



Essex County *News* Trail Association

Volume 25 Number 2

Summer 2006

From the President

Don Curiale



Local Mountain Climber Speaks at Annual Meeting

Essex resident Mark Richey spoke to 62 Essex County Trail Association members at the Annual Meeting on April 27th, 2006 at the Hamilton Community Center in Hamilton, Mass.

Mark is the former president of the Alpine Club of America. He and his lovely wife Theresa travel extensively throughout the world to mountain climb, hike, and explore the cultures of South America and many other far-reaching destinations. Mark has climbed Mount Everest, explored the rainforests of Peru, and has made documentaries of his climbs.

Mark is a fascinating speaker, a knowledgeable and skillful climber, and a wonderful person and friend. ECTA thanks Mark for his most enlightening, entertaining, and interesting presentation.

Trail Maintenance Update

With the spring upon us, we've been busy making repairs and tackling trail improvements and general maintenance projects including:

- General maintenance in Bradley Palmer
- General maintenance on Bio Labs trails
- New beaver deceiver installed behind Pingree School
- New Appleton Farm trail opened
- Beal Easement bridge repair in Wenham
- Financial aid to Ipswich Bay Circuit toward the building of three bridges on trails from Prospect Hill in Ipswich to Marini Farms and Willowdale on Linebrook Road.
- Repairs to the Dellovo boardwalk in Hamilton
- Negotiating a new easement in West Newbury

Trail Alert

If you ride on the trails in and around the Pingree School/



Appleton Farm trail in May.

Britton's/Bradley Palmer area, be sure to observe new ECTA signage. The landowner requests that riders ride on the grass along the driveway. **STAY OFF** the driveway.

Appleton Farm has opened new equine/walking trails on the northwest portion of the farm. Look for new ECTA directional signage.

The landowner at Brackenside in Hamilton has asked the ECTA to please notify the public that the racetrack at Brackenside is permanently closed. They are willing to let equestrians ride through, but asked that we please follow their instructions below or we may risk losing an important trail link.

The trail crosses a small portion of the driveway only. Please follow the ECTA marked trails. Riders please

continued next page

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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Newsletter	Pam Mansfield

stay on the driveway and off the lawn. No dogs! (With the exception of the Myopia Hounds, who may pass through with permission.) Walk only on this portion of the ECTA-marked trail.

Please respect the wishes of the landowners who make it possible for all to enjoy the historic bridle trails in Hamilton. This important connecting trail is a critical link in the Hamilton trail system. Please pass the word and notify any riders you pass. Thank you for your help and continuing support of the Essex County Trail Association. If you have questions please contact Carol Lloyd at 978-356-5070 or Lucy Pingree, at 978-468-7942.

News Update

ECTA has received an anonymous gift of \$10,000. This gift is restricted to our mapping project of Hamilton. Carol Lloyd and Susanna Colloredo are mapping all Hamilton trails threatened by development. ECTA's goal is to obtain easements before the land is developed.

The Pescosolido property in Ipswich is nearing the end of its permitting process to develop the 33 acres into a 24-unit cluster development with a surrounding trail easement.

Willowdale Forest is being threatened by an invasion of ATVs. This has been reported in the newspapers. The local Ipswich Public Works and ECTA have written strong letters to the state officials opposing this potential use of the trails.

ECTA has received a generous gift of an "advertising budget." A newly-formed membership/marketing committee has been formed to develop an advertising strategy. ECTA Directors Kristal Pooler and Susie Banta are the co-chairs.

ECTA officially welcomes Liz Wheaton as our new Treasurer. Liz is very much involved in our community as a volunteer. We are grateful to Liz for joining ECTA in her new Treasurer position.

ECTA would like to take this opportunity to thank outgoing Treasurer Disa Cheston for all her dedicated hard work. Disa has been onboard for many years and she will be missed very much. We will miss her knowledge and skills, warm personality and most of all, her smile. Thank you so much Disa. Enjoy your extra time.

If in doubt about a trail, go directly to our new web page on ECTA's website www.ectaonline.org. Kristal Pooler and Neil Ayer have added a new feature to our web site to inform our members of the latest openings, closings, and landowner requests regarding trails.

Day at the Races Sponsors

ECTA would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for their generosity to the Day at the Races. Please support them!

Green Grocer Store – Ipswich
Norris Gallery – Ipswich
Marcorelle's Package Store – Ipswich
Hair Structure – Ipswich
Simply Floral – Hamilton
The Hamilton Club – Hamilton
Sterling Cleaners – Ipswich
Gardner Mattress Factory Store – Salem
Gordon's Greenhouse – Ipswich
The Equestrian Shop North – Ipswich
Café Zabaglione – Ipswich
The Zabaglione Restaurant – Ipswich
Turner Hill – Ipswich
Choice Graphics – Ipswich
Zenobia's Emporium – Ipswich
Ipswich One Hour Photo – Ipswich
Corliss Brothers Nursery – Ipswich
Round the Bend Tack Shop - Hamilton

Susie Banta - New ECTA Director



A member of ECTA for many years, Susie Banta brings great enthusiasm to her new position on the ECTA board, joining the directors who take active roles in influencing the future of the organization.

Until recently, her job in human resources at Price, Waterhouse, Coopers kept her too busy with traveling and training personnel to become more involved with the organization. Now she will be helping with membership and marketing efforts to reach beyond the riding community and expand the

organization to include more non-riders.

“This has always been horse country, but the trails are becoming more and more precious,” she notes. Relationships between riders and non-riders is very important to keeping the trails open. She says purchasing a home across from Bradley Palmer trails made her even more aware of the importance of trails.

As a rider herself, who competed in eventing and more currently in show jumping, she appreciates the many wonderful trails open to riding, and also the amount of work it takes to maintain them. She enjoys the community of fellow riders. “It’s a great group of people,” Susie says, “It’s open to everyone regardless of discipline.”

Susie recently returned from her winter farm in Ocala, Florida, a location central to where she competes in the HITS horse shows. She looks forward to working with Don Curiale, Susanna Colloredo, and the others whose leadership has had such impact on the success of the trail association

- Pam Mansfield

New Trails Open at Appleton Farm

Edie Freedman

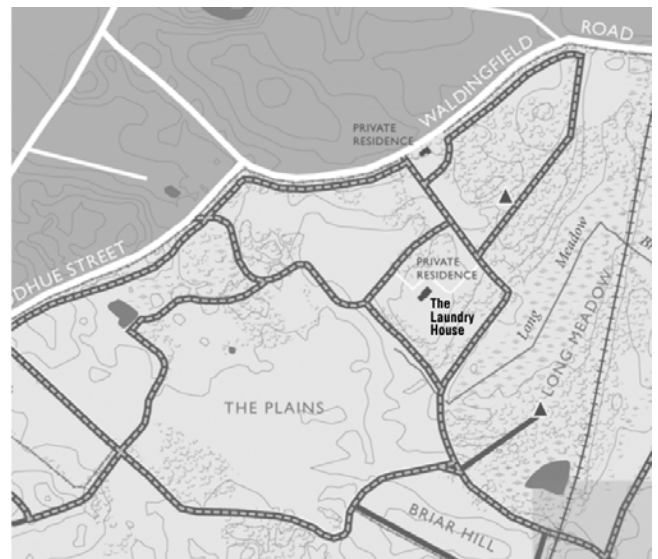
As someone relatively new to riding the trails at Appleton Farm, I often have wondered who lived in the rather modest, light-blue house on the knoll above Long Meadow. I was somewhat surprised to learn that it was the residence of Mrs. Joan Appleton, who lived there until her death this past winter. Known as “The Laundry House,” at one time it housed the laundry for the main house (“the New House”), and served as living quarters for servants who worked in the mansion. When the New House was torn down in the 1960s, the Laundry House was left intact. It will now be used as a staff residence for employees of Appleton Farm.

The new trails that have just opened to walkers and cross-country skiers in the area around the Laundry House used to be the formal area of the farm, with big terraced gardens, a one-acre vegetable garden, and a peach orchard that includes the largest and most ornate stone wall on the farm. It also is the former site of a magnificent carriage barn and the Barberry Kennels, where the Appletons bred a famous line of AKC beagles. Walkers, riders, and skiers alike will enjoy the scenic and stately Prince of Wales Avenue, the longest

tree-lined alleé on the farm, which runs from the former site of the “New House” to the gate on Waldingfield Road just to the west of the railroad bridge.



“The Laundry House” and map of newly opened trails. Photo by Edie Freedman



Rowley-Ipswich Trail to be Completed

The Ipswich Bay Circuit Trail Committee in coordination with the Bay Circuit Alliance is responsible for 11 miles of the Bay Circuit Trail in town. The entire trail runs for approximately 200 miles from Newbury in the north to Duxbury in the south.

A section of this trail, between the Ipswich Country Club and the Marini Farm needs to be completed. This section runs through town property managed by the Conservation Commission, which has required three raised boardwalks to be built over intermittent streams in this environmentally sensitive area.

This section will connect the Willowdale State Park trail system and connections south with the Prospect Hill trails and the Bay Circuit Trail system north to Newbury. It will be available to walkers, runners, equestrians, family and school groups, Bay Circuit Trail hikers and the general public.

The Ipswich Bay Circuit Trail Committee has solicited bids for construction of the boardwalks, which are located well in the woods away from any roads. Movement of materials and equipment to the sites without using mechanized transport has increased the difficulty and cost of the project. The Committee and other volunteers will clear the trail, but a professional contractor will build the boardwalks.

We must raise \$30,000 to cover the cost of the boardwalks. We need your help. Please consider giving a generous donation for this specific project. Contributions should be made payable to Bay Circuit Alliance Marini Connector Fund (BCAMCF) and mailed to BCAMCF, P.O. Box 487, Ipswich, MA 01938. The fund is sponsored by the Bay Circuit Alliance, an IRS 501c3 organization, so your contribution is fully tax deductible.

Questions may be directed to any member of the Ipswich Bay Circuit Trail Committee.

From a letter submitted by Ralph Williams of Rowley and BCAMCF

WHAT A DAY FOR AN EXPO!

*Sue McLaughlin-Kay L Joseph
Expo Coordinators*

From the 9am opening to the 3pm closing every booth at the April 22 Expo was busy.

Thanks so much to all the businesses, barns, and individuals who donated used tack, new items, gift certificates and art work to ECTA- Something for everyone.

All our demonstrations were well received from the miniature horse being fit to his saddle, EPONA rescued horses, mounted search and rescue and Apollo a mammoth donkey. The Orcutt/Noble families and their Burkland Morgans presented a fine tribute to Burkland Farms which was owned and run by Dr. S.Robert Orcutt and Pat Tataronis Orcutt who both passed away this past year. The tribute was presented



by his grandsons Josh and Caleb Noble. We want to thank our sponsors, patrons, and advertisers who help defray some of the expenses involved in running this large event.

We also want to thank the volunteers, many who help us every year to make the Expo run smoothly from set up on Friday to breakdown on Sunday making this event a major fund-raiser for ECTA and a good time for all.

ECTA Signs Keep Us Posted



These signs are just a couple of examples of how ECTA works to keep its members informed as they use the trails.

ECTA's 11th Annual Expo - Equine Paraphernalia Sale April 22, 2006 Topsfield Fairgrounds

Photos by Pam Mansfield-Loomis



Vendor Booths and Used Tack



Demonstrations



ECTA Table, Silent Auction, and Volunteers



Lots of ECTA Friends at This Spectacular Annual Event

ECTA Finance Committee Report

Joseph G. Sandulli, Chairman

At its spring meeting, the ECTA Board of Directors approved the creation of a Finance Committee, Chaired by Joseph Sandulli, and including as members, Susan Koso, Heidi Hargadon, and Bruce Corwin. Ex-officio members are the ECTA Treasurer, Liz Wheaton, and the ECTA Executive Director, Carol Lloyd.

The committee has met and has begun to examine and make recommendations for ECTA's operating procedures, money management, insurance and budget.

1. **Operating Procedures.** The committee has recommended the requirement of two signatures for checks over \$10,000. Those signatures would be the President

and the Treasurer or the Vice President and the Treasurer. For checks under \$10,000 there would be only one signature necessary: either the President or the Treasurer.

2. **Money Management.** The committee has recommended keeping only \$15,000 in a checking account and another \$15,000 in an accessible NOW account. These numbers are what is necessary for the day-to-day operation of the organization, based on the experience of the past Treasurer, Disa Cheston. We are recommending that the rest of our funds (about \$126,000) be invested in longer-term, higher-yield investments as an

endowment. We are still debating the nature of those investments, attempting to balance risk against reward.

3. **Insurance.** We have reviewed the current liability insurance policy and found coverages that should be increased and others that should be reduced. The next step will be to contact the brokers to see if change is possible and at what cost or savings.
4. **Budget.** While it is too early to begin planning next year's budget, the committee will review expenditures on a monthly basis so that we can monitor the relationship between expenditures and the annual budget.

A Marketing Plan for the ECTA

Katy Redmond – Marketing Advisor to the Board and Topsfield Area Rep

A marketing plan works in many ways like a trail map. Where are you now, where would you like to be, and how will you get there? 2007 marks the 25th anniversary of the ECTA and our work with the trail systems of Essex County. Our goals for the next 25 years (and beyond) include growing our membership to include all who use the trail systems, encouraging more

members be involved as volunteers and donors, building awareness in the community for the ECTA, preserving and extending the Essex County trail systems, and streamlining our communication efforts.

Our marketing plan includes changes to the logo, newsletter, and updated website to be inclusive of all in the ECTA community. The new logo

replaces the "horseshoe" border with a full oval to emphasize that trails are for all to enjoy and support. The newsletter will be streamlined and will include new features like member photos, redesigned trail alerts, tips to enjoying the season, and a planning calendar for ECTA and partner events. And for the first time, we'll be introducing an email newsletter in addition to our mailed newsletter later this year. The website will be easier to navigate with posted trail alerts, downloadable membership forms and trail maps, an events calendar, and more.

Watch for fun ECTA anniversary programs and events over the next 18 months and please help us pass the word about the ECTA. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please call Katy at 617-413-4790.

Katy is a marketing and media specialist and has been an active member of the ECTA and enjoys the trails for hiking, jogging, and riding with her horse Seamus, an imported RID.

ECTA Membership Profile

Primary trail use indicated on membership forms since 2001.

Group	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Riders	331	318	277	343	373	351
Walkers/Hikers	71	69	75	67	81	85
Carriage Driving	18	15	7	14	12	15
Cyclists	4	6	3	3	4	4
Jogging/Running	5	6	5	2	2	
Dog Sledding	0	0	0	0	1	0
X-C Skiing	0	1	0	1	0	0
Bird Watching	0	1	1			
Duck Hunting	1	1	1			
Snow Shoeing	0	1	1			

ATVs in Willowdale

Excerpts from a letter written by Gary M. Briere, Recreation Bureau Chief, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation to a concerned citizen

Thank you for writing to Commissioner Burrington regarding your concerns that the Department may be planning to shift motorized trail use from the Georgetown Rowley State Forest to Willowdale State Forest. I understand that your concerns were raised when you read in the *Boston Globe* that a New England Trail Rider official suggested that Willowdale might be considered as an alternative to Georgetown. I hope that this correspondence can provide greater understanding of the process DCR is developing for managing this volatile issue.

There are currently no plans within DCR to introduce ORV (off road vehicle) trails at Willowdale State Forest. We will not develop such plans without consulting the local community.

DCR believes that motorized trail recreation is one of the greatest conservation and recreation challenges of the next decade. The US Forest Service agrees, identifying unmanaged recreation and particularly motorized recreation as one of the four main threats to US forests. And, like Ipswich, many Massachusetts communities also see this use as a problem and are seeking to ban motorized trail recreation. Having banned ORV use in the vast majority of the state's forests and parks, DCR has substantial experience with the ban strategy. Absent stiff penalties and more prevalent enforcement, bans are not effective. We also have a lot of experience with motorized trails, having offered nearly 200 miles of motorized trails for over two decades. Unfortunately, without good design, construction, maintenance and management even these dedicated trails become impassable and lead to greater and greater impacts as even responsible riders seek a route around the problem. In our opinion, motorized

trail management in Massachusetts is currently broken.

For the past 9 months, DCR has been working with a group of trail interests ranging from the Nature Conservancy to the National Off Highway Vehicle Conservation Council to explore ways to correct some of the problems. You can read more about the group, its specific tasks and its progress at our website

www.mass.gov/dcr/recreate/orvworkgroup.htm. As a result of our research and the guidance from this group, DCR feels that effective management of this recreational use will combine three critical components:

- Legal and appropriate places to ride (designed, constructed, maintained and managed for this use). It would be ideal if these areas were located off of public lands but DCR recognizes that as a major land management agency in the Commonwealth, it is likely that some of its forests may be considered for this use.

- Substantial penalties for illegal riding and enhanced enforcement capacity.
- Clear and consistent education efforts from manufacturers, dealers, clubs, Environmental Police, local police, DCR, media and community information sources which direct riders to legal trails and away from illegal trails.

While DCR is working with others to make progress in all three of these areas, our primary focus right now is in developing criteria which the agency would use to evaluate a property to determine its appropriateness for motorized trail recreation. You can see the draft criteria at <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/recreate/DRAFT%20CRITERIA.htm> These criteria include environmental considerations, public safety considerations; community issues and trail management and construction questions that must be

addressed as part of the assessment process. The public comment period on these criteria has recently ended and DCR is now considering over 170 comments that were offered on the criteria and will be making a decision in the near future regarding the final version. It is our hope that DCR's efforts to address the fundamental issues of motorized trail recreation across the Commonwealth will benefit all land managers. I would be happy to speak with you about this issue now and can assure you that no plans will be developed to introduce motorized trail recreation in Ipswich or any other community without engaging the community early in that process.

Letters

Email to ECTA via Website, September 2005. Subject: Smoking

I have seen a disturbing activity lately. More people seem to be smoking while horseback riding. With our forests so tinder dry this season maybe we should remind everyone that smoking in the forests is never a good idea. I know these people think they are able to dispose of their cigarettes by letting them burn out and putting them in their pockets. But what of the ashes they let drop while smoking? And what would happen if their horse spooks and they drop the lit cigarette? I know some people think I am annoying when I ask them not to smoke in the woods, but I really believe it is just an accident waiting to happen.

Thanks for letting me vent - maybe you could mention this in the next newsletter or on the website.
- Debbie White

Ed. Note: Thanks for your concern, Debbie. While this email is dated last September, this message is timely year round.

being led by its rider.

Riding along the Barowy Trail towards Biolabs, one sees signs warning that there is a sculpture ahead that could frighten horses. Nonetheless this lifesize sculpture could almost be mistaken for a real horse



**Save these dates in
2006 for upcoming
ECTA events:
October 15th
Poker Trail Ride**

**Essex County Trail Association
Post Office Box 358
Hamilton, MA 01936**

