



A View from the Chair

Peter Campot

As I write this, we are nearing the end of another successful year for our organization. I don't believe we have ever accomplished more as an organization than we have this past year. We have tried to capture and share with you a good portion of what has transpired over the last twelve months and even though what you will see may seem impressive, I can assure you we have actually accomplished much more.

The staff and the Board, with numerous volunteers, have worked tirelessly to preserve and protect our trail system and they all deserve a very large Thank You. But in addition to what you see here, a lot of what we do never makes the inside of the newsletter. For instance, there has not been a day this year that one of us was not working on either trying to preserve a trail permanently or trying to keep trails open within our 450-mile trail network.

For the most part, we have been very successful; our landowners have been gracious, cooperative, and understanding; they recognize, as we do, the importance of access to the open space and the beautiful places we all share and benefit from. They also recognize the need for all of us to work together.

Unfortunately, we have also had a few instances where trails have been closed either temporarily or permanently. We are working diligently to either re-open these trails or establish alternative routes. And although these instances are few, it reminds us of how important it is to value and respect all of our landowners. Without their cooperation and support, our trail system would

Continued on page 10



Kicking off a great day of volunteering with the REI grant presentation

Volunteers Complete Trail Work at Dow Brook

Earlier this year, ECTA approached the Town of Ipswich Open Space Program about potential trail work at the Dow Brook Conservation Area. This 34 acre parcel, purchased by the town of Ipswich in 2003, includes two reservoirs, the Dow Brook Reservoir and the Bull Brook Reservoir.

Trails on this property are frequented by hikers, runners, mountain bikers and horseback riders. The trail network provides access to birdwatching and fly fishing locations, offers great loop trails for shorter walks, and also links to the Bay Circuit Trail.

Beth O'Connor, the Open Space Stewardship Coordinator, met with Alex Van Alen to identify the areas most in need of repair. This included an approximately 100-foot section of trail crossing through a wetland area that was muddy under the best of conditions and

submerged in wet conditions!

ECTA worked with the Ipswich Conservation Commission to reroute the trail to a smaller wetland area that could be crossed by boardwalk. With the Town's support, ECTA then applied for and received grant funding from REI for this project.

On November 3rd, twenty-eight volunteers from ECTA, REI, Americorps, the Bay Circuit Trail Alliance and the Town of Ipswich joined us for a Trail Work Day to close off the muddy section of trail, clear the new trail and start construction of the boardwalk.

With so many volunteers, we were able to accomplish more than we had originally set out to do! By the end of the day, the new trail was in place and marked with trail signs, the old trail was blocked with brush and debris, the boardwalk was about 90% complete, and we

Continued on page 10

ECTA Board of Directors

Peter Campot, Chair
Susan Lawrence, Vice Chair
Liz Wheaton, Treasurer
Susie Banta
Felicity Beech
Susanna Colloredo
Haskell Crocker
Ann Getchell
Deborah Hamilton
Rob Martin
Dan Mayer
Joe Sandulli
Rick Silverman

ECTA Staff

Alex Van Alen **Dir. Trail Projects**
Carol Lloyd, **Dir. Trail Management**
Ashley Hill, **Outreach Coordinator**
Ray Denis, **Dir. of Development**

Trail Stewards

Essex

Kay Joseph (978.768.6275)

Hamilton

Sue McLaughlin (978.468.7715)

Diane Curr (781.316.4452)

David Smith (781.307.2020)

Bea Britton (978.468.2733)

Lucy Pingree (978.468.7942)

Liz Wheaton (978.468.7944)

Ipswich

Joe Sandulli (978.356.7163)

Rolanda Dane (978.356.6524)

Ralph Williams (978.948.7702)

Nat Pulsifer (978.356.3655)

Wenham

Deborah Stanton (978.626.8424)

Topsfield

Kathie Tremblay (978.887.8855)

Abigail Jackson (978.887.6314)

Elaine Robson (978.887.8789)

Joe Geller (978.887.9572 or 7000)

West Newbury

Ellen Alden (978.363.1170)

Felicity Beech (978.363.2021)

Deb Hamilton (978.363.5793)

Contact ECTA

PO Box 358

Hamilton, MA 01936

978-468-1133

office@ectasonline.org

www.ectasonline.org



Join Us at the New New England Sled Dog Races!

Let it snow! We are hoping this winter will bring colder and snowier weather for the New England Sled Dog Races on January 19-20*. If you have never been to the races, be sure not to miss out on this truly unique event!

Mushers of all ages will race teams of 3 to 14 dogs over a course of 4, 6, 8 or 11 miles throughout Appleton Farms, Pingree School and private landowner property. There is also a skijoring event, where a cross-country skier is harnessed directly to one or two dogs.

ECTA will once again be coordinating the volunteer effort

for the races. Positions range from parking and crowd control at the start to adjusting course fencing along the route and maintaining snow at road crossings. Volunteer orientation will be held on January 12 at 10am.

All are welcome to attend this great event. Parking is located at the Appleton Farms Grass Rides and all proceeds from parking will be donated to the race beneficiaries, including The Trustees of Reservations, Essex County Greenbelt, ECTA and the MSPCA.

**February 2-3 have been reserved as "no-snow" backup dates!*

Upcoming Events

Jan 19-20	New England Sled Dog Races at Appleton Farms
Jan 26	Ski/Hike: Appleton Farms to the Black Cow
Feb 23	Ski/Hike: Willowdale to Village Pancake House
Apr 9	Annual Meeting
Apr 27	Equine Expo
Jun 1	ECTAthlon

Visit the ECTA website at www.ectasonline.org for details and for the latest updates. Do you receive emailed updates from ECTA? If not, please be sure we have your current email address. Contact ashley@ectasonline.org to connect with us. Become a fan of ECTA on Facebook to keep up to date with ECTA happenings and give us your feedback!

Biolabs Trail Work

Have you been to the New England Biolabs campus lately? Starting in late winter with the installation of a beaver deceiver to help reduce the water level of the surrounding wetlands, the Biolabs trails have been the focus of a major trail restoration project for most of 2012.

Utilizing our Townwide Trail Management Plans, ECTA was able to work with Town of Hamilton and Town of Ipswich Conservation Commissions to permit this extensive project which included replacing broken culverts, cutting back vegetation, fixing holes and muddy sections of trail, and resurfacing the trail.



The New England Biolabs trail network is open to the public and permits all non-motorized activities, including hiking, running, dog walking, horseback riding, biking and cross-country skiing. With a mix of wetland areas, open meadows, and forest, it is a great spot for birding and wildlife viewing. Trails can be accessed from Fellows Road and County Road in Ipswich and Gardner Street in Hamilton.



We would like to recognize the many organizations and individuals who made this project possible: The Recreational Trails Program of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, New England Biolabs, Inc., The Fields Pond Foundation, Hamilton-Wenham Open Lands Trust, Beaver Deceivers International, Mayer Tree, Arthur Page, The Town of Ipswich, The Town of Hamilton and all of our supporting members!



For more information on the New England Biolabs trails please visit our website at www.ectaonline.org.



Trails & Sails Events

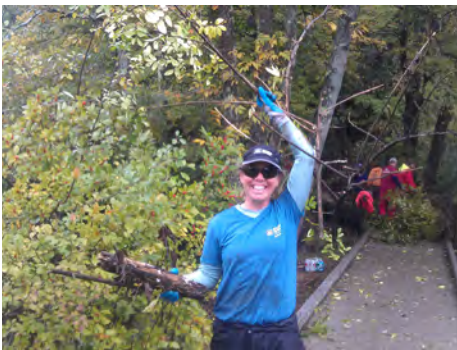
Thank you to everyone who participated in the ECTA - Essex Heritage Trails & Sails events this September. Walkers and volunteers found that even on a misty morning, there is still fun to be had on the trails!

On Saturday, September 22nd, Board Member Deb Hamilton led a group of walkers on a trail walk through the Riverbend Conservation Area in West Newbury. They crossed over the Indian River to explore some of the new trails created this summer by volunteers.

On Saturday, September 29th, we had two great events to choose from! Carol Lloyd, Director of Trail Management, introduced walkers to the recently re-routed Discover Hamilton Trail. A new leg of the trail starts at Patton Park, so that walkers no longer have to start at the Hamilton Town Hall and walk along Rt 1A. The walk continued through the Pingree Reservation and Bradley Palmer State Park. Most of the group ended here after nearly 5 miles, but a few ambitious walkers continued on with Carol to complete the full loop of almost 10 miles!

Our friends at REI organized a trail work day with the staff at DCR's Bradley Palmer State Park. We worked on the Accessible Trail, clearing overgrowth from the river side of the boardwalk. The brush, mostly invasive species such as buckthorn and bittersweet, completely blocked any views to the Ipswich River. We cleared out the invasives and left beneficial shrubs like native winterberry holly. Now everyone can enjoy a scenic view of the river, and it will be much easier for park staff to maintain regrowth in this area.

Special thanks to Mayer Tree and Stihl for donating great new tools for our volunteers!



8th Annual Run for the Trails

Although we arrived at the Myopia Schooling Field on Saturday, September 15th to gray skies and mist, the weather turned just in time for our annual Run for the Trails event! The cool September weather was perfect for the 5-mile and 10-mile trail run loops that started at the Schooling Field and followed trails through the Harvard Forest, Pingree Reservation and Rich Properties.

119 competitors joined us for the event, with 37 entered in the 5-mile and 82 in the 10-mile. Our runners ranged in age from 15 to 72 and came from MA, NH and RI. We even had two entries from Indiana who were here on vacation and found our event online!

Most of the competitors really enjoyed the new route this year, though a few of the race veterans missed the brutal climb up Scilly's Hill!

Thank you to all of our volunteers who made this event possible, to our event sponsors and to our landowners including the Myopia Schooling Field Trust, Essex County Greenbelt Association and the Rich Family.

Our overall winners for the 5-Mile and 10-Mile Races were Eric Krathwohl and Sean McDonough. Congratulations to Sean who was also Overall Winner of the New England Running North Shore Trail Series!

Be sure to mark your calendars for next year's event which will be September 21st 2013. See you there!



West Newbury's Ocean Meadow Trail Work Creates Vital Link

In 2006, the Town of West Newbury acquired a trail easement as part of the permitting for the Ocean Meadow development off of Main Street. When completed, this easement will link the Maina easement and Middle and Garden Streets to the east of the property with the Dunn Property trails, Pipestave Hill and Mill Pond west of Ocean Meadow.

One of the requirements for the easement was the construction of a 60' boardwalk through the wetlands portion of the open space parcel. Working closely with the West Newbury Open Space Committee, ECTA permitted and designed the boardwalk, which would need to allow for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians.

With an original ticket price of \$11,000, the boardwalk was a stretch for ECTA's limited budget. However, funding raised by the West Newbury Riding & Driving Club, along with private donors, helped cover a significant part of the cost. Volunteers organized by Steve Greason and the Open Space Committee further reduced the cost by almost \$4,500.

Carpenter Bob Weatherall designed the boardwalk, managed the construction work and helped oversee

the many volunteers, including Steve Greason, Hayden Weatherall, Ellen Alden, Felicity and Paul Beech, Cindy Foote, Deb Hamilton, Jean Lambert, Judy Mizner, Rick Parker, Patricia Reeser, and Jason Spaulding.

Trail work on the open space parcel of the property is complete, and the remaining trail section across the developed parcel will be opened when construction of the Ocean Meadow housing units is finished.



ECTA Trail Maps

Make sure to visit our website to see trail maps of all publicly accessible spaces in our areas. Printed trails maps available at:

Ipswich

River's Edge Gifts
Ipswich Bikes
Town Hall
Ipswich Visitor Center

Wenham

Wenham Sports Stop
ECTA Office

Beverly

Pinnacle Bikes
New England Running Co.

Topsfield

Gil's Grocery
Topsfield Bike Shop

West Newbury

GAR Library
West Newbury Food Mart

Hamilton

Green Meadows Farm

Reading

REI

Look for our updated Ipswich trail map this spring!

ECTA Welcomes Ray Denis

We are very excited to welcome a new member to the ECTA team! Ray Denis joins us as the Director of Development.

Ray has worked as Development Officer for Leadership and Major Gifts with the MSPCA, Director of Development with the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center in Newburyport, and Director of Development at the Salem Animal Rescue League in Salem, NH. He has been a development, marketing & public relations consultant for the Kent School and Town Hill Farm in Connecticut, and the Equine Welfare Committee in Hamilton.

In addition to his work in development, Ray is also a USEF Dressage & Combined Training Technical Delegate and USEA Event Organizer. He has worked with the Groton House Farm Horse Trials in Hamilton for many years.

Ray's goal is "to further enhance every involved individual's relationship, commitment and participation within the structure of

the ECTA. Together, we are the new ECTA generation that will make this important organization ultimately the best it can be."

Ray's background in successfully bringing smaller organizations to a new level, his energy and enthusiasm, and his history of living and working in our area make him a perfect fit for ECTA! Thank you for joining us, Ray!



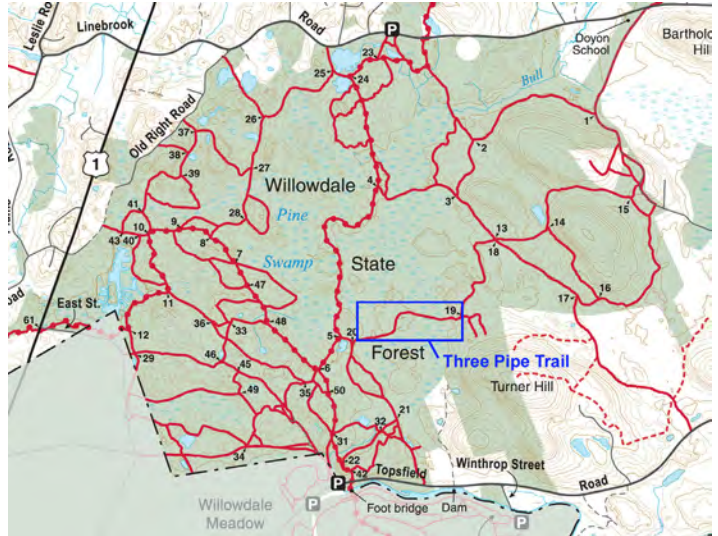
Ray can be contacted at: 978-468-1133 or ray@ectaonline.org

Willowdale Three Pipe Trail

The "Three Pipe" trail at Willowdale State Forest is an important link through the heart of this public trail network. Failed culverts and an increase in water level have caused this trail to be under water during much of the year. Working closely with the Town of Ipswich Conservation Commission, and DCR Park Staff, ECTA received approval to replace the culverts and repair portions of the trail.

The trail is in beautiful condition now and has received great feedback from bikers, walkers, runners and equestrians.

Gil's Athletic club recently held their annual Stone Cat Trail Race in Willowdale, which includes the Three Pipe trail. Course records were set on both the marathon and 50-mile races, which was attributed to the lack of water! We would like to thank GAC for their contribution of partial funding for this project.



Endless Summer Party

Over 300 ECTA supporters joined us on September 7th, 2012 for a night of music, dancing and celebration under the tents at the Boston Equestrian Classic.

Despite rumbles of thunder and reports of showers just south of us, the weather was on our side and it turned out to be a perfect evening to celebrate ECTA and the final days of summer!

The Endless Summer Party was envisioned as a fun event to bring all trail users together to support ECTA and we had runners, mountain bikers, dog walkers, paddlers, birders and equestrians all out for the evening.

Johnny Carwash started the night off right with vintage surf music while guests enjoyed appetizers from Chrissi's Fine Catering. Board Member Susanna Colloredo-Mansfeld and Director of Development Ray Denis welcomed guests and highlighted ECTA's mission to protect and maintain the trails in our 450-mile trail network.

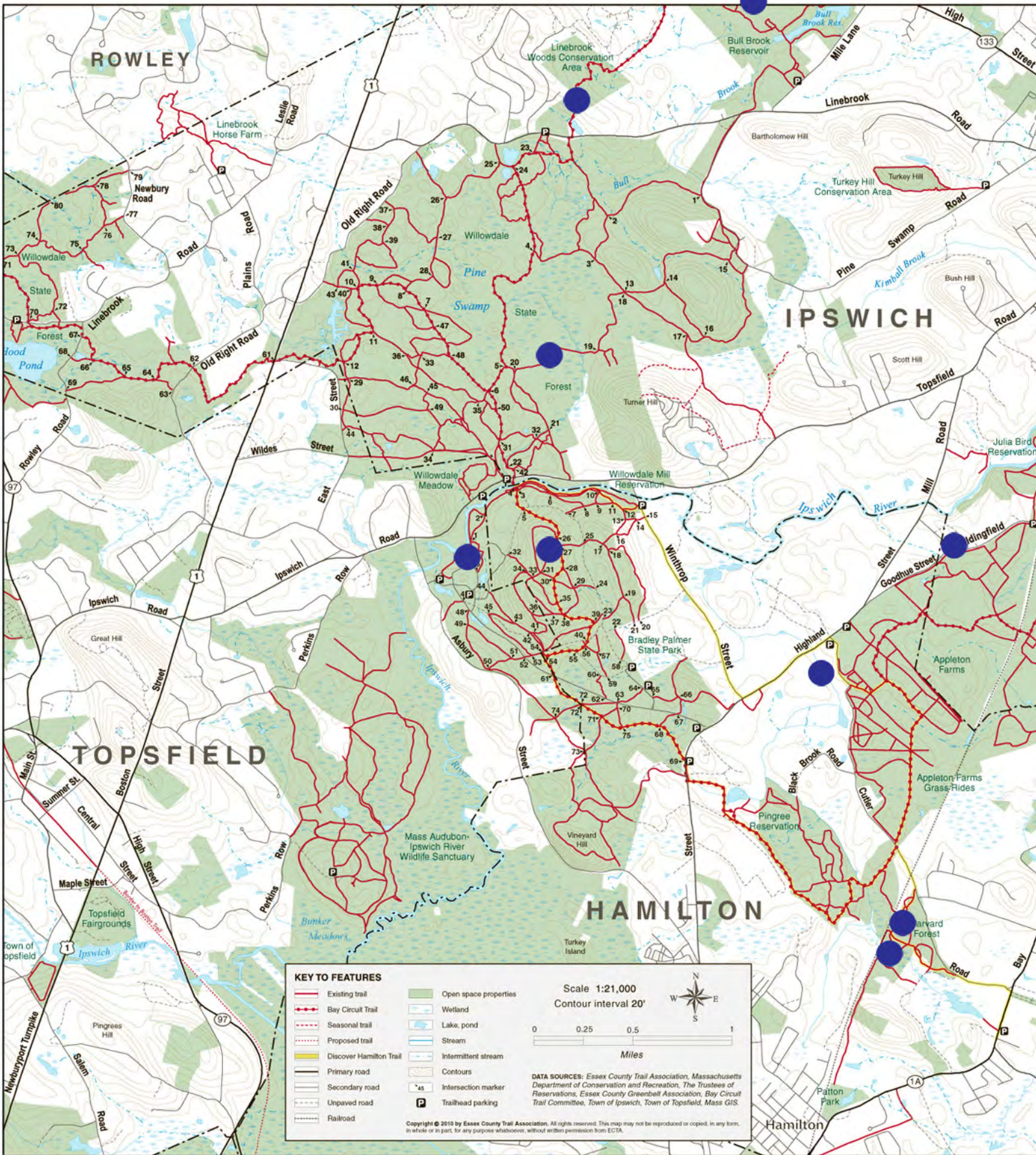
The Runaround Sound then got everyone out on the dance floor with their reggae/ska-infused take on some old favorites and new hits.

The Endless Summer Raffle draw capped off the night with fantastic prizes donated by local businesses and individuals.

ECTA *could not* (and we mean that!) have run this event without the help of the following amazing volunteers: Haskell Crocker, Rob Martin, Dan Mayer & Family, Chris Pulick, Elisabeth Pundt, Dominic Olivo, Ed McCarthy, Mike Collins, Adam Parrott, Abigail Scherer-Hoock, Shana Cortez, Nancy Luther, Patricia Mack, Allison Crocker, Carolyn McIver, Joe Sandulli, Felicity Beech, The Lawrences, The Wheatons, Emily Getchell, Cassius Grenot, Andrew Gibson, Uly Grenot, Lucius Reibe and Hilary Cole.

We are already looking forward to planning our 2013 event! *If you would like to join the Endless Summer Committee, please contact Ashley at ashley@ectasonline.org.*





ROWLEY

IPSWICH

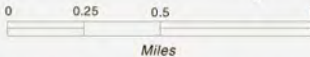
TOPSFIELD

HAMILTON

KEY TO FEATURES

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Existing trail | Open space properties |
| Bay Circuit Trail | Wetland |
| Seasonal trail | Lake, pond |
| Proposed trail | Stream |
| Discover Hamilton Trail | Intermittent stream |
| Primary road | Contours |
| Secondary road | Intersection marker |
| Unpaved road | Trailhead parking |
| Railroad | |

Scale 1:21,000
Contour interval 20'



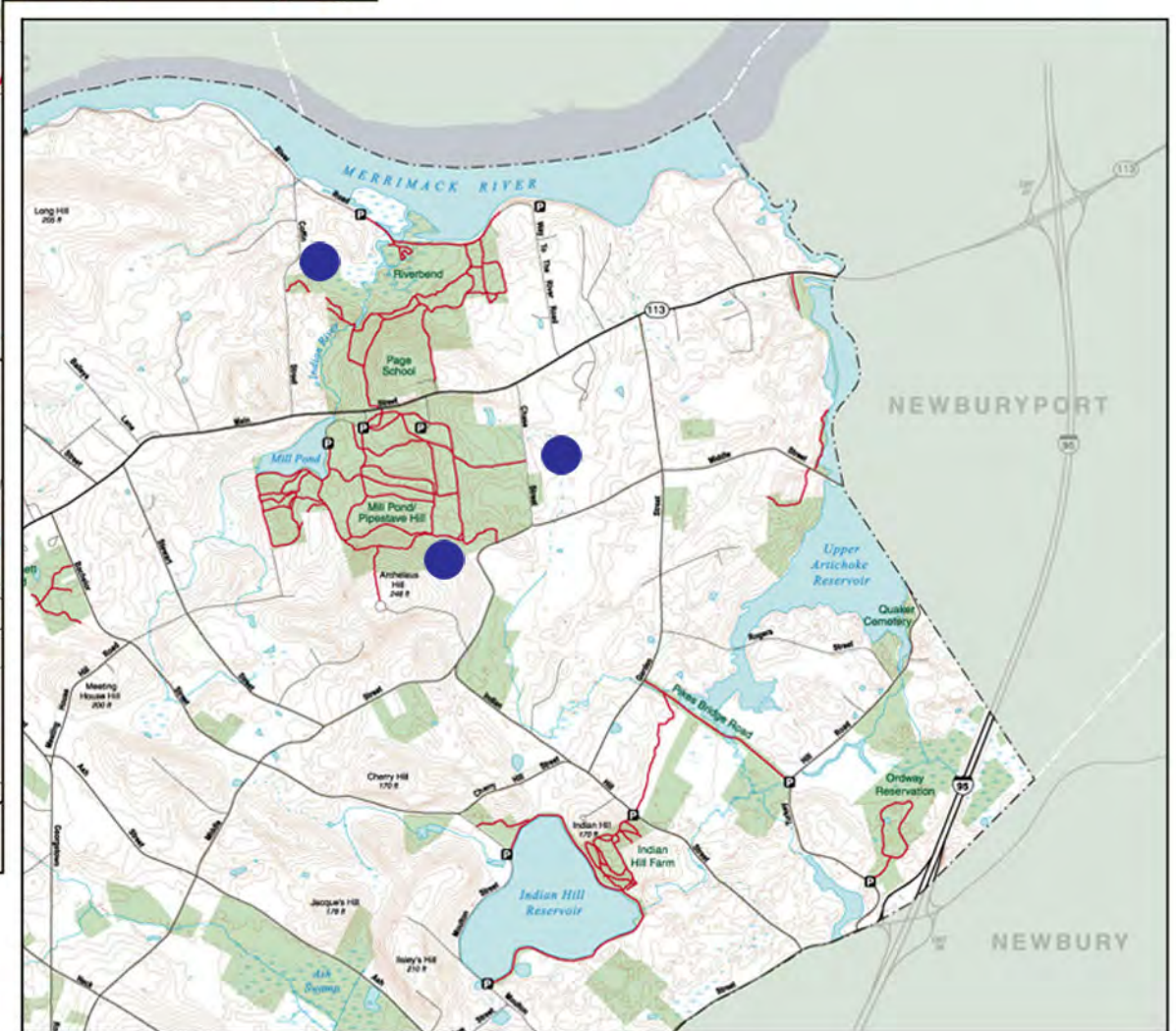
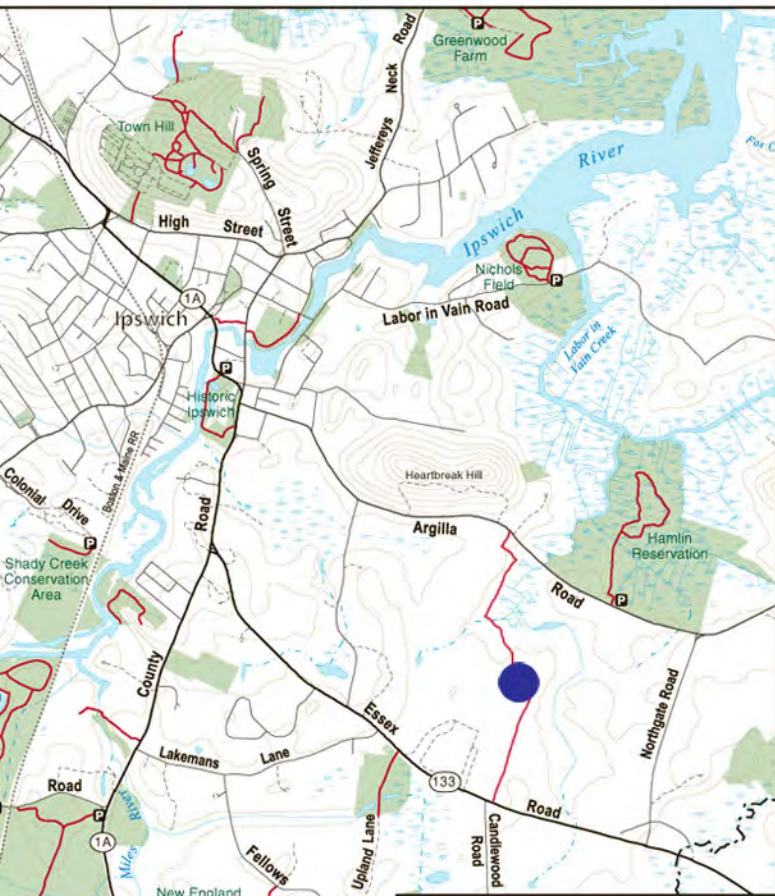
DATA SOURCES: Essex County Trail Association, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, The Trustees of Reservations, Essex County Greenbelt Association, Bay Circuit Trail Committee, Town of Ipswich, Town of Topsfield, Mass GIS.

Copyright © 2010 by Essex County Trail Association. All rights reserved. This map may not be reproduced or copied, in any form, in whole or in part, for any purpose whatsoever, without written permission from ECITA.

Trail Projects Completed in 2012

Below are some of the trail projects completed this year, and sites in the Crosstown and West Newbury areas are shown on the maps.

- Installed new beaver deceiver at New England Biolabs (Ham/Ips)
- Repaired causeway between Bay Rd and Bridge St (Hamilton)
- Cleared downed trees in Linebrook Woods (Ipswich)
- Resurfaced trail, mowed and re-signed Maplecroft Trail (Ipswich)
- Installed new boardwalk on Discover Hamilton Trail (Hamilton)
- Replaced washed out boardwalk on Discover Hamilton Trail (Ham)
- Rerouted Discover Hamilton Trail off Cutler St and Highland Rd and re-signed entire trail (Hamilton)
- Re-surfaced bridge and repaired footing on trail near bridge at Donovan/Sagamore Hill (Hamilton)
- Mowed Trails at Donovan Ballfields/Woods (Hamilton)
- Negotiated the rerouting of the Donovan/Sagamore Hill Trail (Hamilton)
- Repaired muddy area on Donovan Ballfields Trail (Hamilton)
- Permitted & constructed Ocean Meadow Trail boardwalk (WN)
- Brushcut edges of Moon Hil at Bradley Palmer Park (Hamilton)
- Brushcut trails at New England Biolabs and Hamilton-Wenham Open Lands Trust properties (Ipswich/Hamilton)
- Cleared invasive vegetation from Accessible Trail at Bradley Palmer State Park (Topsfield)
- Replaced 3 culverts and repaired trail at Willowdale State Forest (Topsfield/Ipswich)
- Rerouted trail & constructed boardwalk at Dow Brook (Ipswich)



Mapping support by
CENTER FOR COMMUNITY GIS
www.community-gis.org
 A program of QLI/MapInfo Center for the Environment

Dow Brook Trail Work (cont'd.)

were able to add stone to several other sections of the trail that were either wet or uneven.

Thanks to all of our volunteers who spent a brisk November morning with us at Dow Brook: Dani Christopher, Bryn Barror, Janet Egan, Larry Eliot, David Feldman, Michael Higgins & Family, Martha Mauser, Ed Murphy, Mike Pearlman, Chris Sandulli, Ralph Williams, Stanley Wood, Dennis Dixon, Kevin Gmyrek, Beth O'Connor, Dave Christmas, Kim Pedersen, Catherine Carney-Feldman, Rick McNeill and Joshua Regula.

We would like to give special recognition to the volunteers who stayed on after lunch to continue to work on this project with designer and carpenter Bob Weatherall: Mike McGarty, Zach Abuzza, Dave Carpenter, Rick Silverman, Steve Haberek and Norm Marsh.

Keep posted for information on the next trail work day this spring - we hope that you will join us!



A View from the Chair (cont'd.)

ultimately be greatly diminished. All of this takes a tremendous amount of dedication and commitment from not only ECTA's staff, Board members and volunteers, but from each and every trail user every single day.

We need your help in getting the word out. Our trail system is a privilege not a right. We need to treat the trails, our landowners and each other with the greatest respect if we are to be successful going forward. I hope you all join me in this effort, and also I hope to see you at some of our wonderful events in 2013. By the time you read this with any luck from Mother Nature I will be out cross country skiing, preparing for one of our annual cross country treks. Hope to see you out there!

Happy Trails,
Peter



Volunteer Spotlight

As a relatively small organization, we are very fortunate to have such a fantastic and dedicated group of volunteers who support us throughout the year in many ways. In this issue we are recognizing two volunteers who help us in very different but equally important roles!

In June we posted a simple request on our Facebook Page asking for volunteers for the summer fundraising party committee. This netted a single response from **Elisabeth Pundt**, who turned out to be an essential part of the Endless Summer team!

Elisabeth joined on when all we had was a date, location and a few ideas...and less than three months to pull it off! In addition to countless hours spent planning the event, Elisabeth provided many of the raffle items, rallied volunteers and worked all day and night at the Endless Summer party!

Although she grew up in Manchester-by-the-Sea, Elisabeth spend much of her time riding on the trails in Ipswich and Hamilton, and got to know ECTA through trail riding and the Equine Expo. Today she keeps her 12 year old Quarter Horse in Ipswich and manages to find time to trail ride with friends 3-5 times a week in between her two jobs and photography work! The trails at Groton House are her favorite, since she was once a working student there.

When asked what she enjoys most about ECTA, Elisabeth replied, "The

generosity of all of the private landowners. Being able to ride through some of the most beautiful properties is such a blessing. It's such a gift to be able to experience such amazing trails. I love being able to go out for a 15-mile trail ride and never crossing the same path twice. Every ride is truly an adventure." Well said Elisabeth!!

Peter Britton, owner of Brick Ends Farm in South Hamilton, has been an ECTA member since our start 30 years ago. As an avid jogger, hiker, cross-country skier, snowshoer, rock climber and kayaker, Peter certainly keeps in shape and finds many ways to enjoy the trails!

With easy access to agricultural equipment (like a 14' batwing mower), Peter has been instrumental in improving and maintaining the trails on and around the farm and the Asbury Street area. Peter's trail work includes mowing Moon Hill at Bradley Palmer State Park on a regular basis. He and his wife Bea feel that this work is important not only for their own enjoyment of the trails, but so that "people of all outdoor stripes - walkers, bikers, joggers, horsefolk - enjoy the beauty of our extensive network of trails and protected open space."

To further promote this concept of trail stewardship, Peter and Bea recently granted a trail easement on their property. "We all live about 25 miles from downtown Boston and are lucky enough to have passed to us a legacy of a huge acreage of preserved open-space, available for public enjoyment." Peter encourages others to

consider granting trail easements or making gifts of land to help ensure the future of open space for recreational use and agriculture.

"Bea and I find little reason to travel far from this Essex County preserve because it is so extensive and passionately attended to. The message to others is to join in and be passionate keepers of this extensive magical kingdom of trails, fields, forests, and marsh."



Elisabeth Pundt



Peter Britton

2012 Lead Sponsors



Sustaining Sponsors

REI, New England Biolabs, Inc.

Grant & Foundation Funding

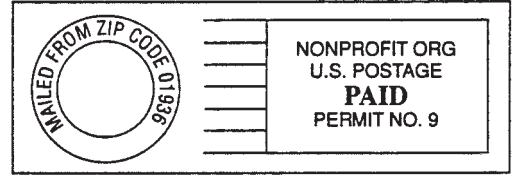
REI
NE Biolabs, Inc. Giving Program
NE Biolabs Foundation
Fields Pond Foundation
Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation

Fall Event Sponsors

Salem Five Bank
Turkey Shore Distilleries
First National Bank of Ipswich
Ipswich Ale Brewery
Chrissi's Fine Catering
Manchester Athletic Club
Brinck Lowery
Coastal Greengrocer
New England Running Co.
The Boston Equestrian Classic
Mayer Tree



Essex County Trail Association
P.O. Box 358
Hamilton, MA 01936



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.

