



ESSEX COUNTY TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Preserve, Maintain, Respect

Vol. 33 No. 1 Winter 2015

A View from the Chair

As I began to write, my first "View from the Chair", we are experiencing yet another blizzard and I wonder when we'll see the ground again!! But spring will eventually come and, in the meantime, there is wonderful cross country skiing and snowshoeing in our beautiful countryside. How very fortunate we are to have the trails that allow us to get out into the country.

When spring does arrive, it will no doubt bring much trail work. We already have many projects on the schedule and others will certainly come along if our changing weather patterns continue to offer us opportunities. Microbursts, high winds and blizzards as well as the work of our friends the beavers will keep ECTA busy as the trails open in the spring.

As the new Chair of ECTA, I would like to express my thanks to my immediate predecessor, Peter Campot, for his great leadership and commitment to ECTA over the past five years. Thanks also to previous chairs, Susie Banta and Don Curiale and all of the wonderful volunteers who have devoted so much time to ECTA over the years. To say that we couldn't do this without you is an understatement... we rely on the special talents that each of you bring to ECTA.

We have much work to do and many adventures to share. I look forward to working with you and seeing you all on the trails! Enjoy the rest of winter!!

Best wishes,

Susan

Susan Lawrence
Chair, Board of Directors



Appleton Farms Trail Ride Highlights Farm History

One of the oldest continuously operating farms in the country, Appleton Farms was established and maintained by nine generations of the Appleton family. Eventually gifted to The Trustees of Reservations by Colonel Francis R. Appleton, Jr., and his wife Joan Appleton, the property is currently divided into two portions, referred to as Appleton Farms and Appleton Farms Grass Rides. The farm side of the property is open to equestrians and pedestrians and closed to dogs, while the Grass Rides are open to dog walkers but not horses.

With over five miles of grass lanes bordered by woods, the Grass Rides were originally created for carriage driving and horseback riding. As the tree canopy closed in over the years, the grass cover became thin and the footing was easily damaged by horses, leading to the decision to limit the area to hiking, running and dog walking.

When talking with local riders about the Grass Rides, ECTA Board Member Susanna Colloredo-Mansfeld was surprised that many

people were unaware of the history of the farm and did not recognize the nicknames given to points of interest within the property. She realized that we are slowly losing a part of this rich history as older members of the community stop using the trails or move out of the area.

Susanna and Trustees of Reservations Deputy Director of Greater Boston & Northeast Regions Peter Pinciario worked together to come up with a way that they could reconnect equestrians with the history of a place many ride through often. They came up with the idea of a guided horseback tour of the farm, with a special opportunity to ride through the Grass Rides trails and Great Pasture.

Thirty-five riders gathered in the stone paddock on the morning of October 18th and were welcomed by Barbara Sears, Fred Winthrop and Bill Shields. Next they followed a route past Frank Sr.'s pinnacle to the Prince of Wales Avenue, meeting Ollie Wolcott at Fannie's Pinnacle for additional history of the farm. After passing Joan Appleton's memorial wall on The Plains, riders gathered

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Upcoming Events

Mar 22	Mill Pond Trail Walk
Apr 18	Rail Trail Bike Ride
Apr 21	Annual Meeting
Apr 25	20th Annual Equine Expo
May 3	Spring for the Trails Half Marathon
May 16	Willowdale Mountain Bike Ride
Jun 6	5th Annual ECTAthlon
Jun 20	Summer Solstice Festival
Sep 19	11th Annual Run for the Trails
Aug 23	ECTA Day at Myopia Polo

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

PO Box 358
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office@ectaonline.org www.ectaonline.org

Run for the Trails Celebrates 10 Years

Saturday, September 20th marked the 10th anniversary of ECTA's Run for the Trails and with 122 competitors turning out, this was one of our most successful years to date! The 5 and 10 mile courses start at the Myopia Schooling Field in Hamilton and follow trails through Harvard Forest, Appleton Farms Grass Rides and Greenbelt's Pingree Woods. The 10-mile course is part of the increasingly popular North Shore Trail Series sponsored by New England Running and Salomon.

The overall winner for the men's 10-mile race was David Long with a time of 1:01:45 and the women's 10-mile leader was Emma Kosciak coming in at 1:10:46. 5-mile race winners were Annika Rogers (40:05) and Alan Jutras (45:39). In celebration of our milestone anniversary, we awarded "Most Years Raced" honors to Franz Buzawa (10 years) and Cynthia Brown (8 years). Franz was also recognized for his achievement of "Most Times Off Course the Second Time Around" and Monadnock Mountain Water was honored for "Most Years Sponsored." We also noted the course records held in each division, with Andy King holding the overall 5-mile record of 31:12 set in 2006 and Patrick Rich holding the overall 10-mile record at 58:30 set in 2010.

Many thanks to all of the volunteers who made this event possible: Ann Getchell and Susanna Colloredo (who have volunteered the most number of years and are competitor favorites!) Brian Walfield, Amy Blondin, Rick Silverman, Dave Lloyd, Ray Denis, Lois Cheston, Liz Wheaton, Kim Pedersen, Rich LeBoeuf, Kate Griswold, Kevin Schrecengost. A special thank you goes out to Race Director Carol Lloyd for 10 successful years of the Run for the Trails. Instead of kicking back and celebrating, Carol is working on adding a new spring trail run to the mix on May 3rd... keep posted for details!

Welcome to the Board

We are excited to announce that Scott Bumpus, owner of Seaside Cycle in Manchester-by-the-Sea, will be joining ECTA's Board of Directors. Scott grew up in New Hampshire, with Mount Monadnock as his back yard. After attending Merrimack College, Scott remained on the North Shore, first in Newburyport and then in North Beverly where he, his wife Debbie and their red tick coonhound Dixie live today.

As a board member, Scott feels like his greatest opportunity will be reaching out to the cycling community to help educate people about the important work that ECTA does to keep these trails accessible for everyone's enjoyment. "I see an opportunity for increasing membership amongst the cycling community. I also feel like there are opportunities to introduce current and new members to the different ways some of the properties can be enjoyed by bike, or however they would like to. There are many different types of bikes available these days, as well as easier terrain, that would allow people to access the woods without necessarily needing mountain bikes. We have recently started hosting 'Trail Summit' meetings at the shop to bring different user groups together and educate people on the state of the trails around here. Our first one was well attended and had representation from ECTA, Cape Ann Trails Association, Essex County Greenbelt, and New England Mountain Bike Association, as well as a number of trail users."



ECTA Jumps to Action After Microburst

On September 6th a microburst hit our area causing severe damage from Cutler Road in Hamilton to just north of downtown Ipswich. Many trees and branches came down along trails at Groton House, Appleton Farms, the Bird Reservation and other properties in the area. ECTA trail stewards hit the trails on Sunday and reported back to us with maps, photos and detailed descriptions of blocked trails. Property owners and volunteers stepped in to clear what they could, and ECTA hired contractors to handle the bigger jobs.

One of the hardest hit areas was the Ipswich River Watershed Association, where several massive trees fell across their recently expanded trail network. We were able to utilize resources from the DCR Recreational Trails Grant we received in 2013 to cover part of the cost of the tree removal.



Volunteers Create New Prospect Hill Trail

Prospect Hill, located on the Ipswich-Rowley town line near Rt. 1A, consists of a network of trails including the Bay Circuit Trail. The existing Bay Circuit Trail on the south side of the hill had become dangerously eroded. The upper part of the trail followed the fall line of the hill and had become a drainage gully, full of loose rocks and dirt. The lower part of the trail had been eroded from underneath in one area, leaving a hole about 4 feet deep that a foot or hoof could easily step in.

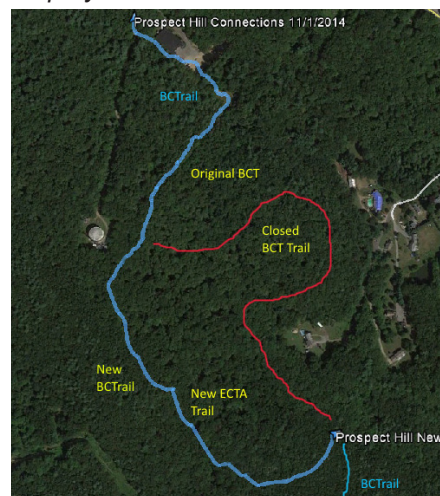
With no simple solutions for repairing the existing trail, ECTA worked with members of the Bay Circuit Alliance to relocate the trail to a ridge line with a more gradual slope just to the west of the original route.

Twenty-one volunteers, ranging in age from four to over seventy joined us for a Trail Work Day on October 25th to create the new trail, cutting back limbs and brush, moving logs and rocks, and posting trail markers. We are extremely grateful to REI for their generous grant funding for this project, and to Stihl for lending and donating

equipment for our volunteers. We would also like to thank the Bay Circuit Alliance, the Ipswich Bay Circuit Trail Committee and the Appalachian Mountain Club for supporting this project with volunteers.

Prospect Hill Volunteers: Jeanne Carey, Dan Cookson, Larry Eliot, Jack Lawrence, Susan Lawrence, Martha Mauser, Kim Pedersen, Holly Robinson, Rick Silverman, Bill Erdman, Ralph Williams, Dick Snellgrove, Alan Roscoe, Michael Higgins, Dylan Higgins, Joannathan Penyack, Maeve Penyack, Beth Gula, Chet Tidwell, Charles Brunault, Dave Christmas

Map by Charles Brunault



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Appleton, Cont.

in front of the Kentucky Gate for a brief talk by Nat Pulsifer and a “spirited” live demonstration of the gate! After entering the Grass Rides, riders followed the Charles Linneer Appleton Mile to Round Point, marked by the pinnacle dedicated in his honor. After passing the fourth pinnacle at Pigeon Hill honoring Frank Appleton, Jr. the ride finished in the Great Pasture, which is actively grazed by the farm’s dairy cows and is usually closed to horses.

This special ride is the first of many that ECTA plans to host with the goal of reconnecting trail users with the history of the places they enjoy.

Polo Day

Thank you to the volunteers, spectators and competitors who joined us on August 24th for our annual ECTA Day at Myopia Polo. Over 80 guests enjoyed a picnic lunch on the sidelines while the sport of kings played out on historic Gibney Field. Susanne Hamilton treated guests to a musical freestyle dressage performance on her beautiful Grand Prix horse Lord Locksley. Thank you again to our event sponsors and volunteers: Betty Redstone, Wendy Wood, Caroline Gregory, Susan Lawrence, Linda Goldstein, Mary Milgrom, Disa Cheston, Chris Pulick, Jean Murray, Judi Milano

ECTA Trail Maps

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

Ipswich Greetings & Gifts
Coastal Green Grocer
Ipswich Town Hall
Ipswich Visitor Center
Wenham Sports Stop
ECTA Office
New England Running Co.
Gil’s Grocery
Topsfield Bike Shop
GAR Library, West Newbury
West Newbury Food Mart
REI, North Reading
Seaside Cycle

Sandulli Easement Protects Ipswich River Trail



With the expansion of the Ipswich River Watershed Association campus and IRWA’s donation of trail easements on this new land in 2013, neighboring property owners Joe and Chris Sandulli recognized the increasing importance of protecting the trail across their County Road property. The Sandulli easement, recorded this winter, is the first in a series of easements ECTA is working to obtain that will link the Watershed property to The Trustees of Reservations’ Appleton Farms and Greenbelt’s Julia Bird Reservation.

Walks and Rides Connect Members to the Trails

Ever wanted to check out a new trail but were worried you might lose your way? Looking to spend time with fellow trail enthusiasts? Join us on one of our guided walks, bikes or rides!

ECTA Trail Steward and Board member Joe Sandulli led two horseback outings this fall through Appleton Farms and New England Biolabs to the Donovan Hill Trail and back. On both occasions, we not only introduced riders to public trails they could access regularly, but also received special permission to cross over private property.

In October, Carol Lloyd led walkers on a hike from the Myopia Schooling Field on the Discover Hamilton Trail. This 8-mile loop trail highlights Hamilton’s greatest public open spaces, including Appleton Farms Grass Rides, Bradley Palmer State Park, Harvard Forest and the Pingree Reservation.

In winter, we offer hikes and cross-country ski or snowshoe treks followed by lunch at restaurants like The Black Cow or Village Pancake House. These unique trail events are a special benefit for our ECTA members. Make sure your membership is current - join or renew today!



2014 Contributors

Dear ECTA Members and Supporters,
Please join me in acknowledging and thanking the many donors who contributed to the General Fund at the "Friend Level" or above, as well as those who have given to our special project funds and the Matching Gift Challenge. Without your financial support our 450-mile ECTA trail network would not be in existence. Thank you!

Raymond J. Denis
Director of Development

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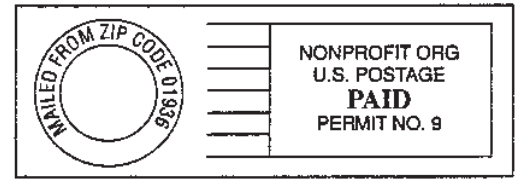
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Essex County Trail Association
P.O. Box 358
Hamilton, MA 01936



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