Bike Ride
Jun 7	4th Annual ECTAthlon
Sept 20	10th Annual Run for the Trails

Visit the ECTA website at [www.ectaonline.org](http://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](mailto: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

PO Box 358  
Hamilton, MA 01936  
978-468-1133

[office@ectaonline.org](mailto:office@ectaonline.org)    [www.ectaonline.org](http://www.ectaonline.org)



## Riverbend Volunteer Trail Work Day

Nearly 50 volunteers came out on a brisk November morning to clear trails at the newly expanded Riverbend campus of the Ipswich River Watershed Association. We uncovered the remains of the rockery, which was once part of the renowned landscape gardens at George Barnard's estate, expanded an existing trail near the IRWA driveway, and added a new trail to connect to the canoe launch and accessible parking area.

Earlier in the week, Mayer Tree was brought in to do the "heavy lifting" needed to clear several huge trees that had fallen in the severe storms a few years ago. This cleared the way for our volunteers to come in on Saturday with hand tools to finish uncovering and building the trails. The transformation was staggering! The bones of the original garden are now visible, and we can't wait to see what will emerge in the spring now that so much debris has been removed!

Volunteers were invited back to the IRWA headquarters for hot soup and fresh bread from Coastal Green Grocer.

ECTA Would like to thank REI (Recreational Equipment Inc.) for the Stewardship Grant which made this volunteer work day possible! We look forward to hosting another work day at the Greenbelt property across County Road in the spring to continue to expand this neighborhood trail network!





## Winter Tracks Holiday Party

On December 5th, over 200 guests made their way to the Winter Tracks Benefit Party to support the Essex County Trail Association. We were delighted to see a mix of new faces and long-time members, hikers, bikers, runners, riders, landowners and trail users. The event drew together our diverse membership for a fun and festive evening in support of our trails.

The "Brackenside" location of the party brought out many trail users who remembered visiting this great estate when it was home to the United States Equestrian Team and was an important hub in the middle of our extensive trail network. Once inside, guests were greeted in the foyer with a hot seasonal beverage from our friends at Turkey Shore Distilleries, and proceeded into the ballroom where they could visit our town displays.

Each of our six member towns (Ipswich, Hamilton, Wenham, Essex, Topsfield and West Newbury) presented a trail map, list of fun facts, highlighted trail and several door prize items representing their town. Trail Stewards were available to provide more information about the trails in their area and discuss recent projects ECTA has completed. Meanwhile, everyone sampled tasty treats from Henry's and enjoyed wonderful music provided by a string quartet from the New England Conservatory of Music.

In addition to the many door prizes, guests could also purchase tickets for a chance to win one of several great raffle items donated by ECTA supporters. Our winners are listed below! At the end of the evening, we were grateful to see that we had so many friends join us in celebration of the incredible effort it takes from the organization and all of our members to preserve and maintain our extensive and unique network of trails.

This event could not have been a success without the help of our committee, volunteers, sponsors and contributors. Thank you to all of you!

Event Committee: Haskell Crocker, Caroline Gregory, Rob Martin, Elisabeth Pundt, Susan Lawrence, Daniel Mayer, Peter Campot, Claudia Woods-Estin, Susie Banta, Ray Denis, Ashley Hill

Volunteers: Disa Cheston, Liz Wheaton, Maddie Gregory, Emilie Baillie, Bill Montville, Jillian & Jennifer Wall, Deb Hamilton, Ellen Alden, Joe Geller, Kat Tremblay, Amy Blondin, Carol Lloyd, Susanna Colloredo-Mansfeld, Ann Getchell, Julie DePaolis, Deb Stanton, Sue McLaughlin, Marlene Pippins, Zack Even

Door Prize Donors: Coastal Green Grocer, Carol Lloyd, Sara Gray Photography, Castle Neck Farm, Sue McLaughlin, Sports Stop, Sugarcoated, Biscuits n' Bows, Hamilton BioVet, Peter Guralnick, Jane Wild, Lindt Chocolates, EMS, Essex County Co-op, The Bicycle Shop of Topsfield, Kay Joseph, Karin Gertsch, The Topsfield Fair, Grassy Roots, Fox Floral, VIP Chocolates

### Raffle Prize Donors & Winners:

Complete Camping Package

Donated by REI and The Trustees of Reservations, won by Kathleen St. Pierre

Casa Parrot Hill Costa Rica Vacation Home

Donated by Ray Denis, won by Deb Hamilton

River Fishing Excursion

Donated by Capt. Kalil Boghden of Downriver Charters, won by Andrew Gregory

Moosehead Lake Vacation Home

Donated by Maurella and Greg Huntley, won by Dan Morrow

Case of Premium Wines

Donated by Joe Sandulli, won by Rob Martin

Bruins Tickets

Donated by Tig Gregory, won by Susan Lawrence

Patriots Tickets

Donated by Peter Campot, won by Allison Crocker

Equestrian Watercolor

Donated by Michele O'Neil Fine Art, won by Rob Wilkinson

Marsh Boat Tour

Donated by Nat Pulsifer, won by Susie Banta

Sponsors: Salem Five Charitable Foundation, Ipswich Ale Brewery, Mark Richey Woodworking, Turkey Shore Distilleries, Farm Family Insurance, Fox Floral Design, EBSCO, Institution for Savings

*Photo credits: Elisabeth Pundt*



## Restoring The Trails To Yellow House Field

There is a rich and extensive equestrian history in the Gathering Farm area of Bridge Street in Hamilton. From the early 1900's through the 1960's, the Clark Family owned the mansion, stables and antique buildings that comprised this estate property. As a successful racing facility, the original farm sat on over 100 acres of land and was home to a mile long race track and several breeding and training barns. In the 1970's the US Equestrian Team (USET) moved their eventing headquarters to the farm. Under the tutelage of the famous Jack LeGoff, riders from all over the country came to what is now Gathering Farm to train.

In the mid-1980s, the original 100 acres was subdivided into 20 parcels, including equestrian and non-equestrian properties. Unfortunately, during this subdivision process, the equestrian trails were not protected with trail easements. For many years, riders continued to enjoy the use of these trails under the informal "handshake agreement" between neighbors. One of the favorite places to visit has been

"Yellow House Field," a private property located just north of Gathering Farm that includes soccer fields and old steeplechase jumps.

At the end of 2012, a section of the trail between the Gathering Farm area and Yellow House Field was permanently closed. Although neighbors and riders assumed that this trail was protected by an easement, research into the original subdivision deed revealed that this was not the case. After unsuccessful attempts to negotiate the re-opening of the original trail, ECTA began work with neighbors on adjacent properties to develop a viable alternative route for this important trail link.

Extensive landowner negotiations have resulted in a permanent equestrian trail easement extending all the way from Bridge Street to the "Magic Trail," and an agreement from an adjacent landowner to allow equestrian access from the Brackenside driveway to this trail easement. So a solution was reached...but not without a significant price tag. The trail

easement will involve brush clearing, trail resurfacing, new signage and the relocation and extension of fencing. Creating access from the driveway will require cutting two passage ways in a massive mortared stone wall and the installation of new fencing.

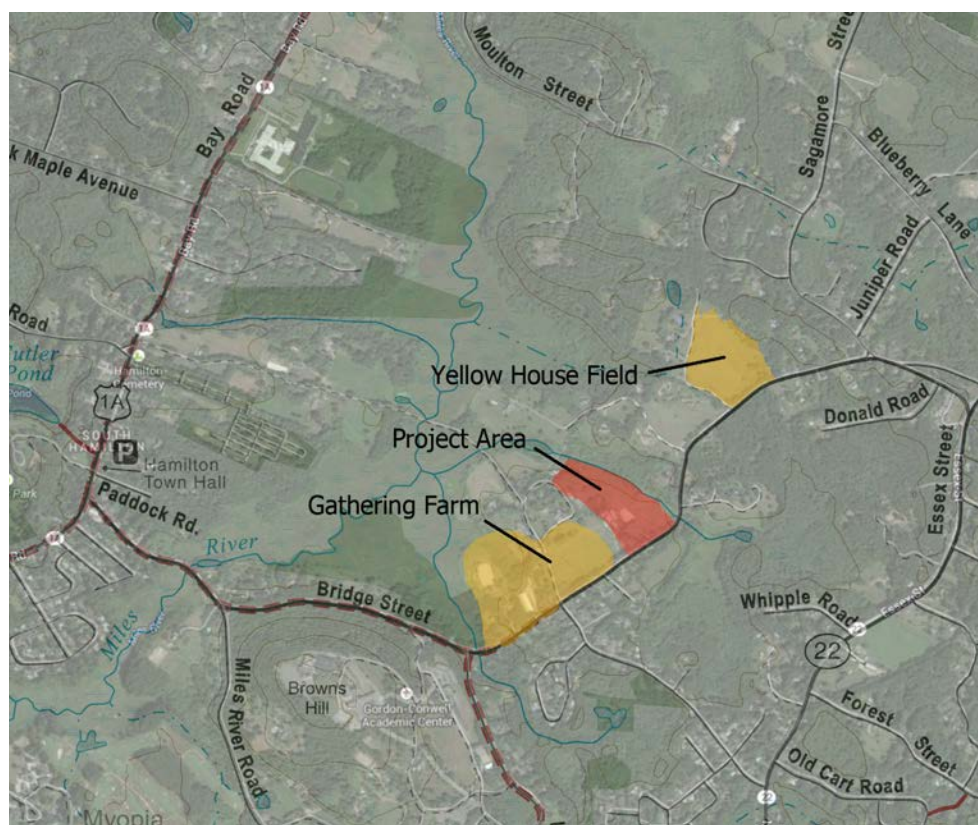
With our limited funding for trail work, ECTA must prioritize our expenditures. Trails that are accessible to the public are highest priority, followed by those that are protected by a permanent trail easement, and finally those that are located on private property or are only open to a limited group of trail users. Fortunately, ECTA applied for and received a \$5,000 STEP (Stewards for Trails, Education and Partnerships) grant from the American Quarter Horse Association and Tractor Supply Company for toward this equestrian trail project. We looked to the neighborhood to close the gap on the remaining deficit.

A neighborhood party, hosted by Liz and Bill Wheaton, brought trail users and landowners together to celebrate our successes on the project thus far, and yielded pledges and donations which brought us very close to the total needed for this extensive trail work.

We broke ground on this project in early December and hope to continue work, weather permitting, through the winter and early spring so that the trail can be opened in time for spring trail use. We would like to thank all of the contributors and our generous landowners who have committed to restoring this crucial link in the trail network. Without the collaboration of ECTA, donors and landowners, trail projects like this would not be possible!

If you would like to contribute specifically towards the completion of the Yellow House Field project please contact Ray Denis, Director of Development, at 978-468-1133 or [Ray@ectaonline.org](mailto:Ray@ectaonline.org).

*Project Area Map*





## Share The Trails!

With the popularity of outdoor activities rising on our limited open space, trail etiquette is becoming increasingly important. Although there are still many bridle trails in our area that are limited to equestrian use, most trails are multi-use and are open to hikers, runners, dog-walkers, cyclists, cross-country skiers and equestrians. While our modes of trail use differ, we all share a love of the trails and open spaces that we are privileged to enjoy.

ECTA encourages the development of multi-use trails, but in order for these trails to be successful, all users need to be aware of proper trail etiquette. Regardless of whether you are cycling, walking, jogging, skiing or riding, if everyone follows the same set of rules we'll all have a safer and more enjoyable experience.

1. **Be Courteous:** All trail users should be respectful of others, regardless of their mode, speed or level of skill. This is particularly important when crossing private property. The person you are passing could be a landowner or one of their friends!

2. **Slow Down:** If you are approaching another trail user, or can't see around a bend in the trail, you need to slow down. You are not the only person on the trail. Traveling at high speeds on bikes or horseback should only be done where it is safe and others can easily see you coming.

4. **Announce Your Presence:** If you are coming up from behind, ALWAYS announce to the person in front of you if you plan to pass them. Wait for them to respond before passing. Start with a friendly voice level, but you may need to raise your voice if they are wearing headphones or you don't get a response. If you are approaching horses from any direction, it is always a good idea to say hello, and to keep a conversation going until horse and rider have passed. A talking helmet or backpack is much less intimidating than a silent one!

5. **Yield to Oncoming Traffic:** Bicyclists must yield to pedestrians and equestrians. Pedestrians also yield to equestrians. All trail users need to slow to a safe speed - approaching at a walk is recommended, but as long as both of you acknowledge each other you should be able to cross paths at a moderate pace. If there is room to safely share the trail you can pass left should to left shoulder. If it is a narrow trail, the yielding trail user should move off of the trail on the downhill side.



6. **Pass Safely:** The trail user being overtaken should acknowledge the passer by moving to the right side of the trail (if there is room to safely pass), or by stopping and moving off of the trail. Horses can easily be spooked by another trail user coming up behind them, and will sometimes kick out of self-defense. Equestrians being passed should stop and turn their horse's head and body perpendicular to the trail when possible. If there is not room to safely move off of the trail, the passer will need to wait until the person ahead can get to a more open area on the trail. Always pass at a safe speed.

7. **Yield on the Downhill:** In steep areas, traffic heading uphill has the right of way. It is more difficult for uphill trail users to stop and then regain their momentum. That being said, common sense should always prevail. For example, if one uphill hiker encounters ten downhill bikers, it would make more sense for the hiker to step off the trail to let the larger group pass.

8. **Don't Block the Trail:** Be aware

of other trail users approaching and always make sure there is room for them to pass. When possible, try to stop in an area where you do not have to move off of the trail and damage sensitive vegetation.

9. **Be Predictable:** Travel at a consistent pace and make sure you are visible to other trail users. If you are constantly changing speeds it will make it difficult for others to pass.

10. **Obey All Trail Signage:** It is extremely important to stay on existing, open trails only. There is usually a very good reason why a trail is closed or limited to certain trail users, and most of the time it is for your safety! DO NOT create new trails without authorization from the land owner and proper permits from the Conservation Commission.

11. **Pick Up trash:** If you bring it in, take it out. If you see trash along the trail, help keep the trails clean by picking it up. For dog owners, PLEASE be sure to pick up your poop - this is especially important in reservoir areas that may close to dogs if owners are not picking up after their pet. For riders, be aware of the rules on picking up horse manure - generally this is limited to the parking area, but the Rail Trail also requests that manure be removed from the trail.

12. **Keep the Volume Down:** If you wear headphones, make sure that they are set low enough that you can hear other trail users. If you are with others, try to keep your voices to a reasonable level so you don't disturb other trail users out enjoying the quiet or observing wildlife.

13. **Be Aware of Conditions:** Look down - if you are leaving tire ruts, hoof prints or deep footprints on the ground, then the footing is too soft and you are damaging the trail. Move to trails on drier ground, or avoid the trails altogether until conditions improve.

14. **Know the Leash Law:** Be sure to check whether or not certain properties allow dogs, and also what their rules are for off-leash pets.

You should be able to see and be in control of your dog at all times and be able to call them back so they do not approach other trail users. A loose dog can easily startle a horse and can be kicked if they get too close. Equestrians should leave dogs at home when hitting the trails on horseback.

With the number of equestrians in our area, encounters with horses are common. Because they can react unpredictably when startled, horses do have the right of way on the trails. If you see a horse acting up as you approach, stop and stand still until the rider indicates it is safe for you to proceed. Riders should be respectful and courteous of all other trail users, and thank them for their consideration in these situations.

Organized trail events occur throughout the year on both public and private trails. If you encounter a race or event in progress, please be respectful of competitors and grant them the right of way on the trails. Try to determine the race route and avoid those areas. ECTA issues Trail Alerts to notify our members of event locations.

Trail users should also be aware that fox hunting occurs several times during the week from April - June and August - November throughout our area. Riders have to keep up with the hounds when they are working a line of scent (in our area there is no live hunting, only a drag scent), which means that riders may be galloping in a group of anywhere from 10 to 100 horses. If you hear the hounds or horn, be on alert. If you see the hounds coming in your direction, move off to the side of the trail and find a safe place where the following group of horses can easily pass by you. Please visit the Myopia Hunt website at [www.myopiahunt.org](http://www.myopiahunt.org) for more information and their schedule.

By knowing these rules of trail etiquette, we should all be able to safely share the trails. To find out more information on trail regulations and restrictions for specific properties, please visit our website at [www.ectaonline.org](http://www.ectaonline.org).

## Welcome New Board Members

We are excited to introduce our two newest members of the Board of Directors, elected in early 2014.

Caroline Bishop Gregory grew up in Marblehead and joined ECTA in 2006 after she bought her horse and decided to become an event rider. Over the years, she has appreciated the easy access to the open land for both training and pleasure riding. The last three years, Caroline has enjoyed volunteering at the ECTAthon and was eager to participate at a deeper level. When asked to join the board in November, she eagerly said yes. Caroline's goal as a board member is "to apply my many years of marketing experience to help ECTA build greater loyalty and expand its membership."

Caroline has an extensive background in marketing and advertising and is currently the VP of Marketing for a database marketing company servicing technology clients. She lives in Ipswich with her husband, step daughter, 2 cats, 1 dog and 3 horses. She is hoping to add chickens this year (despite her husband's resistance) so she can have fresh eggs for her second passion - cooking!

Chris Pulick was born in Woburn but grew up in New York State, returning to the Boston area after college. Chris currently works as a CPA in Danvers and will be taking over as Treasurer for ECTA. A competitive ultra-marathoner, Chris spends most of his time on the trails running, but also enjoys mountain biking and kayaking.

As a member of the board of ECTA, Chris will work to ensure the preservation of our the trail systems for future generations to enjoy and would like to explore activities and events and which bring together the different groups who use the trails: runners, bikers, equestrian, etc. "Though we all enjoy use of the trail systems, each group has differing needs and concerns. It is important for all groups to appreciate these differences. Creating opportunities for members to participate in events with a diverse group of users would be beneficial."

Chris lives in Rowley with his wife Susan, who is also an avid trail runner, and their 3 huskies, Aspen, Mika and Luna.



*Caroline Gregory*



*Chris Pulick*

## We need your stuff!

The Equine Expo is looking for donated items for the sale table and silent auction. Horse clothing, tack and equipment, barn supplies, riding apparel, equestrian-themed houseware items, gift certificates, artwork, collectibles - any condition! You can drop it off or we will pick it up. Contact Kay Joseph at 978-768-6275/[kjloreo@aol.com](mailto:kjloreo@aol.com) or Sue McLaughlin at 978-468-7715/[sjmclaughlin@verizon.net](mailto:sjmclaughlin@verizon.net).

Have a business? We still have many retail spaces available at the Expo. Non-equestrian vendors welcome - great opportunity for wellness businesses, boutiques, equipment suppliers, etc. Contact Kay or Sue, or download a vendor contract at [www.ectaonline.org](http://www.ectaonline.org).



## Pingree Reservation Trail Repairs

Greenbelt's Pingree Reservation, located off of Highland Street in Hamilton, consists mainly of glacial formations called "eskers" that create the rolling terrain of ridges and valleys throughout the 135 acre property. The trails at the Reservation cross streams and swampy areas between the winding ridgelines, and these areas are often wet and muddy. Several trails had gone beyond the point of being a nuisance and had really become quite unsafe, filled with deep holes and ruts.

ECTA worked diligently last summer to repair these trails, which include an approximately 100' section along the access trail from Black Brook Road, another 150' stretch crossing the Black Brook culvert, and a few shorter muddy sections nearby. The trail work was carefully scheduled for the driest point of

the summer when we would cause the least amount of damage to the surrounding trails as we accessed these work sites.

One of the reasons that these trails had never been repaired is that they are mechanically inaccessible from the public side of the Pingree Reservation. ECTA worked with the adjacent landowner to secure permission to store the materials on their property, and trail worker Arthur Page made numerous trips using a small ATV to cart the materials in to the remote site. This kind of specialty work is what ECTA does best!

The Pingree Reservation trails are open to equestrians, hikers, dog walkers and birders. We hope that you can visit this property soon and see our work up close!



*Pingree Reservation Trail Work*

## Ipswich Volunteer Work Day

In the summer of 2013, ECTA was alerted by one of our trail stewards that a camp site had been set up near the trails on Prospect Hill. ECTA then contacted the Town of Ipswich, who is the property owner in this area. ECTA staff and Town of Ipswich Open Space staff set out to locate the site and determined that it was, in fact, on Town property.

Signs notifying the trespassers of the upcoming work were posted. On October 23rd, volunteers recruited by ECTA and the Town of Ipswich Open Space removed all of the trash and debris from the site, and attempted to restore the landscape

to its natural state without causing any further erosion to the site.

*The campsite, carved into the side of Prospect Hill. Volunteers Betty Redstone and Dave Carpenter.*



## 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

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

### Wenham

Wenham Sports Stop  
ECTA Office

### 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



## Summer & Fall Trail Events

Our monthly trail event series continued throughout the second half of 2013 with trails walks, bike rides and horseback rides through Ipswich and Topsfield.

In July, ECTA partnered with Scott Halstead and Bruce MacDonald of North Shore NEMBA (New England Mountain Bike Association) for a ride through Willowdale State Forest. The route, geared toward novice and intermediate level riders, took us up and down the rolling terrain and over the “roots and rocks” the single-track trails are known for. We learned that riding with the pros has major benefits...in addition to introducing us to trails many of us had never been on before, they were able to fix a broken chain along the trail and keep the group rolling along!

After last year’s success, Joe Sandulli and Ralph Williams led us on another fantastic horseback ride through Ipswich in August. We reversed last year’s route by starting on County Road and finishing near the Rowley town line off of 1A. Although a few of us were nabbed by the wasps again, everyone made it to the end safely and enjoyed the pot-luck lunch.

On a cool morning in September, Joe Geller led the Rail Trail Bike Ride, which was part of the Essex Heritage Trails & Sails event. We stopped at the Wenham Canal to enjoy the view and see how this trail network connects to the Rail Trail. A second side trip along the Danvers Swamp Walk gave us a chance to explore the wetlands.

In October we partnered with Ipswich River Watershed Association for a trail walk at their headquarters on County Road. IRWA Director Wayne Castonguay led a tour of the newly expanded campus and talked about the history of the property and gardens.

We look forward to more great monthly trail events in 2014, starting with the Hike to The Black Cow. If you are interested in leading one of our trail events, email [ashley@ectaonline.org](mailto:ashley@ectaonline.org) or call 978-468-1133.





## 2013 Contributors

Dear ECTA Members and Supporters,

Thank you! The generous support of our members and friends is what makes it possible for ECTA to fulfill its mission to preserve and maintain the trail networks in our member communities, and the response to ECTA's 2013 appeals was phenomenal.

We gratefully recognize here the many donors who contributed to the General Fund at the "Friend Level" or above, as well as those who gave to our special project funds and the Matching Gift Challenge.

With many thanks to all, ECTA looks forward to a busy and successful 2014. I hope you will all enjoy our trails throughout upcoming year!

Raymond J. Denis  
Director of Development

### Trustee (\$1,000 & over)

Mr. & Mrs. G. Christopher Abbott  
Mr. Neil R. Ayer, Jr.

Amy Bresky  
Ellen Cabot

Peter Campot

Mr. & Mrs. Charles S. Cheston

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Ciccolo

Mr. & Mrs. F. Colloredo-Mansfeld

Angela Corning

Mr. & Mrs. Haskell Crocker II

Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Crockett

Mr. & Mrs. David de Sieyes

Mr. & Mrs. William T. Eaton

The Eddy Family

G-A-C Runners Club, Inc.

Ann Getchell

Thomas & Caroline Gregory

Groton House Farm Classic HT

Thomas Landers

Mr. & Mrs. John Lawrence

Jennifer Lodge

Brinck Lowery

Rob & Suzanne Martin

Daniel & Jennifer Mayer

The Pingree School

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Richey

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sandulli

Ralph & Mabel Vogel

West Newbury Riding & Driving Club

### Steward (\$500 - \$999)

Mrs. Helen H. Ayer

Susie Banta

Mr. Donald Curiale & Mr. Arthur Finklestein

Mr. & Mrs. Brehon S. Griswold  
Deborah & Alexander Hamilton  
Phyllis & Mike Hardgrove  
Whitney & Elizabeth Hatch  
Joan & James Henderson  
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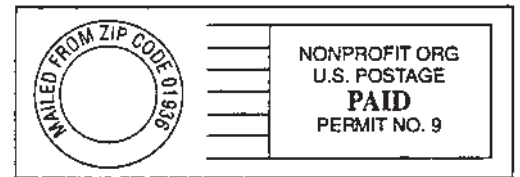
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As we embark on ECTA's 32nd year, we encourage all of our members to let us know how we may best serve you. Suggestions for projects and improvements on the trails you use are more than welcome for consideration. It is helpful to us to have as many "eyes on the ground" as possible, to monitor conditions, to report to us, and share ideas.

Please contact the ECTA office by phone at 978-468-1133, email [ectaonline.org](http://ectaonline.org) or call your area steward that is listed on page two of the newsletter.



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.*