



Essex County *News* Trail Association

Volume 26 Number 2

Spring 2007

From the President

Don Curiale

Annual Meeting and 25th Anniversary

The Essex County Trail Association's Annual Meeting on April 23, 2007 became a mini- 25th anniversary celebration. All members were invited to the newly restored, beautiful carriage barn at Appleton Farms. Sixty-five party-goers enjoyed food, wine, the Greengrocer's cheese platter, and a business meeting.

Susan Hamilton, the Northeast Regional Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation, was our guest speaker. Susan spoke about ECTA's relationship with the Department of Conservation Resources (DCR) and Bradley Palmer State Park; the role of ECTA members with DCR in the Park; the off-road vehicle (ORV) motorized vehicle issues; and present and future trail repairs in Bradley Palmer.

ECTA would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Susan for her presentation and for spending the time with us before her next appointment in Georgetown to discuss the new no ORV policy in Georgetown-Rowley State Forest.

Overview of 2006 Projects

Trail Maintenance:

- ⇒ Pingree Reservation
- ⇒ Moulton Street trail
- ⇒ Biolabs
- ⇒ Brush and tree clearing in Bradley Palmer

Trail Repairs:

- ⇒ Major repairs of trail connector leading from Myopia to Ledyard Farm
- ⇒ Connector trail to Pingree Reservation/Topsfield trail in Bradley Palmer repaired to improve cross-country skiing conditions
- ⇒ Repair of Bradley Palmer trail in Hamilton across from the Pingree "hayscales"

Trail Easements:

- ⇒ Procurement of 4 new trail easements
- ⇒ Adoption of ECTA Management Plan with the Hamilton Conservation Commission
- ⇒ Essex National Heritage grant
- ⇒ Revision of ECTA bylaws
- ⇒ New ECTA brochure
- ⇒ New ECTA e-mail newsletter
- ⇒ Newly-formed Membership Committee



ECTA's Annual Meeting at the newly restored Carriage House at Appleton Farms.

- ⇒ Over \$60,000 income from donations and fundraising
- ⇒ New Trail Coordinator
- ⇒ New Appleton Farms trails
- ⇒ Construction of the Peter Britton Trail in Hamilton

As President, I am extremely proud of ECTA's Directors, Officers, Area Reps, and Advisors. It is this teamwork that has allowed ECTA to accomplish so much in one short year. In addition, ECTA is so lucky to have had incredible volunteers and member support for the past 25 years. There are so many on the team now that have been with ECTA for the past 10 or more years. It is a testament to ECTA's mission and goals of preservation and maintenance of trails for passive recreation in our local communities.

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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

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

ECTA Officers

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

ECTA Area Representatives

Essex

Kay Joseph	768-6275
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Ipswich

Augusta Macrokanis	356-1047
Elaine Robson	356-5850
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

Abigail Jackson	887-6314
Kathie Tremblay	887-8855
Katy Redmond	617-413-4790

Wenham

Beverly Granz	777-3375
Deborah Stanton	762-8434

West Newbury

George & Nancy McGowan	363-1877
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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 Santomenna	
Wayne Castonguay	
Rick Silverman	

Trail Advisor

Holly Pulsifer

Legal Advisor

Dorothy Stookey

Newsletter

Pam Mansfield



Lois Cheston & Holly Pulsifer share a special seat at the Annual Meeting in the Carriage House at Appleton Farms.

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Welcome New Officers

ECTA would like to congratulate and welcome 1st Vice President Katy Redmond and 2nd Vice President Arlene Maginn as new Officers.

As 1st VP, Katy will take on presidential duties as well as act as Hamilton Area Representative and Communications Director. As 2nd VP, Arlene Maginn will work as Coordinator of Area Representatives. Congratulations! ECTA is proud and honored.

Departing Officers

ECTA would like to thank Leslie Brooks and Abby Jackson for their years of dedication as 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents respectively.

Leslie has helped ECTA grow and flourish in the past years with her insight and administrative skills. She has always been there to lead, direct and represent. Her leadership has always been a positive one for the Association. We thank Leslie for her years of service.

Abby has been with ECTA for more than 20 years. Her leadership and liaison between the Area Reps and the Board of Directors has been crucial. Abby's personal skills and sharp decision-making has allowed the Area Representatives to grow into positions of strength for the organization.

Abby and Leslie will remain with ECTA as Directors.

Condolences

ECTA would like to take this opportunity to send our sincerest condolences and sympathy to Susanna Colloredo-Mansfeld, Chairperson of the Board of Directors, on the passing of her father. Mr. John Lawrence lived at Black Oak Farm and was 97 years old at the time of his death. His fascinating experiences are a wonderful testament to a life well-lived.

Save the Date

ECTA will be celebrating its 25th anniversary with a cocktail party on November 17, 2007.

There will be delicious appetizers, a silent auction, cocktails, and a good time! Plan to attend the party of the year on the North Shore. Hamilton ECTA landowners have donated their beautiful home for this joyous occasion.

Upcoming Events

Day at the Races

Suffolk Downs – June 9th, 2007

Waldingfield Driving Event

Benefit to ECTA

Waldingfield - July 15th, 2007

ECTA Poker Ramble

Bradley Palmer - October 14th, 2007

ECTA 25th Anniversary

Cocktail Party

November 17th, 2007

Classified Ads Online

Classified ads are now online. Check the new website at www.ectaonline.org for the latest items or services for sale by other ECTA members, or post your own ad. Visit the website for details.

Trails Link Hearts and Homes

By Kristal Pooler



By preserving the trails we are preserving the integrity of our towns.

675 Bay Road
Hamilton



People move here because of their jobs, to enroll their children in the renowned public and private schools of the North Shore, and to enjoy the country lifestyle. People new to Essex County are pleasantly surprised to find that we have a trail system that links neighborhoods and provides residents a sense of community. On any given day, you can see people walking, biking, and riding on the trails. Mothers push strollers and lead patrols of toddlers. Riders exercise their horses. Neighbors smile and wave to each other. Here are a sampling of homes presently on the market that are on or near the trail system. The owners of these homes enjoy the trails and open space and hope that the new owners will, too.

Kathy Hughes moved to 39 Lakeman's Lane, Ipswich in 2001. "Being able to enjoy the trails maintained by the Essex County Trail Association is what makes living in this part of Ipswich so special," she said. "My daily five-mile

walk includes some of the most beautiful trails, and I feel blessed being able to experience what they offer. The peacefulness of the early morning, the sightings of a herd of deer or observing the changes of

the season make an ordinary walk extraordinary. Our neighbor, who is an avid horse person, began taking my daughter riding on the trails when we first moved here, giving her something truly special that she will always cherish. After riding in an instructional ring for many years, she was able to experience the mystery and exhilaration that the extensive trails provide."

Kathy's wonderful Victorian sits on two acres. The house has been tastefully renovated while retaining most of the details and charm of a vintage home. 39 Lakeman's Lane is on the market for \$749,900. This property is listed by Windhill Realty

of Ipswich.

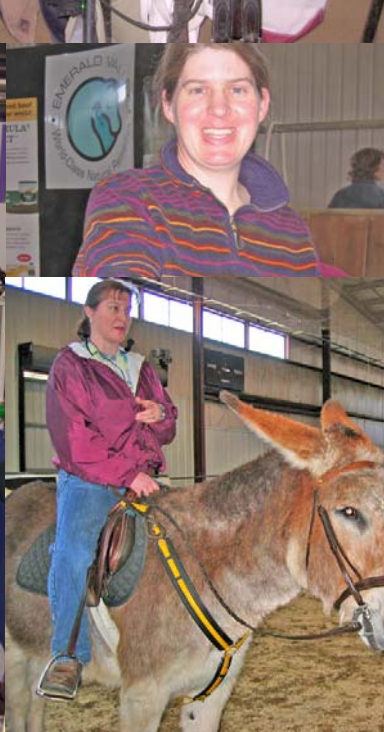
Three Erin's Way, Hamilton is a 1792 colonial set on over three acres of manicured grounds in a prime estate neighborhood. Bob Johnston moved to Erin's Way in 1990 and promptly named the house, "The Hunt Box". Bob bought the house to use when hunting and riding his horses at Myopia. There is a trail easement in the back corner of the property.

"Erin's Way is in the heart of the Myopia Hunt Country. The trail system is extensive and it is a convenient connector to Myopia Hunt Club, Appleton Farm, Sagamore, Bradley Palmer and Candlewood," he said. Bob loved the area so much that he purchased the True Vine Farm which is next door to Erin's Way. Three Erin's Way is offered at \$1,599,000. This property is listed by REMAX Advantage of Beverly.

The Garland House at 675 Bay Road, Hamilton is a marvelous 12-room antique colonial on 7.5 beautiful acres and surrounded by 20 acres of conservation land. The conservation land was originally part of the property and given to Essex County Greenbelt by the Osgood family. The property also has a two-story barn with a two-bedroom apartment. The Garland house location provides easy access to trails. 675 Bay Road is offered for \$2,595,000 and is listed by J. Barrett & Company of Beverly.

The tangible and intangible benefits of the trail system enhance the value of these properties. The trails and open space are what make the towns of Essex County unique. In this way, the trails add value to those who actively use the trail system and to home owners living on or near the trail system. Studies in various urban areas have documented increases in real estate value for residences near open space. ECTA has been hard at work to keep the trails open against the tide of ongoing development. By preserving the trails we are preserving the integrity of our towns.

ECTA Tack Sale



April 21, 2007



12th Annual Equine Expo/Sale Success

by Kay Joseph

A beautiful sunny day increased attendance at the 12th Expo. There was a steady stream of horse and dog enthusiasts all day keeping all of the booths very busy. We had a wide variety of items for sale from our backyard sellers as well as businesses from MA, NH, VT, ME, CT and NY.

The ECTA table had a great deal of used tack donated by generous members. Our silent auction had something for everyone thanks to the many local businesses and individuals who donated products and services for us to put up for bids. This is becoming a very busy table with a great deal of bidding taking place all day.

In the demonstration ring, many things were going on to keep everyone's attention. *Apollo, the mammoth donkey*, always a crowd pleaser, is one of our most popular demos. *The Granite State Miniature Horse Society* brought us two miniature horses, a great treat for everyone. *Old Colony Obedience Club and Fit-N-Trim* brought us various dogs doing agility, obedience and rally, which drew large crowds. Apollo had a special treat by getting a message from *Exclusive Equestrian*.

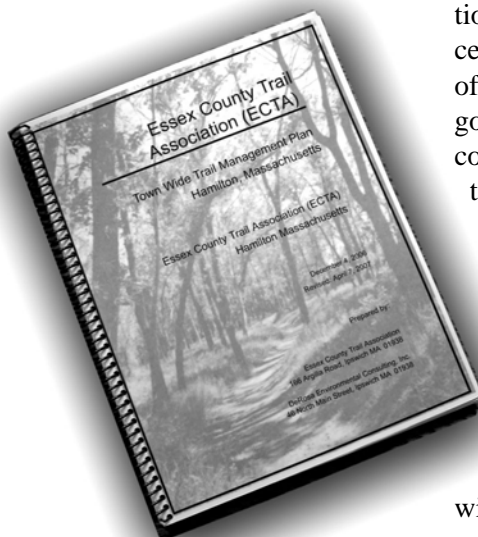
Many thanks are in order to all our sponsors, patrons, vendors, silent auction donors and especially to all the volunteers who make this event a success every year.

Our goals were met. Everyone had a good time. It was a great success for ECTA.



Trail Management Plan

by Carol Lloyd



We are excited to announce the launch of our new Trail Management Plan for the Town of Hamilton. This Management Plan is revolutionary and will have a significant impact on the way we maintain our trails in Hamilton.

The purpose of this Trail Management Plan is to provide a mechanism by which routine maintenance of the existing trail system can occur quickly and efficiently. This program will allow the ECTA to carry out its activities associated with the ongoing management of the trail system, including brush clearing, topdressing and grading of existing trails, placement of new trail substrate in areas and installing beaver deceivers as needed. The process will streamline the permitting requirements of the conservation commission without sacrificing the oversight and monitoring by the commission.

The process to repair a trail in and around wetlands or to install a beaver decoy in Massachusetts is as follows: First we have to file a notice of intent with the DEP and the local conservation commission and when appropriate, the Essex Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program. Then we have site walks, we

make a presentation to the conservation commission, we address concerns from the DEP and Department of Fisheries and Wildlife and if all goes well, we obtain an order of conditions. This process takes up to two months and costs up to \$1,000 for each site repair.

A year ago we were approached by the Hamilton Conservation Commission, who asked us to work with them to complete a Master Trail Management Plan. Since we have an excellent relationship with the commission and saw this as a way to streamline our activities, we jumped on the opportunity. We hired DeRosa Environmental to be our wetland expert and began the process. It took a year of working closely with the Hamilton Conservation Commission and the DEP but our plan has been approved.

Now the process in Hamilton to work on the trails is significantly simplified. For example, now when a landowner calls the ECTA to report trail flooding due to beaver activity the process is: we do a site walk to understand the situation and identify the solution. Then we do a site walk with the Hamilton Conservation Agent, who makes sure that our solution falls within the scope of the Management Plan. He then provides the OK, we get the landowners' signature to move forward and we can do the work. A process that used to take two months now takes one week! A project that used to cost \$1,000 now costs \$0! Now we can be even more nimble and can provide an incredibly valuable service to the landowners in Hamilton.

Our goal is to implement the plan for a few months in Hamilton to work out any wrinkles and then we will approach other member towns to seek approval from them, as well. A very exciting new chapter for the ECTA!

3 Generations of Artists and Riders: The Wongs

by Pamela Mansfield

ECTA members for many years, the Wong family represents three generations of equestrians and trail enthusiasts. They are well known for extending their enthusiasm for all things equestrian to neighbors, friends, their Topsfield community, and beyond. When they aren't riding their own horses, they are helping at shows and events, and donate their time and talents willingly.

They are the force behind the Wong Wheelers at Groton House I and II, bike riders who deliver the scores at the annual horse trials in Hamilton. They helped organize the ABC shows in Boxford. The Wong farm was a second home for many 4-H kids when Gail taught riding and horse care and hosted shows there. Gail competed in the GMHA 100-mile events and won the mid-weight division in 1973, introducing her children and their friends to the fun of Green Mountain Horse Association's trail rides and shows. Daughters Susie and Sara compete locally and so do several grandchildren ranging from ages six and up.

Gail Wong and her family are known for their artwork and involvement at the ECTA tack sale, as well as the Topsfield Fair. Gail has donated several pieces of artwork for fundraisers, including a painted tack trunk and stained glass, to both ECTA and ECHO, and always has new ideas and projects in the works. The creativity of the entire Wong family of artists and designers traces back to Gail's art education and her late husband Tom's work as an architect.

Gail was born to ride – tempted by the polo ponies across the street from her childhood home in Danvers. "My mother swore I was the first child to whinny instead of cry," she says. She has since had many equine family



Gail Wong holds one of her handpainted brushes at the 2007 ECTA Tack Sale. Below, family and friends at the 2006 Poker Ramble.



members, ranging from ponies to her 30-year-old pinto mare that she has owned for 26 years.

Not only do they ride horses, but cycling is part of the fun in the Wong family. A grandson is a professional bike rider and son-in-law Joe is a serious competitor who sometimes

accompanies the family as they ride on the trails.

Whenever you see a large family involved in so many things together, plus a few friends and dogs and horses, and a bike or two, and everyone is organized and having fun, you can bet it's the Wongs!



Trail Etiquette

- ⌘ Obey ALL posted signs and trail regulations
- ⌘ Greet and thank landowners for allowing use of their property
- ⌘ Respect landowners' privacy (talk softly when passing residences)
- ⌘ Leave all gates in the position you find them
- ⌘ Do not smoke in the woods or on private land
- ⌘ Share the trails. If we don't share, we all will lose!

Riders

- ⌘ Let mountain bikes pass when it is safe to do so. As a rule, they go faster than horses.
- ⌘ Stay off trails when they are wet; if you leave a hoof print, it is too wet.
- ⌘ Ride on the edge of fields only unless otherwise indicated
- ⌘ Alert other trail users when you approach from the rear and ask permission to pass.
- ⌘ Approach and pass other trail users at a walk
- ⌘ Walk by stabled or pastured animals
- ⌘ Ride single file on the road
- ⌘ Stay off cross-country ski tracks
- ⌘ Do not bring your dog when riding
- ⌘ Acknowledge motorists who slow down or stop

Walkers

- ⌘ Let mountain bikers and horses pass. Please do not hide in the trees. It scares the horses.

Mountain Bikers

- ⌘ Say "hello" when you come up behind horses and hikers. You don't realize how quiet you are. When meeting horses face on, please stop and say "hi." It helps the horses to not be afraid of you.
- ⌘ Absolutely no motor vehicles should be used where prohibited.
- ⌘ If you are leaving prints (hoof, tire, or boot), it is too wet to be where you are.
- ⌘ Whatever you take onto the trails, PLEASE take it out when you leave. No trash!
- ⌘ If you bring your dog (where allowed), please make sure it is well behaved. Pick up after your dog. Don't let it harass wildlife.

Share the trails!

Thank you. Essex County Trail Association.



Good Neighbors' Foresight Leads to Easement

In 1950, Bea and Tom Downey moved to West Newbury, where Bea, a registered nurse, became active in community organizations, including the Garden Club, the GAR Memorial Library, and the Historical Society. Bea and Tom, a CPA, did not have children, and despite being widowed many years ago, Bea remained active in the community.

In 1972, Paul Kelly bought the house next door. Good neighbors for 35 years, they were equally concerned about the threat of trails being closed off when a large parcel of land that abuts their two properties went on the market to be sold and subdivided. The trail route involves a major connection between Pipestave and Riverbend.

Bea and Paul met with Don Bourquard of the Open Space Committee and Ellen Alden, now ECTA Director — as well as others actively concerned — to discuss the situation.

Ellen says, "Shortly after that meeting, when West Newbury became the sixth town in the ECTA, we (Paul Kelly, Don Curiale, Carol Lloyd, and myself) met with Bea to propose the ECTA Kelly/Downey Easement. Bea enthusiastically endorsed the idea — this coming from a woman in her eighties — and the rest is history!"

Bea is now living in an assisted living community and her house, with easement intact, is under agreement. How thankful can we be that she had the vision to foresee the changes that could occur in her life? I'm sure she will be thrilled to know how thankful we all are for her generosity in giving this easement and that forever there will be the Bea Downey Trail sign. Major thanks go to Paul Kelly for the part he played in making all of this come to fruition."

Ellen believes this is the first easement in West Newbury to be registered with the Registry of Deeds.

Photos by Ellen Alden



Top: *Bea Downey, concerned about maintaining the tenor of the town, holds the new sign that forever marks the new trail easement.*

Bottom: *Paul Kelly stands next to the posted sign between his property and Bea's property, which is now under agreement, with easement intact.*