



Essex County *News* Trail Association

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Fall 2008

President's Report

Don Curiale

Burning issues are on ECTA's agenda for the fall of 2008. I would like to share these issues and projects with you. Some have been completed, but most are in progress.

- Regular trail maintenance - Biolabs in Ipswich, Pingree Reservation in Hamilton, and several private trails
- Major work on the Peter Britton trail in Hamilton linking a Bradley Palmer trail to private land. The goal is to keep the rider off Highland Street as much as possible.
- Mapping of the Topsfield trails and West Newbury trails
- Clear markings and pictures of all needed trail repairs in Bradley Palmer. ECTA will now prioritize the repairs.
- Ipswich Conservation Commission and ECTA working together on a Land Management Program
- Professional consultant hired to help ECTA to reorganize and help us do things even better. ECTA Blue Sky Team is working with a hired consultant for advice, leadership, and direction.
- Co-development of a Comprehensive Trail Repair Plan (Appleton Farm and ECTA)
- Procurement of ECTA easements – one in Hamilton and one in West Newbury
- Culvert repair to trail behind Pingree School
- Inspection of the Hamilton beaver deceivers
- Collaboration with the Ipswich Water Department to widen the entrance of the Route 133 gate across from the Raymond property
- Formation of a new Nominating Committee
- 20th anniversary of the Waldingfield Driving Event was



ECTA collaborated with the Ipswich Water Department to widen the entrance of the Route 133 gate across from the Raymond property. It leads to Upland Lane and many nearby trails.

held at Waldingfield on July 13th for the benefit of ECTA. We thank Holly Pulsifer, Kay Joseph, Sue McLaughlin, Arlene Maginn, Sally Sousie, and Holly's volunteers for their support and generosity.

I hope you agree with me that the Essex County Trail Association is attacking its burning issues. Executive Director Carol Lloyd is hard at work doing a super job! I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Area Reps, the Board of Directors, and Officers for all of the above. Thank you one and all!

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

Visit www.ectaonline.org

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Chebacco Woods Trails

Over the last couple of years a lot of work has been done to the trails in Chebacco Woods in Hamilton. Two grants were used, one from the Hamilton Community Preservation Fund as well as a donation of labor and material from Gordon College, and a donation from ECTA. Many low, muddy spots on the trails have been filled with crushed stone, and branches have been cut back. One section of trail near the Essex Street side has been rerouted to bypass a very wet section and to keep the entire trail on Chebacco Woods property.

The town of Manchester-by-the-Sea has recently donated money from their Community Preservation Fund so more trail improvements are planned for this year on the trails between Round and Gravelly Ponds. The ponds are part of the water supply for Manchester-by-the-Sea, so the trail work will help control erosion in some of the areas. Swimming (both people and dogs) is NOT allowed in either pond. Non-motorized boating and fishing is allowed in Round Pond. A small boat launching area is next to Chebacco Road about a quarter mile past the main entrance. All bicyclists are asked to stay on the trails and not make new trails through the woods.

This property was part of a large estate owned by Frederick Prince. The trails were built in the 1890s for riding and carriage driving. A lot of the land and buildings were sold around 1950 and became Gordon College. In the 1990s, the college sold the part of their property that was in Hamilton. This part, along with other land, has become the Chebacco Woods. Gordon College maintains many beautiful trails on their property in Wenham that connect to the Chebacco Woods.

- Sue McLaughlin

Trail Tag Idea

The back of your ECTA trail tag is just large enough for sticking on one of your return address labels. Write a contact phone number on it and cover with a piece of clear tape. This is good for identification if you have an accident in the woods. If it is on your saddle and you become separated from your horse, a person catching the horse will be able to locate the owner quickly. Many of us forget to carry identification when we are on the trails so this may be an easy way to do it.

- Sue McLaughlin

Hold the Date!

October 4th - Taste of Ipswich, Turner Hill, Ipswich

October 18th - Poker Trail Ramble - Waldingfield Road, Ipswich

October 25th - 4th Annual 5-Mile and 10-Mile "Run for the Trails," Devon Glen Farm, 482 Bay Road, Hamilton, MA

October 26th - Evening of Song at Waldingfield

November 2nd - Annual Fall Foliage Ride, Waldingfield

A Conversation with Richard Emmott, Huntsman for the Myopia Hunt

Richard moved to Hamilton from Yorkshire, England in April of this year and talks with the ECTA about working with landowners, training hounds, and how the hunt is part of the local community here and abroad.

What brought you to the North Shore?

After 20 years of hunt service in England, I was looking for a new challenge. I had explored the possibilities of America and Australia, and was introduced to the Myopia Hunt by my friend Jim Meads, well-known hunting photographer and publisher of hunting photographic books. After coming on interview in November, I simply fell in love with the set up and the countryside.

As huntsman, how do you interact with the landowners who make the hunt possible (here and back in England)?

In England, we hunted across working farms with stock and crops. Because of our service to the landowners we got to know them intimately. All across England, the hunt is the fabric of country communities. Here, I am meeting landowners steadily as we move into formal hunt season for Myopia so we can work with them to keep the countryside open. It's such wonderful countryside and I've enjoyed meeting so many welcoming landowners and supporters of the hunt. But having met so many people in a short period, I sometimes forget a name!

What do you do for ECTA trails and open areas?

Mowing open fields and helping wherever we are needed to maintain trails is a big part of what we do every day. Mowing normally starts in July and we mow both public and private properties, including parts of Bradley Palmer, for all to enjoy. We build, repair and trim jumps through posion ivy, angry bees and deer flies (which nobody warned me

about!!!).

What is a "drag" hunt?

A drag hunt is where hounds hunt an artificial line and no live quarry is involved. The huntsman has a secret recipe for scent which the hounds find irresistible. Before a hunt, I lay a line for the day. We try to achieve as much voice as possible when the hounds hunt the line, to provide good sport for the field [riders] and followers.

What is your favorite thing to do on the ECTA trails (besides hunt of course)?

My passion after foxhounds is keeping and breeding border terriers, and I love to take them out on the trails and across the schooling field for a romp.

Tell us about the hounds.

Hounds' natural instinct is to hunt a live quarry. So, it's quite difficult to get them to hunt an artificial line. We've set up a breeding program to breed puppies each year and introduce them to the drag from the start so they understand to hunt that instead of live quarry. I brought a dog with me from England, Colonel, who is now drag hunting after seven years of hunting live quarry. He's taken to it very well and is a significant part of the future breeding program.

What do you miss most about England?

I'd have to say I miss my family most of all. I'm gobsmacked that the local community here have been so welcoming to me, so I've not really missed anything else



Myopia Huntsman Richard Emmott with border terriers Bonnie and Tag.

about England (except of course a proper English fry-up for breakfast).

Your parents are visiting in September—where will you take them?

Mum and Dad loved Crane Beach and visiting the Crane Estate so much they joined The Trustees of Reservations on the spot. They followed us when we hunted through Appleton Farm the first Saturday of their visit, so now they really feel a part of the community.

The Myopia Hunt hunts throughout Essex County spring through fall. All are welcome to join on foot or horseback; please visit www.myopiahunt.com to learn more.

- Katrina Redmond

Off the Beaten Path: Ipswich Trails



**Magical rides
for ECTA
members on
privately-
owned
trails that
lead to
Appleton
Farm and
Bradley
Palmer State
Park.**



Letters: Waldingfield Driving Event

Dear Holly,

Please know that we appreciate the work that goes into presenting the driving trial and feel lucky indeed to participate in such a well-run and scenic event. Your clout with the weather man never ceases to amaze me.

Debbie Hamilton

Dear Holly,

Thank you for a great driving trial. Waldingfield was such fun and I loved the new hazards and course thru Appleton's. Volunteers galore!! Thanks to everyone who helped make this the best "Waldingfield" yet! Appreciated you having the intermediate level very much!!

Sue Rogers

Hi Holly,

Thank you for taking the time to organize the Waldingfield HDT. We had a great time. I feel so lucky to have been able to drive on such beautiful property. Thanks to your husband, too – what a nice man!

Sincerely,
Jennie Lord

Nancy and George McGown enjoy a fun drive this summer at Appleton Farm with their pair Sib, a Friesian, and Mary, a Gelderlander.



2008 ECTA Poker Trail Ramble

October 18, 2008

ECTA is excited about offering our annual Poker Trail Ramble on properties usually only open to ECTA members on Saturday, October 18, 2008 (rain date Sunday, October 19, 2008). We offer this activity to equestrians showcasing the diversity of these beautiful pieces of property. Parking will be off Waldingfield Road in Ipswich, Mass.

Morning coffee and donuts and a full lunch is included with each entry. Admission for ECTA members is \$20 and for non-members, \$25. Everyone is to be out on the trails between 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

A Poker Trail Ramble is not a speed event. It is a relaxing day with your horse with the chance to win cash prizes for the best poker hand. Entrants receive a card when they start their ride, then pick up three more cards in sealed envelopes placed in jugs along the marked trails. The last card is picked up upon return to the parking area. The rider then turns over his or her hand to the poker judge and the best hands are listed for a chance at the cash prizes.

Please come and enjoy the day with ECTA. If you cannot ride that

day please consider volunteering. We have many jobs available at this popular event.

For more information, please contact Sue at 978-468-7715 or Kay at 978-768-6275 (email kljoreo@aol.com). Please use the signup sheet printed in the newsletter if you plan to ride. Hope to see you there!



Last year's Poker Ramble took riders through Bradley Palmer State Park along marked trails, to some privately owned properties, for an unforgettable day that included lunch and the chance to meet riders from other New England states. As part of the fun in a Poker Ramble, the best poker hands are entered for prizes. Buckets containing playing cards are located at three different places along the trail.

2008 ECTA Poker Trail Ramble

October 18, 2008

Ride begins at 9 a.m.

**Come enjoy a fun trail ride on properties
usually only open to ECTA members.**

Trailer parking will be off Waldingfield Road, Ipswich, Mass. (near intersection of 133 and 1A).

**Win cash prizes!
Morning coffee and donuts
Hot lunch after ride**

Cost: \$20 per person (ECTA members) \$25 per person (non-members)

Checks made payable to ECTA

All entries must be received by October 12, 2008

Mail to: K.L. Joseph, 146 Western Avenue, Essex, MA 01929

Tel: 978-768-6275 (Kay) or 978-468-7715 (Sue) Email: kljoreo@aol.com

Rain Date Sunday, October 19, 2008

Entry Form

Please circle: Short route/5 miles Long route/15 miles Equestrian NEH&T Mileage

Name _____

Street _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number _____

Please Sign: _____

Release Statement - I hereby agree to make no claims, demands, or suits against Essex County Trail Association and/or other property owners of properties that I ride over or their agents or volunteers for any accident or damage which may occur to any rider, attendant, animal, or equipment. I participate voluntarily, acknowledging that horse sports can involve inherent dangerous risks.

Must be signed by parent if participant is under 18 years of age.

Helmets and boots required!

Signed _____



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