



# Essex County Trail Association

Appleton Farms

**Preserve, Maintain, Respect**

**Fall 2022**

## A View from the Chair

Greetings friends!

Once again, the main topic for us at ECTA this year has been the weather, which has a huge influence on our trail work. Where last year was non-stop rain and muddy conditions, this year we've had a very significant drought. Fortunately, last year we were collecting GIS data on the trail conditions in our six towns, so having a rainy year during this process was a real bonus. We now have data on every trail that has water issues, even those that are slightly or periodically wet. This year, all the trails are dry, even the ones that are chronically wet, enabling us to make repairs that are impossible when trails are flooded. Carol Lloyd's report on pages 4 and 5 describes examples of this; a popular trail at Bradley Palmer that we needed the right conditions to permanently fix, and a frequently muddy trail in Topsfield. This summer we were able to fix both!

Regardless of weather, we at ECTA are continuously looking at ways to do more and expand our outreach. Our mission of preserving and maintaining trails includes ensuring access for trail users to the

extraordinary natural beauty of Essex County. Ensuring access can be as basic as clearing a trail, or it may be sharing information about specific trails and trail conditions, providing trail maps, and informing potential trail users about the beauty in our area that's around every bend of a trail, to encourage their exploration. As part of this, we're also looking at ways to expand opportunities for participation in our trail events.

As always, we are deeply appreciative of you—our members, volunteers, sponsors, and donors—who support us. You make our work possible. Thank you!

With gratitude,

Martha Sanders  
Chair, Board of Directors



## Membership Matters

By Stacie Capotosto, Outreach Coordinator

Your membership matters! We are a lean nonprofit organization operated by just two part time staff, a roster of contractors, and many volunteers. A significant portion of our trail work is funded directly by our members and donors. Your membership is critical in helping us maintain and protect the trails in our six towns. Membership matters in other ways, too. ECTA members are the first to hear about our programs and events, and receive \$10 off all of our event fees. Members receive trail alerts and notices, and are eligible for discounts at several local businesses. Most of all, as an ECTA member you are directly contributing to the preservation of the incredible network of trails in our area. **Your membership matters every day, and we are grateful for it!**

## Board of Directors

Martha Sanders, *Chair*  
Deborah Hamilton, *Vice Chair*  
Chris Pulick, *Treasurer*  
Eric Krathwohl, *Secretary*  
Susanna Colloredo-Mansfeld  
Haskell Crocker  
Ann Getchell  
Nick Holland  
Frank Lane  
Susan Lawrence  
Rob Martin  
Dan Mayer  
Penelope Neal  
Rick Silverman

### ECTA Staff

Carol Lloyd,  
*Director of Trail  
Management and  
Maintenance*  
  
Stacie Capotosto,  
*Outreach Coordinator*

## Advisory Council

Heidi Adam  
Neil Ayer  
Peter Britton  
Wayne Castonguay  
Don Curiale  
Christopher Currier  
Chris Davis  
Linda Donovan  
Jennifer Eddy  
Heather Ford  
Lucia Greenough  
Caroline Gregory  
Katrina Hart  
Joan Henderson  
Kay Joseph  
Jerry Kenney  
  
Victoria Kunzer  
Carolyn Lackey  
Julie Lake  
Jim MacDougall  
Pam Mansfield  
Sue McLaughlin  
David Merrill  
Nancy Merrill  
Lauren Norton  
Holly Pulsifer  
Ted Raymond  
Camilla Rich  
David Santomena  
Liz Wheaton  
Steve Whittey  
Claudia Woods-Estin

## Trail Stewards

### Essex

Julie DePaolis  
Laura Eurich  
Kay Joseph

### Hamilton/Wenham

Dennis Barnett  
Bea Britton  
Bruce Campbell  
Susanna Colloredo-Mansfeld  
Diane Curr  
Scott DeFusco  
John Hart  
Susan Lawrence  
Michael Madden  
Sue McLaughlin  
Phil Murphy  
Camilla Rich  
Jane Rumrill  
David Smith  
Ryan Spruck  
Deborah Stanton  
Liz Wheaton

Diane Locotos  
Rick Ostberg  
Nat Pulsifer  
Joshua Regula  
Martin Sullivan  
Ann Teele  
Ann Thomas  
Meg Vitale  
Tom Weil  
Ralph Williams  
Tom Woodruff  
Christina Wowk

### Topsfield

Hillori Connors  
Joe Geller  
Saundra Guadagno  
Jeffrey Kellner  
Elaine Robson  
Martha Sanders  
Jim Slater

### West Newbury

Kate Day  
John Dodge  
Deborah Hamilton  
Coltin Omasta  
Laurel Omasta

### Ipswich

Debora Cole  
Linda Gosselin  
John Hart



Photo by Mark Liptak

## Thank You to Our 2022 Sponsors!

### SUSTAINING CORPORATE SPONSORS



### COMMUNITY SPONSORS

Cape Ann Savings Bank  
GAC Runners Club  
North Shore NEMBA  
West Newbury Riding and Driving Club

### SPRING FOR THE TRAILS

Black Brook Veterinary Services  
Brick Ends Farm  
Coastal Greengrocer  
Institution for Savings  
Ipswich Ale Brewery  
Mayer Tree  
New England Biolabs



Photo by Mark Liptak



## GIS PROJECTS AND PROTECTING TRAILS!



Our Trail Maintenance GIS Project was completed this spring. It was a great project that resulted in data that has already proven very useful! To summarize, ECTA volunteers walked the trails using a special app on their phone that allowed them to locate and collect data on the trail issues that need to be addressed. This data was then overlaid onto assessor's maps from each town. We can now identify and prioritize trail projects using town wide maps, expediting the process of choosing projects, getting permitting, and seeking grants and other funding sources.

ECTA has recently started another data project related to trail easements and their status. We've been contacted by different trail user groups worried about losing important trail easements to development, and have noticed that local planning boards don't always have good information at hand about where the easements are and who holds them. These boards have said that if we can provide them with a list of properties with easements, they will use this list for reference in their meetings. Working with CCGIS, we've created spreadsheets listing all of the properties, by town, that have trails on them. It is now our job to go through the list to see if any of the properties have trail easements. This is a long process, but is definitely doable and will give us a finite master list by town to work with, enhancing our ability to protect trails!



New England Running Company  
Pierce Atwood LLP  
Rich May Attorneys at Law  
R.P. Scanlon Landscaping

### TRIFECTA TRAIL CHALLENGE

Ipswich Ale Brewery  
Mayer Tree  
Salem Five

### EQUINE TACK & PARAPHERNALIA SALE

Back in the Saddle  
Black Brook Veterinary Services  
Don Curiale  
Essex County Co-Op  
Hagstrom Co.  
Ipswich Ale Brewery  
Lucerne Farms  
Mayer Tree  
New England Horse Talk  
Northeast Equestrian Life  
R. B. Strong  
Riverview Trailer Sales

Salem Five  
Steed Reed  
Susanna Colloredo-Mansfeld

### SUMMER SOLSTICE PARTY

Benjamin Nutter Architects  
Coastal Greengrocer  
Designer Bath and Salem Plumbing Supply  
Ipswich Ale Brewery  
Mayer Tree  
Northeast Equine Veterinary Dental Services

### RUN FOR THE TRAILS

Black Brook Veterinary Services  
Brick Ends Farm  
Coastal Greengrocer  
Institution for Savings  
Ipswich Ale Brewery  
Mayer Tree  
New England Biolabs  
New England Running Company  
Pierce Atwood LLP  
Rich May Attorneys at Law  
R.P. Scanlon Landscaping

### POKER BIKE RIDE

Bicycle Shop of Topsfield  
Ipswich Ale Brewery  
Mayer Tree  
North Shore NEMBA  
Pedalin' Fools Mobile Bicycle Services  
Riverside Cycle  
Woody's Cyclery

### THANKS FOR THE TRAILS

Athletic Brew  
Craft Sportswear  
Coastal Greengrocer  
EBSCO  
Institution for Savings  
Ipswich Ale Brewery  
Mayer Tree  
National Grid  
New England Biolabs  
New England Running  
Rich May, PC  
Riverside Cycle



# TRAIL MAINTENANCE | FALL 2022

By Carol Lloyd, *Director of Trail Management and Maintenance*

**WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES! LAST YEAR OUR TRAILS WERE WET AND IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT TO DO THE BIGGER TRAIL MAINTENANCE PROJECTS. THIS YEAR'S DRY CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN PERFECT FOR LARGE PROJECTS. LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT A COUPLE OF PROJECTS WE COMPLETED THIS SUMMER.**

There is a trail in Bradley Palmer State Park that has been troublesome for years—number 48. From the Asbury Street parking lot, it's off to the right and straight up the hill then runs along Asbury Street. The hill was rocky and washed out and had a big gully going down the middle of it. The trail along Asbury Street had the kind of mud that just sucks your shoes off. It has been wet year round. Years ago the head of the Park said "let's just close it."

Our position then and now is that trails should be repaired, not abandoned. We originally fixed it years ago with water bars, which eventually wore out. North Shore Nordic also tried to fix it with water bars, to the same end. Enter contractor RP Landscaping...

Rather than install more water bars, Ryan's plan was to regrade the entire hill and put a pack on that contained organics. This pack compresses really well and allows grass to grow thus adding to the stability to the trail. The section along Asbury Street was built up and drainage improved to







allow it to dry out. As you can see in the before and after photos, a great improvement! We will continue to monitor the trail in high rains to make sure it holds up. A big thank you to the Patrick Keough Memorial Fund and Peggy and Michael Schrage for the funding that enabled this important work. It is support like this that makes our work possible!



A second project was to repair a trail in Greenbelt's Donibristle Reservation in Topsfield. The main trail is always muddy as it's positioned at the bottom of a hill where the run off flows onto it. We had the pleasure of working with ECGA on this project. We all agreed that work needed to happen and that we could do more together. As a result, Greenbelt permitted the project and built a boardwalk in another muddy section. Utilizing contractor TW Excavating, ECTA oversaw and paid for the repair of the main trail muddy section. The trail was built up by using larger stone on the bottom to allow for better drainage and a small culvert was installed giving the water some place to go other than right over the trail. You can see the difference we made with the before and after pictures!



BEFORE: Main trail Donibristle Reservation



AFTER: Main trail Donibristle Reservation



# ECTA EVENTS

## WE ENJOYED A FULL CALENDAR OF IN PERSON EVENTS THIS YEAR!

We held our 27<sup>th</sup> annual **Equine Tack and Paraphernalia Sale** at the Topsfield Fairgrounds in April. In May we had our 5<sup>th</sup> annual **Ride in Memory of Patrick Keough** and a beautiful day for our 8<sup>th</sup> annual **Spring for the Trails Half Marathon**, finally back in person! We celebrated **National Trails Day** in June with a **guided Bird Walk** at the Donovan Reservation. We also kicked off our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual **TrifECTA Trail Challenge** in June.

A highlight this year was the return of the **Summer Solstice Party** after three years, it was a fun night of music, food, and friends! In September we held our 18<sup>th</sup> annual **Run for the Trails** and in October our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual **Poker Bike Ride** in Willowdale.

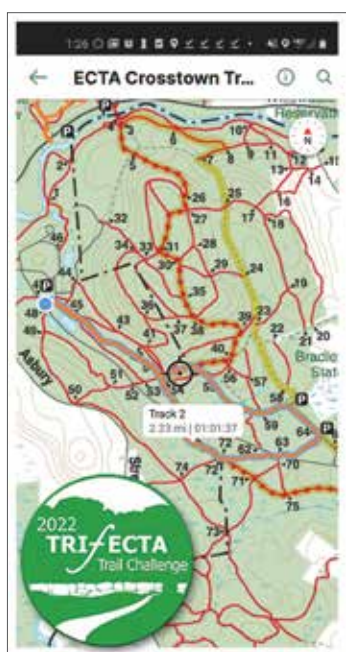


**Registration for our annual day after  
Thanksgiving 5k and Kids Fun Run, and  
Thank for the Trails, is now open.**

Go to [www.ectaonline.org](http://www.ectaonline.org) and click on  
Events for more info.











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



4 Photos by Mark Liptak



Visit our website:  
**ectaonline.org**  
for ECTA events and updates.



Follow us on  
**Facebook** and **Instagram**  
for the latest ECTA happenings!



Receive email updates  
by contacting us at:  
**office@ectaonline.org**



Please mail your tax-deductible gift to: ECTA, P.O. Box 358, Hamilton, MA 01936  
Contributions can be made by credit card at: ectaonline.org or by phone 978.468.1133

Donor/Member Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Member Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Preferred Donor Listing \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed please find my check payable to ECTA in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Please include my new or renewal membership in this contribution at the level checked below:  
☐ \$35 Individual ☐ \$50 Family ☐ \$100 Friend ☐ \$250 Patron ☐ \$500 Steward ☐ \$1,000 Trustee

I would like to include an additional contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for:  
☐ General Fund ☐ In Memory/In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_