



Essex County *News* Trail Association

Volume 25 Number 4

Winter 2006

From the President

Don Curiale

ECTA Maintains Many Trails

As President of the Essex County Trail Association, I am often asked which of the many trails do I love the most? There are the spectacular trails that wind forever in the Pingree Reservation; there are the enchanting trails through the wetlands in Bio Labs; or the newly opened trail in West Newbury. I certainly do not wish to offend, but I stoutly confess that my most favorite trail is in Appleton Farms.

As recently as two years ago, ECTA and Appleton Farms re-opened a sleepy, wide, overgrown "ride" that hugs Waldingfield Road in Ipswich and gently curves into Goodhue Street. It winds into the woods and gently places the rider into the open fields of the Farm along Goodhue Street in Hamilton. It is one glorious, spectacular, grand trail that shouldn't be missed. As a matter of fact, ECTA lead its Annual Fall Trail Ride on this trail on October 22. Come experience its beauty, enchantment, and silence in any season! See if you agree with me. Park your trailer on Waldingfield's driveway and hack over across the street. You have my permission to park on my driveway.

Trail Updates

- ◆ Repaired and upgraded trail connector from Myopia Golf Course to Ledyard Farm in Hamilton/Wenham.
- ◆ Repaired connector trail from Myopia Schooling Field to Pingree Reservation
- ◆ Opened a new trail in West Newbury near Pipestave
- ◆ Be aware of a newly town-constructed, paved walking/riding path along Woodbury Street in Hamilton

ECTA's list of Trails in Need of Repair

- ◆ Willowdale "Three Pipe Trail" – culvert and sinkholes
- ◆ Culvert crossing in woods on trail leading to Appleton Farms (needs a beaver deceiver)
- ◆ Asbury Street Trail in Bradley Palmer – needs culvert repair
- ◆ West Newbury trails and beaver problems
- ◆ Construct the Peter Britton trail in Bradley Palmer
- ◆ Trail and bridge repair to Chebacco woods

- ◆ Causeway repairs on Gardner Street in Hamilton
- ◆ Bradley Palmer trails (approximately \$8000)

Annual Waldingfield Fall Ride

On October 22, 2006, Executive Director Carol Lloyd led a group of more than 30 riders for the Annual Fall Ride. It was a smashing success!!!

Riders enjoyed hacking along the Ipswich River trails and into Appleton Farms. The group continued down the main avenues of the Farm and then onto the newly opened trail that hugs Goodhue and Waldingfield Road and back into Waldingfield for a safe and beautiful trail ride.

Mrs. Kathy Brown of Waldingfield was ready with a Stirrup Cup of homemade clam chowder, cider donuts, and refreshing apple cider. A delicious lunch for all. ECTA thanks Carol, Kathy and Bob Brown, Pam Mansfield, Rick Loomis, Susanna Colloredo, and Susan and Jack Lawrence for their help with the ride.

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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Barn Tour

The Ipswich Animal Shelter and ECTA hosted a Barn Tour on October 1, 2006. The event grossed \$2600. It was a good time for those who love to roam barns and see true New England barn architecture, and, at the same time, support two worthy organizations. Guests paid \$25 to view 11 local barns.

ECTA would like to thank Catherine Carney Feldman, Mrs. Prudy Marcos, and ECTA vice president Lesley Brooks for their hours of work, skill and organization to make this a success. I would also like to publicly thank all the Ipswich Animal Shelter and ECTA volunteers who donated hours of their Sunday to make this tour happen...kudos!!!

Private Hunt Raises Funds

ECTA would like to gratefully acknowledge Mr. Robert Johnston of Hamilton for hosting an ECTA Fundraiser on October 22, 2006.

Mr. Johnston and his friend, Francesca, sent out invitations to all the members of the Myopia Hunt to join Bob for a private hunt through the countryside at 11 a.m. and return to his beautiful home at 1:30 p.m. for a champagne breakfast. The cost was \$100 per rider, with all proceeds going to the Trail Association.

Bob and Francesca did all the cooking, baking, and preparations... this saved thousands. And the food was delicious: shrimp, Shepard's Pie, salads, sausage, and drinks of all kinds. It was all fantastic, fun, and wonderful. I was overwhelmed by the Hunt participation, Bob's generosity, and the goodwill shown by all. ECTA netted over \$6500 from this event. WOW!!!

On behalf of the Board of Directors of ECTA, the Officers, and members, may I take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the Fundraisers mentioned. These generous people gave their time, money, skills, and help to us. I know we are all appreciative. Thank you.



Scenes from the October 22 private hunt hosted by Mr. Robert Johnston (top).



What a Day for a Poker Ramble!

Sunday, October 15th was a beautiful day at Bradley Palmer and Willowdale State Parks. Over 70 people attended the annual Poker Ramble. We had walkers and equestrians on two different routes of five miles to fifteen miles. Everyone was given a map and the trails were well marked with yellow, pink and orange streamers. A nice lunch of hot fried chicken and salads was provided for everyone.

The winners with the best poker hands were: Heather Kinzler \$40; Jody Weaver \$30; Joan Richards \$20; Sam Wong \$10; Sarah Wong and Kim Hackett-Opt – leather pencil holders.

Many thanks to all the volunteers for marking and removing the trail guides, parking, street crossing,

checking people in and out, checking the trails to be sure the markers were up very early in the morning, serving breakfast and lunch, and tallying the poker hands: Rolanda Dane, Venda Winslow, Jean Hyde, Abby Jackson, Kay Joseph, Rick Loomis, Augusta Macrokanis, Arlene McGinn, Sue McLaughlin, Elaine Robson, Susan Sandler, Linda Shuksteris, Sally Soucy, and Deborah Stanton.

Thank you to our sponsors of this event:

- **Shaw's Supermarkets**
- **Essex Seafood**
- **E'Toille Gifts**

Updated Website

Visit ECTA's newly updated website by Cheryl Riley and Katy Redmond. Navigate, read, download, and enjoy at www.ectaonline.org!

Classified Ads

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.

Member Profile: From City Vet to Country Vet – David Rousseau

When David Rousseau purchased the 305-year-old John Wise home in Essex, both his profession as a veterinarian and his enjoyment of open space were enhanced by his new surroundings. In the past two years, he has joined ECTA, realized his dream of riding with the Myopia Hunt, become a regular “green dog” walker at Appleton Farms with his pug “Miss Pea” and Springer Spaniel “Zachary,” and started a house call practice for small animals.

A native of Marlboro, when David moved to Essex he was finally able to realize his vision of offering a service that is reminiscent of the days of the old-fashioned English veterinarian of “All Creatures Great and Small” fame,



James Herriot, who regularly drove over hill and dale to his clients’ homes to see his furry patients. Dr. Rousseau maintains his busy small animal office practice in Wakefield, but visits his new neighbors’ cats and dogs in their own surroundings by appointment, performing routine vaccinations, heartworm testing, bloodwork, and wellness visits.

“In my perspective it’s a nice way to practice veterinary medicine in a James Herriot way. There are a lot of

things to discuss and the animals get the benefit of uninterrupted attention,” he says. Without a waiting room full of anxious patients, “it’s a more relaxed atmosphere.” David typically plans on spending an hour during house calls, which are easier than office visits for both pet and owner. “Cats typically hate the vet’s office and the carrier. If someone has multiple pets they have to load all animals up, or if they don’t have capacity to drive, a house call simplifies things.” When necessary, euthanasia for the pet is also easier to deal with in the comfort of one’s own home.

While David loves horses and cows, his own menagerie consists of the two dogs and two cats for now, but he hopes one day to have his own horse. He has ridden since childhood and, for a while, trained Thoroughbreds. His education and profession have taken him from the Caribbean to Washington State, but in his home state of Massachusetts, he is enjoying the taste of country life and open space.

Letters

Carol,

The course and race were fantastic! Even better than last year. Keep the hills. Many thanks to your organization and to the property owner for putting together such a great event.

Regards, Sam Winebaum

Dear Carol,

Your race was my introduction/baptism into trail running in more ways than one. I just wanted to say thank you to you and your team for running a great event and I had a lot of fun (some pain but mostly fun). The volunteers you had were great. It was a fabulous experience. As far as the hills go...character builders I call them, and I vote to keep them in.

With much respect and thanks,

John Carlson

Awesome job Carol and thanks for getting the results over to Dave and up on Coolrunning. The results should

help out your race in terms of marketing and advertising. In addition, it is not official unless it is documented©

I have no problem with the hills in the race. It keeps the race honest and breaks up the flat portions nicely. I promise better weather and numbers for next October!

Jim Pawlicki

Dear Don,

A note of thanks for your support letter on behalf of the Dow Brook Conservation Area trail and boardwalk project. The grant application was finalized and put in the mail last week, and now we wait! I feel confident that our application was strengthened by the community support from you and others who took the time to provide a letter. Thank you, once again, for responding to my request. I’m genuinely grateful for your help, and will certainly let you know if we get good news in the spring!

All the best, Ben O’Connor

Dear Mr. Curiale:

Please forgive the delay in responding to your recent letter to Commissioner Burrington regarding motorized trail recreation at Willowdale State Forest. He asked that I follow up with you regarding the suggestion in a *Boston Globe* story that DCR may be considering Willowdale State Forest for ORV use. While I will provide greater context for DCR’s views on managing this volatile issue, let me state up front that there are currently no plans within DCR to introduce ORV trails at Willowdale State Forest. Furthermore, and consideration of that or other properties for motorized trail recreation would be explored in an open dialogue with the effected municipalities and other community interests.

For the past year, DCR has been working with a group of trail interests ranging from Nature Conservancy to the National Off Highway Vehicle Conservation Council to explore ways to correct some of the problems. You

continued page 10



Run for the Trails

ECTA's Second Annual Run for the Trails started at Peter and Bea Britton's, went through Patton's, Bradley Palmer, Stanislaw's, and ended at Britton's. We had 50 brave souls who came in spite of the monsoon conditions, running through the hardest rain of the day! Twenty people participated in the 5-mile run and 30 people competed in the 10-mile run. The winner of the 10-mile run was Joe Shairs, who completed the run in 1:03:19. Andy Kind won the 5-mile run with a time of 0:31:12.

A special thanks to Peter Britton for designing the trail and working to put it in perfect condition. Thank you to our landowners for allowing us to hold this event on their wonderful trails.

The big barn was perfect for the day as all the volunteers could stay warm and dry inside, and runners could start and end the race out of the weather. Rick Silverman was great as usual. He helped to organize the run and the finish line. And also a big thanks to our sponsors:

Ipswich Cooperative Bank, EBSCO, The Law Offices of Donald Greenough, AJF and Associates, Ugone-Johnson Insurance Agency, Manchester Athletic Club, Inov-8 Trail Running Shoes, New England Running Company, the Coastal Greengrocer, and all of the volunteers who helped make it a success.

The food and beverages, too, were perfect for the bone-chilling day.

The results are posted on the **Cool Running** site, along with a nice picture and a link to the ECTA website.

www.coolrunning.com/results/06/ma/Oct28_Runfor_set1.shtml

Please think about where we can hold it next year - everyone is excited to do it again!



Black Tie & L



Blue Jeans Gala

The Steeplechase Course in Bradley Palmer State Park

Bradley Palmer built one of the finest steeplechase courses in the country. The course was over fields, hills, wide paths through wooded sections, over drainage ditches and existing stone walls and some tight turns here and there. While 21 obstacles of every sort and type were built, 5 were repeated, for a total of 26 on the slightly more than four-mile course. In those days most of it could be seen, even through wooded sections, from one vantage point. As the jumps were high and some located at rather difficult positions, it took a good rider with a good horse in top condition and who was capable of jumping difficult fences at speed to compete. The length of other races could be shortened and/or varied by either eliminating certain portions and/or jumps of the four-miler, and/or by taking an off-shoot branch (which contained less severe jumps) or were otherwise occupied with business or other less expensive and time consuming sports. It was a grand and glorious era, thanks to Bradley Palmer's kindness and generosity and his fine course. The last meet was in 1950.

Just next to what is now the state park, Frederic Winthrop came to the rescue of racing when he built a fine but far less severe steeplechase course (reduced in length, lower and fewer obstacles and all over open and less hilly country) at his Groton House Farm. Flat races were also included. The Mortimer, Hunt Team, and several other trophies continued under the pre-existing rules. However, and generally for the same reasons that brought Willowdale racing to an end, the last race meet at Groton House was in 1955.

In passing, one must mention that a different type of racing sprang up, namely the Cross Country Point to Point. Contestants started together, having been given the first point clue.

Black Tie & Blue Jeans Gala a Success!!!

Guests starting arriving early for the ECTA Silent/Live Auction Dinner Gala at Turner Hill on Nov 18, 2006. By 8 PM, the silent auction was over, Buffet dinner was being served and the Live Auction and dancing were coming up. The Clubhouse, donated to us by Ted Raymond, was filled with over 170 ECTA guests.

Master of Ceremony, Scott Solombrino, did a great job running the evening program. Jerry and Kat Kenney were honored for all their work in raising \$24,000 for ECTA this year. Auctioneer Don Little broke down the house with his lively jokes and hard work raising bids for ECTA. The Association grossed approximately \$40,000.

Many thanks for a successful night go to Katy Redmond, Carol Lloyd, Amy Halleran, Holly Shepard, Amy Waterman, Alice Winthrop, Ruth McClain, Susanna Coloredo, Linda Donovan, Pam Mansfield, Kathy Cook, Craig Simpson, Susie Banta Lowery, Leslie Brooks, Kay Joseph and Mike Reed of Turner Hill.

Each rider had to check in there, then was given the second point, and thus in similar fashion to the finish. Riders could select their own route between points. However, it soon became clear that a person who had the best knowledge of the countryside and who had a fast horse in top condition either won or placed in the top group of finishers. This discouraged those of lesser ability. To remedy this defect, teams of three or four were selected, with at least one member who knew the country well. Each team included horses of different speeds, ability, and condition as well as riders of different abilities. Each team had to check in at each point (as a team) before that team was released to the next check point, and also had to finish as a team, otherwise they were disqualified. These changes reduced speed and otherwise proved effective.

But what was there for riders who did not compete and the spectators to do? They developed their own point to point, via automobiles! While cars had to stay on roads, team members could get out and go on foot to clue points. The team with the least time won. However, speed and dangerous

driving nearly caused heart failures and accidents, hence the change of rules to the team having the least care mileage and time won. Like the horse event, check-ins at every point were required, and all team members had to finish together to qualify. Both these events are no longer taking place, but they were exciting and fun.

In more recent times other horse-related events have come to pass using Willowdale and other country. Carriage events, cross-country pacing, events, etc.

Had it not been for Bradley Palmer's foresight, efforts during his lifetime and generosity, his former five square miles of property would not have existed for our use and enjoyment. Please treat it all with tender loving care, just as he did. We further admonish all who use it not to smoke, be careful of where and how you ride (particularly where wet and soggy), leave no debris (including, but not limited to items that could harm a horse) and pick up what you see, report damage to jumps or grounds to officials, as well as any incident or action by anyone that is neither of good conduct or not respectful of others or the property.



Fall Foliage Ride October 22, 2006 - Waldingfield



New Procedure for Membership Renewals in 2007

Shortly members will receive the letter reminding them to renew their ECTA membership for 2007. In that renewal package you will find:

- 1). A membership envelope.
- 2) An equestrian permit for use on Myopia Hunt trails and the Schooling Field.
- 3) The ECTA Waiver and Release of Liability form.
- 4) An application for the "Green Horses" program required for riders using the Trustees of Reservations property/Appleton Farms (with a TTOR return envelope).

As in previous years, if you wish to use the Appleton Farms trails, you MUST be a member of both ECTA and of TTOR. However, in order to receive a 2007 trail "Tag" to ride on the Appleton Farm trails, you will need to return the enclosed TTOR renewal/membership form DIRECTLY to the Appleton Farms office.

ECTA will ONLY issue ECTA trail tags and will no longer be issuing the TTOR tags. Those trail tags will come directly from the Appleton Farms office.

Our membership year is from January 1st to December 31st. Completed membership forms and dues should be returned as promptly as possible in order to receive the ECTA 2007 trail tags. TTOR has a rolling membership, which begins upon your renewal or application for new membership, and must be renewed twelve months from that date.



*Opening Meet
2006
Myopia Hunt
at
Waldingfield*

Letters (continued)

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 and inter-related 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.

Enhanced enforcement capacity and increased penalties for illegal riding.

Clear and consistent education efforts from manufacturers, dealers, clubs, law enforcement, land managers, media and community information sources which promote responsible riding and direct riders to legal trails and away from illegal trails.

The agency will be making a decision in the near future regarding the final version. Until those criteria are finalized, DCR will not speculate on the suitability of any property for motorized trail recreation. In fact, while the *Globe* reported "no comment" when I was asked if Willowdale would be considered for ORV use, my

more complete response was that "it would be inappropriate to comment or speculate on any property until the criteria are in place."

DCR appreciates your concerns and advocacy for the Willowdale State Forest. Our state forests and parks began more than a century ago as a result of similar citizen action and they will continue to enjoy their greatest protection with such active advocacy. Please feel free to contact me at 617-626-1454 or via email at gary.briere@state.ma.us if you have any questions.

Gary M. Briere - Chief, Bureau of Recreation - Massachusetts Dept. of Conservation and Recreation

Legislative Victory for Land Conservation – Congress acts to support conservation of family farms and ranches

Washington, D.C. August 4, 2006 – New land conservation tax benefits for family farmers and ranchers are included in just-passed pension reform legislation, now awaiting the President's signature. The new law will combine an adjusted tax incentive for land conservation with common sense reforms to ensure the public benefit of conservation donations.

The new law extends the carry-forward period for tax deductions for voluntary conservation agreements

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from 5 to 15 years and raises the cap on those deductions from 30 percent of a donor's adjusted gross income to 50 percent – and to 100 percent for qualifying farmers and ranchers. This allows ranchers, farmers and other modest-income landowners to get a much larger benefit for donating very valuable development rights to their land.

Voluntary conservation agreements, also known as conservation easements, are an important tool for land conservation. When landowners donate voluntary conservation agreements, they protect resources important to the public by giving up future development rights, while retaining ownership and management of the land.

After the recent winds, walk the trails. Toss branches to the side, pick up trash. Everything helps.

Memorial for Zipper

He had a sense of adventure - a willingness to go places, to experience new things — especially at a gallop. He loved hard work, the repetition of dressage and the experience of learning the difference between shoulder-in and half pass. He hated too much affection, grooming and especially mane pulling. But he loved jumping, lying in the sun, and eating apples from your hand (watch your fingers!). The sight of the horse trailer made his heart pump with excitement and there was nothing better than a cold hose down after a hot trail ride.

After battling degenerative ligament failure, Zipper (Tiger's Image, 17.2 H bay TB gelding) was euthanized last weekend at age 26. Zipper was my first horse and best friend for almost 9 years. When I first met him in 1997 I knew he was special. He carried himself with confidence and pride, typical of the alpha-male. When I got on his back, we just fit. It was as I'd always

Doing Our Part

At the trailer...

Please show respect for the privilege of parking your trailer at the beach or the parks. Clean up all manure, hay, and shavings and leave the parking area without leaving a mess behind.

On the trails...

Curb your horse? Yes, manure is becoming an issue with walkers, joggers, bike riders, and families with small children. Whenever possible, avoid leaving piles of horse manure when you're out riding, especially in the middle of trails or on private driveways and near lawns. If you can sweep it aside, it will help avoid ill feelings among non-riders!

Trail Alerts

Hamilton

The Gardner property is seasonally closed to horses.

Please check the ECTA website for the latest trail information, especially to verify trail closings and openings in winter and spring.

Deer Hunting Season

Archery Oct 16 to Nov 25
Shotgun Nov 27 to Dec 9
Muzzleloader Dec 11 to Dec 30
Hunting is not allowed on Sundays. Always be aware of your surroundings and wear bright colored clothing.



Robin Dorogusker riding Zipper at Crane Beach, left, and Cathy Taylor and Zipper taking the blue in a dressage test, right.

dreamed it would be since I was 8 years old when I desperately wanted my own horse.

Zipper had been owned by Cathy Taylor for the previous 9 years. In that time he learned how to live in a stall and occasionally control his desire to run at a flat out gallop. He became an accomplished event and dressage competitor and finally a willing companion and teacher. He had been seen winning hunter paces, going off course at the Poker Ramble, and often on Crane's Beach. He will be greatly missed.

Robin Dorogusker, Boxford, MA.

Hold the Date

ECTA's 12th Equine Expo and Sale will take place on **Saturday, April 21, 2007**. Sponsors, patrons and volunteers are needed for this important event. Donations of new and used items are being accepted now for the ECTA's table and the silent auction. Please call Kay at 978-768-6275 or Sue at 978-468-7715 or email us at kljoreo@aol.com or sjmclaughlin@verizon.net for pickup.



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