



# Essex County *News* Trail Association

Volume 26 Number 2

Summer 2008

## President's Report

Don Curiale

### Annual Meeting

The Essex County Trail Association held its Annual Meeting on April 30, 2008 at the Casino of Castle Hill in Ipswich. A cast of more than 65 attended a lively and informative evening concluding with a question and answer session. ECTA would like to thank the Trustees of Reservations and Wayne Castongway of Appleton Farms for the use of the wonderfully restored Casino. We also thank the Coastal Green Grocer of Ipswich for refreshments. The minutes of this Meeting were emailed to members.

### Blue Sky Team

More than a decade ago, ECTA hired a professional consultant to help us restructure, re-organize and review the infrastructure of the organization. This process helped tremendously. It allowed us to grow, to focus and to succeed in doing a better job in accomplishing our mission of preserving and maintaining the local trails.

Last fall, the Board of Directors

decided it was time to do it again. Mr. Michael Maginn of Hamilton, a



professional consultant, donated his wisdom, knowledge, and his time to ECTA. Under his guidance, a 'Blue Sky Team' was formed to examine these key issues for ECTA:

- ◆ Education
- ◆ Liability
- ◆ Fundraising
- ◆ Trail Expansion
- ◆ Membership

As we proceeded, it was becoming clear that ECTA presented many values to its members. But how can we do it better? A vote was taken to continue the

process into the summer and fall. If you wish to join the Blue Sky Team, please email Don at Doncyes@aol.com

### New Director

ECTA welcomes Augusta Macrokanis as a new Director to the Board. Augusta has served ECTA for more than 20 years as an Area Representative. She brings her knowledge of the trails and the community to the Board as well as her communication skills.

Her energy and positive outlook will be a true asset to our organization. Congratulations !

### Past, Present, and Future

Where do I begin? On April 28th, 2008, I tendered my resignation as President of the Essex County Trail Association to the Board of Directors, effective December 31, 2008. I cannot tell you the exact number of years I have served you as President, but, Area Rep Kay Joseph, reminded me of a few facts. She knows she started the Equine Expo Sale Event 14 years ago, and I was

*continued on page 2*

*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](http://www.ectaonline.org)**

## ECTA Board of Directors

Susanna Colloredo, Chair  
 Don Curiale Joseph Sandulli  
 Ellen Alden Arlene Maginn  
 Susie Banta Katy Redmond  
 Leslie Brooks Leslie Brooks  
 Ann Getchell Abby Jackson  
 Nady Peters Kristal Pooler  
 Augusta Macrokanis

## ECTA Officers

President Donald Curiale  
 Executive Director Carol Lloyd  
 1st Vice President Katrina Redmond  
 2nd Vice President Arlene Maginn  
 Treasurer Liz Wheaton  
 Secretary Marianne Lynch  
 Membership Judy Gregg

## ECTA Area Representatives

### Essex

Kay Joseph 768-6275

### Ipswich

Augusta Macrokanis 356-1047  
 Rolanda Dane 356-6524

### Hamilton

Bea Britton 468-2733  
 Sue McLaughlin 468-7715  
 Susie Richey 468-4205  
 Arlene Maginn 468-4644  
 Lucy Pingree 468-7942

### Topsfield

Elaine Robson 887-8789  
 Kathie Tremblay 887-8855

### Wenham

Beverly Granz 777-3375  
 Deborah Stanton 762-8434

### West Newbury

George & Nancy McGowan 363-1877  
 Felicity Beech

## ECTA Board of Advisors

Stu Thorne Don Greenough  
 Scott Solombrino Bruce Corwin  
 Nancy Merrill Al Craig  
 Jim MacDougall Lily Rice Hsia  
 Lois Cheston Barbara Ostberg  
 Katrina Hart Peter Britton  
 Ted Raymond Heidi Hargadon  
 Susan Lawrence Don Little  
 Gerry Kenney Camilla Rich  
 Peter Campot John Pingree  
 David Santomena  
 Wayne Castonguay  
 Rick Silverman

### Trail Advisor

Holly Pulsifer

### Legal Advisor

Dorothy Stookey

### Newsletter

Pam Mansfield



already President then. It is difficult to believe it has been more than 15 years. I succeeded Susanna Colloredo, who reigned as President before Neil Ayer Sr. in the late 80s.

There are so many people, officials, commissioners, professionals, directors, and members to thank but I dare not attempt to name names. I would forget someone and that would be inexcusable. But I can remember meeting wonderful neighbors who formed a group to try to maintain and protect trails. I was thrilled to join them. I remember the long meetings we held to write bylaws, quarterly newsletters, and job descriptions. The joy of membership growing from 90-100 members in the 1997 to over 700 in 2003. The trail walk with Susanna Colloredo pushing me in the back to keep walking while I stepped over poison ivy or horse manure...the sinking mud on trails in Willowdale caused by busy beavers! And the Trail Maintenance Budget growing from \$10,000 to over \$60,000 a year. The wonderful memories of fun organizing the variety of ECTA fundraisers such as the 'Day at the Races,' the 'Taste of Ipswich,' the 'Founders' Tribute,' the 'Waldingfield Driving Event,' or the

very successful '25th Anniversary Gala' last year leading to our financial growth to \$296,000.

I will miss the breakfasts with various ECTA colleagues, a 'Thank You Visit' to a landowner or enjoying the celebration of a signing of an easement. I would be remiss if I didn't mention the various adventures of the Annual Waldingfield Fall Trail Rides. For more than 20 years, I led a group of ECTA members and their wonderful horses. We met cows, llamas, pigs, goats and other horses on the trails. We forded the Ipswich River with water splashing and horses rearing with the sounds of screams, chaos and laughter. And who can forget the attack of the bees!!!

I thank you all for the memories. I am proud and honored that you have allowed me to serve an organization with such a worthy mission. I have tried to lead with integrity, passion and heart with the hope that I have inspired those around me to serve better at what they do.

I plan to remain involved as a Director and do my best to help ECTA grow and become even more effective. Finally, I thank you for your generosity, undying support and belief in me and the Essex County

Springtime brings renewal and the promise of new life at Sunswick Farm in Ipswich, where Mrs. Hope Smith has lived for 48 years. It's not unusual for her to waken one spring morning and look out her window to see that a new foal has been born. This year, it was the Welsh pony mare that gave birth to a perfectly charming filly. The tradition of caring for a large number of animals continues with Hope's daughter Hope Amanda, managing the

horses, ponies, donkeys, pot bellied pigs, and llamas, all residents at any given time. Hope herself keeps just four dogs now, the last of a long line of the AKC registered Dalmatians that she raised under the kennel name Tioga.

Tioga, an Indian word for "beautiful wife," was also the name of the sailboat Hope's late husband had built and sailed out of Marblehead. Hope had lived there and in Swampscott as a child. Her family sailed – in fact they were avid sailors – so when, at the age of eight, she climbed into her father's lap and told him she wanted a horse more than anything in the whole wide world, "he blanched," she said. But then he made a deal with her. "He said if I could learn to sail and race, then I could have a horse." She took him at his word, and learned to race a small class of boat called a "Brutal Beast." Not only did she deftly handle the little boat called the "Bounding Clam," she washed and dried the sails, polished the rudder, and did all the work she could, determined to get her horse.

"I was madly in love with horses," she said, so caused her father to blanch one more time when she burst into the dining room where he was hosting a special dinner for the owner of the famed racehorse Sea Biscuit, who also owned Buick dealerships like him. When she explained to him in front of an audience of men wearing black ties at



the dining room table that she'd heard Sea Biscuit was in town, the horse's owner, Mr. Howard, promised she could see him. "The next day his chauffeur came in his car – it was one of those wooden beach wagons – and he took me to Suffolk Downs. They pulled Sea Biscuit out of the stall and the next thing I knew they put me up on his back."

Eventually she got her horse, and by the age of 15 had won a special trophy at Myopia, but her father was only part of her equestrian life for a short while, as he died when she was 14. Eventually, this passion would bring her and her naval officer husband to purchase the Tuckerman-built summer house next to the Bird estate that nestles in between many other beautiful farms in Hamilton and Ipswich. They raised their family of five and all of them rode ponies and horses on the trails that interlace Appleton Farms with Waldingfield and Sunswick and the Winthrop's and across the Ipswich River to the Massey's and beyond to Bradley Palmer State Park. Her husband rode a retired show jumper who had won the Garden.

"Colonel Appleton would invite

all the ponies over there to Appleton Farms. It was wonderful to be able to ride with the kids and dogs and just enjoy being out in the country," she said. She noted that things have changed quite a bit with development, but that is true of everywhere. "We used to have pony club here; it was wonderful for the kids. I remember my oldest daughter Jessica's friend Nancy Sears would bring her pony over and they'd ride across Waldingfield

Road – it was a dirt road then – into Appleton Farms and have their lunch in the field with their ponies."

Hope recalls a time when more horses and carriages enjoyed the country roads and trails. They would stop by the house to her and her mother's delight. "We were thrilled to see the pairs and four-in-hand, and served cookies and tea and a belt of scotch for the men." Now when Hope is out in the garden, she sees the hunt go through and riders that stop to greet her and ask, "How are things?" She enjoys seeing them, she said. The bridle trail goes along the perimeter of her property and to the river. On the other side of her land, the myrtle-lined Waldingfield trail, owned by ECTA President Don Curiale, gives a glimpse into Sunswick's paddocks where at any time you might see champion horses, bounding Dalmatians, long-necked llamas, and fuzzy donkeys who are descendants of those who delighted patrons of the famed Pleasure Island amusement park in Wakefield which, in this writer's memory, was nearly on par with Disney World. Hope recalls her husband's pet project with a smile. The Smith's owned the park in the late 50s and early 60s, and it featured a train with cowboys and Indians having a shootout while you rode the rails safe inside to the

# Don't Miss It

*Katrina Hart*

Next time you are enjoying the countryside on your feet, horse or bike, there are some interesting features to notice, and learn how the landscape was used in the past.

Early this spring, Prof. Tom Wessels, author of *Reading the Forested Landscape*, gave an illustrated lecture in Wenham which I attended, and led a walk through Pingree and part of Appleton Farms. Clues about the area's past uses abound, he says, if we know what to look for.

New England went from forest to agricultural use and pastureland dramatically quickly, then back to forest over the past hundred years.

Two (of many) clues: when we see an open field, we can tell by certain plants if it was overgrazed, the presence of juniper bushes and hawthorn, for example.

That ubiquitous stone wall, actually called a fence, was constructed in what was once a non-forested landscape.

If we see small stones tucked in among the large ones, that's a sure sign that the adjacent land was used for cultivation; small rocks would have had to be removed for plowing. Stone fences composed of only large rocks were built to keep animals in or out of hayfields or pastures not requiring plowing.

I wish we could enjoy this "landscape detective's" company more often; there is a lot to learn!

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## Mark Your Calendar

### **Saturday, April 19th**

ECTA Equine Expo at Topsfield Fairgrounds -  
come join the fun and shop till you drop!

### **Saturday, June 7th**

Day at the Races at Suffolk Downs - luncheon  
in the Club House - racing and betting!

### **Saturday, September 20th**

Poker Ramble (rain date Sunday, Sept. 21st is  
planned). Marked trails for horses, walkers,  
and cyclists. Lunch included and prizes  
awarded for each group.

# Landowner Tribute

## Open Letter to Our Landowners

The Essex County Trail Association could not maintain and preserve the incredible trail network without the generosity and permission from our landowners. It is their goodwill that allows ECTA to fulfill its mission and work behind the scenes. May I take this opportunity to say Thank You?

Thank you landowners for allowing us to ride, and in many places, walk, jog, bike, and/or cross country ski through some of the most beautiful scenery. We appreciate your trust and belief in our responsibility to respect your land, and, most of all, respect you. We hope that all trail users thank you when they are passing through. We realize that this passage is not a 'right' but a privilege.

With thanks,  
don curiale

Dear Riders,

If you're out riding through trails that are on private property, please take the opportunity to thank the landowner if you see them outside, or perhaps you could drop a thank you card in their mailbox or send one in the mail. I remember being so moved by my first ride in Waldingfield, that I sent Don Curiale a poem about his trails! He must have liked it because he tells me it hangs on a wall in his home.

Without the generosity of landowners in our area, we would not have so many wonderful trails to enjoy as we ride our horses in this beautiful area. This summer and fall, please take note when you use a private trail, and do your part to express your appreciation to the people who allow us access to their land.

Pamela Mansfield & "Dory"

To Don Curiale and ECTA,

Mrs. Pirie wanted me to extend a heart-felt thank you!!! For your work in the beautification of Bradley Palmer Park. The park and the trails are the most beautiful she has ever seen since she moved to her property in Hamilton in 1960.

Keep up the great work!  
Suzette B. Hedley  
Property Manager  
Aquila Farm & Greenhouses

Email: Hey Don,

I meant to email you a few days ago about your horses – They were so funny and being as stupid as only horses can be. I was on my way by to go to the barn for a ride. Anyway, the horses were stalking something, and at first I could not see what it was. Then I saw it was a plastic bag caught on a stick or something on the ground, so the horses were creeping up on it, heads low, and snorting I'm sure. The bag suddenly got free and started rolling across the field. Well this set them off at a high gallop and in a circle to come up on the bag. The bag had got caught up again, so the horses started to advance on it again; the bag started to move around in place, so now everyone planted all four feet to watch the bag, heads low and ready to flee if the bag threatened them again. I left at that point, and when I came back, no sign of the bag, and everyone was busy munching!

Judy Gregg

## A Card of Thanks to ECTA

Without you, it would not have been possible to build three bridges between Marini Farm and the Country Club.

Lawrence Eliot  
Chairman  
Ipswich Bay Circuit Committee

## Report of the Ipswich Bay Circuit Trail Com- mittee

The Ipswich Bay Circuit Committee has completed the construction of three bridges connecting the Ipswich Country Club and Willowdale Forest.

The construction of the bridges has taken longer than anticipated due to roadblocks along the way. First, this was the first project the conservation commission has considered on town land under their oversight. They did not want to set a bad precedent. Second, the Orders of Conditions were approved May 17 2005, but the conditions were challenged by two neighbors, so DEP became involved. The DEP issued their Superceding Order of Conditions on July 21, 2005. Third, the Army Corps of Engineers and the Conservation Commission limited the time of year that the bridges could be built because of the stream and vernal pools in the area. Fourth, the building permit application process at the last minute. Finally, a meeting with the chief carpenter, the Ipswich Conservation Commission agent and the representative from DEP was held September 24, 2007. With that meeting, we received permission to move forward in our construction of the bridges.

The bridges were constructed on three weekends - September 6 and the following week, November 3rd and 4th, despite a brutal nor'easter, and December 1st and 2nd despite the bitter cold. Some members of the committee

supplied water and food while others, with volunteers, provided manpower - digging, cutting, carrying lumber and constructing. The next week several avid horseback riders tested the bridges and found them excellent, and their horses were very comfortable walking over them. The three bridges have now been approved by the Ipswich Conservation Commissions Committee and we wait to hear from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

The Committee thanks you so much for your contribution to the building of the bridges, either through donations or hands-on efforts. Without this support, the bridges could never have happened. Now, the trail is open to all non-motorized traffic.

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# Mass. Audubon Honors Environmental Activist from Hamilton

Steve Landwehr - *Salem News*

HAMILTON — She's best known locally as co-founder of an association that manages a trail network favored by equestrians and pedestrians. But you'd have to be a mighty determined rider or walker to reach all the places her influence has been felt.

Hamilton resident Susanna Colloredo was recently honored with Mass. Audubon's 2007 "A" Award for environmental activism. The citation noted her work to establish the Essex County Trail Association in 1982 and also her efforts to protect the environment in Wyoming and Alaska over the years.

A self-described housewife with a passion for the environment, Colloredo visited Alaska a year after the Exxon Valdez oil tanker struck a reef in Prince William Sound and spilled an estimated 11 million gallons of crude oil in 1989.

"I met a whole lot of people and got very interested in what they were doing," Colloredo said.

In particular, she became a board member of a group of fishermen who banded together after their once thriving village — Cordova, Alaska — was devastated by the oil spill, causing losses that continue to this day. She also worked with the Eyak Indians in Alaska to preserve thousands of acres in the Copper River delta. And she's on the advisory board for the Jackson Hole Land Trust in Wyoming, the Fund for Alaska and the Land Trust Alliance.

In May 1991, Colloredo was one of more than 200 people who visited the coast of Alaska from Ketchikan to Kodiak on a tour organized by David Rockefeller Jr. As a result of the trip, the Sail Alaska Fund was established

in 1992. What has now become the Alaska Fund for the Future has granted more than \$320,000 to 63 separate projects since then.

"It's a great land up there, and it's being damaged by climate change," Colloredo said.

Mass. Audubon spokesperson Jan Kruse said award recipients are nominated every year by Audubon staff and board members, although the award is not given out every year. Honorees are selected based on their overall contributions to environmental protection, Kruse said.

Colloredo's dedication to the environment has been noted in her hometown. In the past few years, she's placed several pieces of her property under conservation restrictions that will keep them from becom-

ing subdivisions in the future.

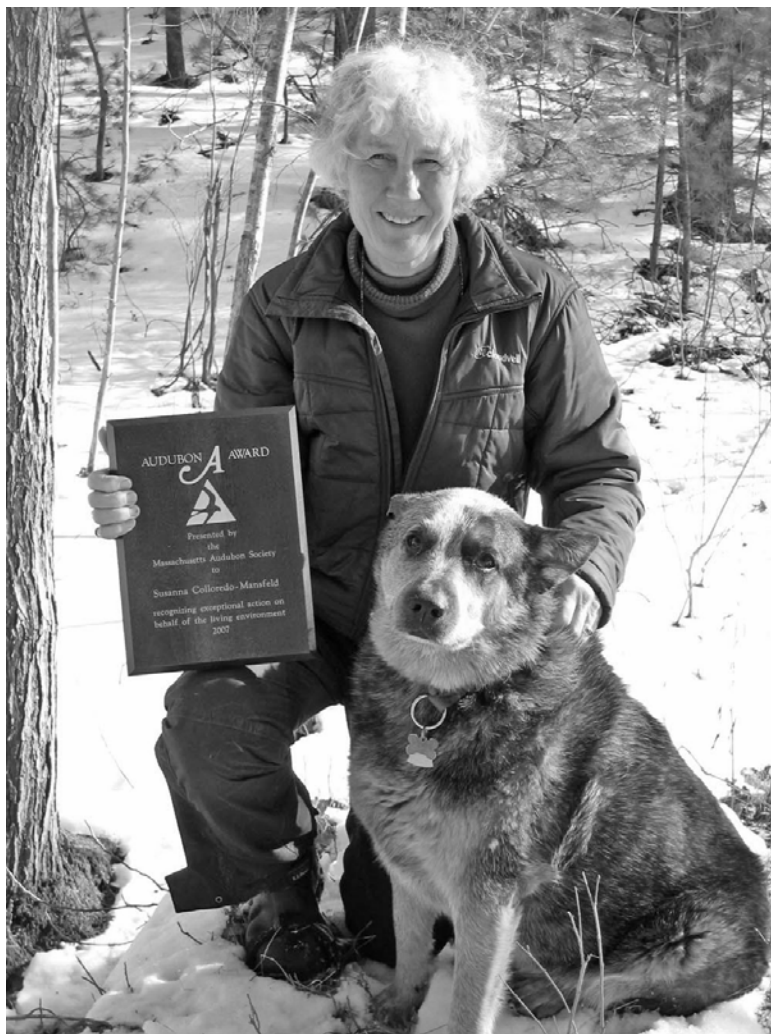
Colloredo did not attend college and said she did not do well in school, but she's found out quite a bit by living and learning.

"I just keep taking the knowledge that comes in every day," she said.

She became passionate about the environment to try to preserve it for her children, she said, and now has 10 grandchildren who keep her plugging away.

"It's a tremendous honor," Colloredo said of the award. "It's always encouraging when you work away at your passion — and it's not easy — and then to be recognized. It's overwhelming."

*As printed in Salem News, December 2007*



*Susanna Colloredo-Mansfeld and "Rocky"*



# Membership Renewal Time!

*Judy Gregg*

Renew now for 2008:

- ◆ Renew your membership and receive your 2008 trail tag(s) in time for opening of trails. See trail use etiquette notes on our website
- ◆ Being a current member informs landowners that you understand and are cognizant of their land use wishes.
- ◆ DO IT NOW while you have the time, and then you are done for the year.
- ◆ Membership forms can be downloaded from the website: [ectaonline.org](http://ectaonline.org)

Trail Tags:

- ◆ OUTDATED tags. When the trails “open” for the season, don’t be left behind because you forgot to renew your membership. ( I recently saw some 2005 tags! )
- ◆ Display your trail tags at all times, or a landowner may ask you to leave. There have been several instances this past year with unhappy landowners asking people to leave their property.

Horse Trailers:

- ◆ For 2008, we ask that an ECTA decal be placed on a window of your horse trailer.
- ◆ Members - please remember to indicate on the membership application that you are an equestrian. A decal will be included in your 2008 trail tag package.

Waivers & Myopia Hunt permits:

- ◆ Return signed waivers and Myopia Hunt (if appropriate for you) permits in a timely manner.
- ◆ We ask all landowners to be sure to sign and return their waivers as well.
- ◆ A copy of the waiver and/or the Myopia Hunt permit can be downloaded from our website: [ectaonline.org](http://ectaonline.org).

Use of Appleton Farm Trails:

(This is a Trustees of Reservations property, often referred to as a TTOR property.)

Equestrians,

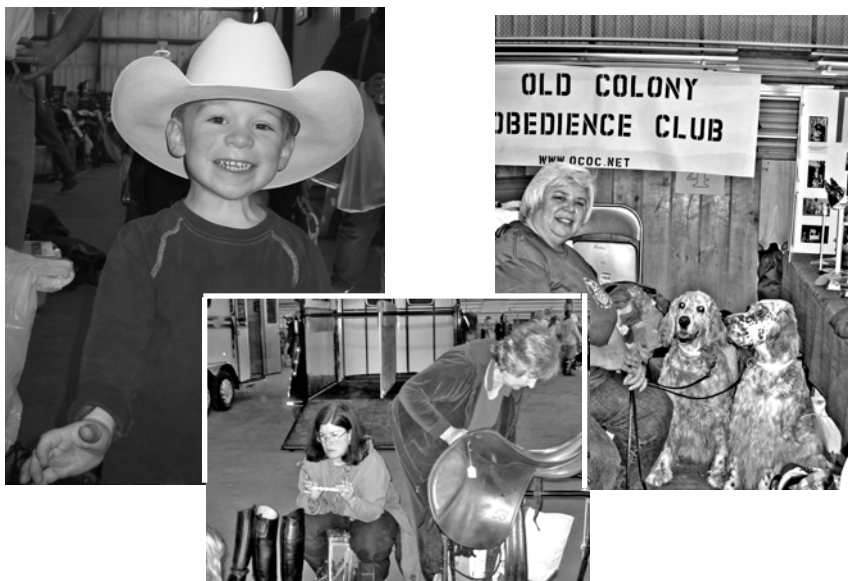
- ◆ ECTA members are required to be a member of both ECTA and TTOR.
- ◆ Members planning to ride/drive/hunt on Appleton Farm trails need to enroll in the Green Horses program and receive their green horses trail tag(s).
- ◆ Members must display the Green Horse tag along with the ECTA trail tag at all times

Dogs:

- ◆ An ECTA member walking with a dog is required to enroll their dog in the TTOR Green Dogs program and will receive a Green Dogs tag.

Application process for Trustees of Reservations:

- ◆ The TTOR office will (if they have not already done so by the time you get this newsletter) send out their TTOR membership renewal applications.
- ◆ If you are a new ECTA member, or you have not received the application,
- ◆ Contact the TTOR membership office directly at



## 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Equine Expo 2008 and Paraphernalia Sale

Hosted by Essex County Trail Association  
 Saturday, April 19, 2008 from 9:00 – 3:00  
 Topsfield Fairgrounds - Route 1, Topsfield, Mass.

Come to our 13th annual event - a large indoor marketplace of items (new & used) as well as services for the horse, rider, driver and dog owner. Over 80 vendors will participate this year with a wide variety of products.

Demonstrations run from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. This year we will have twin mules from RI, horseback search & rescue on a gaited horse, and Noir, a trick horse belonging to New England Equine Rescue.

Dog demos will feature Fit-N-Trim, an organization that helps dogs and owners reach their goals with confidence. They offer classes from puppy training to agility. The demo will be an exciting agility performance. Also doing a dog demo will be Old Colony Obedience Club, who offer all levels of obedience training from puppy to competition.

ECTA will also run one of their fabulous silent auctions with over 85 items for bid from gift certificates to prints.

Admission is \$4 and parking is free. A food truck will be open for breakfast and lunch. We are handicap accessible.

Sponsorship \$175, patrons \$50 and vendor spaces \$75 are all needed to make this event a success. We also have ads in our program booklet available.

The day of the sale volunteers are needed for many different jobs which are short shifts to man tables. Donations of used items for the ECTA are needed as well as new items for the auction.

Every year this event gets larger. Plan on attending for a one-stop shopping experience.

**Please contact Kay 978-768-6275 or Sue 978-468-7715 or [kljoreo@aol.com](mailto:kljoreo@aol.com) for further information or pickup of items.**

## Crane Beach Riders' Checklist

- ✓ Please pick up manure and shavings from parking lot.
- ✓ Please don't pass white signs at high water mark on both ends of beach: just before rocks when riding to the left, near Steep Hill Beach; and close to the Essex River, when riding to the right. It is to protect the clam flats in the rivers.
- ✓ Please don't park to right of driveway in largest parking lot. That lot is reserved for cars only.
- ✓ Please enjoy the BEST BEACH RIDING in this area!

## Appleton Farms Rider's Checklist

- ✓ Remember that horses are only permitted on avenues which are suitable for autos during the winter months, usually until May 1.

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Photos of Crane Beach (right) courtesy of our members. Clock-wise from top right:

- \* Janine & Joe Willwerth, horses Ivan and Atse, it just doesn't get any better than a winters ride on Crane Beach!
- \* Footprints in the sand - dogs and people love walking the beach, too.
- \* Paul and Edie McKinnon riding Missy and Anthem.
- \* On any given day at low tide, the parking lot is filled with trailers (don't forget to clean up after yourself and your horse!)
- \* Felicity Beech flying on Brecon.
- \* Ellen Alden riding her best Buddy.
- \* Garby Hiemann, West Newbury, gallops the shoreline on Geppy.



*Children  
delight in the  
birds at  
Ipswich River  
Wildlife  
Sanctuary*



**Essex County Trail Association  
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