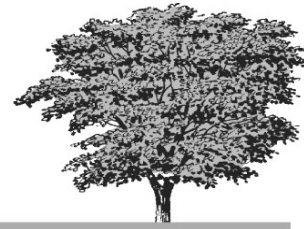


East Quabbin LAND TRUST



Please Welcome Our First Executive Director!

Inside this issue:

<i>President's Message</i>	2
<i>Volunteers Needed! Leave a Legacy!</i>	2
<i>58 Acres Protected!</i>	3
<i>Calendar of Upcoming Events</i>	3
<i>Ruminations by Ridge Shinn</i>	4
<i>New Tax Incentives EQLT Photo Gallery</i>	5
<i>Woods Forum</i>	6

Mark Your Calendar!

- Open House at EQLT Headquarters, Sept. 20
- Rail Trail Work Days Sept. 30 and Oct. 21
- Family Cookout Oct. 14
- Woods Forum Nov. 29

EQLT welcomes Cynthia Henshaw as our first Executive Director!

Cynthia comes to the East Quabbin Land Trust with direct experience in land conservation and stewardship, board development and volunteer building, grant writing and fundraising. She was the Director of Community Forest Programs at the New England Forestry Foundation and was responsible for the outreach and educational efforts on NEFF owned forests. In this capacity, she developed an extensive volunteer network and annual event days where over twenty walks were lead on NEFF forests throughout New England.

Prior positions at NEFF included land protection specialist and com-

munications coordinator for the Pin-gree Forest Partnership. A key land conservation project was the Chestnut Hill Neighborhood conservation effort where Cynthia facilitated the conservation of nearly 1,000 acres with eight landowners and Mass. DEM. Prior to joining NEFF, Cynthia was a Service Forester for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Program Associate with the Mass. Forest Stewardship Program and Office Manager at Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust. Cynthia holds a Master in Forestry from the Yale Forestry School and BA in Biology from Colby College. She lives with her husband John, fourteen-month-old daughter Gabriella, and their dog Dakota in Templeton.

Please feel free to contact Cynthia with any questions or ideas you may have. She has office hours Wednesday afternoons and by appointment.



Message from the President

Dear Friends:

Our great achievement this year is bringing on Cynthia Henshaw as our new Executive Director.

Thanks to a generous 3-year challenge grant we are able to match dedicated contributions to this position dollar for dollar. 100% of the members of the board have financially supported the hiring of the new Executive Director. We need to continue to fundraise for this position and hope you will support us in this and in Cynthia's fine work.

The next initiative that is foremost in our minds is the Ware River Rail Trail. With the help of the Central Highlands Conservancy we have been able to pre-acquire 3.2 miles of rail trail formerly owned by the Mass Central Railroad in Hardwick, New Braintree and Wheelwright. This is part of a larger rail trail corridor running from Boston to Northampton.

We have \$750,000 in federal grant monies earmarked for this project once we have finished the acquisition. We must raise \$70,000 now to acquire the trail from Central Highlands and then we will begin the process of raising an additional \$90,000 for costs detailed in our project budget.

So far, towards our goal, we have received grant monies from the Fields Pond Foundation and the New England Grassroots Environ-

mental Fund, as well as pledges from individuals.

It may seem that we are always asking for more and more money. I would argue that with each project we take on we are building on our momentum as a growing regional land conservation force and our efforts are rewarded many-fold.

In the last year we achieved 2,000 acres in lands conserved. Our membership has grown, our bird club is active and growing, and our projects are ever-increasing in complexity and diversity.

In short, your contributions are going further than ever to accomplish our important mission of conserving the natural, historical, agricultural and recreational character of our region.

Please continue to give often and generously. We have important work to do and we need your help!

Best regards,

Stan White
President

Volunteers Needed!

There are many facets of successfully running a land trust... whether you like to be indoors or out, have a couple hours a week, month or year, we welcome your volunteer help. EQLT has recently formed committees to focus on land stewardship, land conservation, finance, fundraising, events and educational programs. Let us know what you like to do and we could use your help. Please call Cynthia at 413-477-8229 for more information.

Leave a Legacy!

We welcome the opportunity to talk with you personally and confidentially about your interest in a philanthropic bequest to the East Quabbin Land Trust.

Please contact Cynthia Henshaw, Executive Director at 413-477-8229 or chenshaw@eqlt.org

Have you already named the East Quabbin Land Trust as a beneficiary in your estate plans?

If so, please let us know so that we may express our gratitude.

Requests for anonymity will be strictly honored.



Lands Protected: CR on 58 Acres with Deer Park!

Hardwick, MA—A permanent conservation restriction has been generously donated to the EQLT by Mr. Paul Gabens of Michigan, the heir and executor of Paul Vitkus. This 58-acre parcel expands the corridor of already protected lands, further enhancing the ecological integrity of the east Quabbin region. The land is fully forested with a mixture of pine and hardwoods. The land on Simpson Road includes an 18thc. Deer Park, a partial acre fully enclosed by a high stone wall for keeping deer. The land includes a vernal pool identified by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. The land is open to the public for non-motorized activities.

EQLT Upcoming Events:

Open House Features Warren Tyler's Birds & Animals:

Wednesday, September 20, 7 to 9 p.m.

Please join us at this open house at our headquarters on 120 Ridge Road in Hardwick, which features nearly 70 birds and animals that were collected by Warren Tyler of North Brookfield. A peacock, alligator, osprey and great blue heron are among the largest specimens. Many smaller birds and animals are also part of the collection, which is on loan from the Hoston Free Public Library in North Brookfield. The specimens were collected and mounted nearly 100 years ago.



Rail Trail Work Days: Saturday, September 30 and Saturday, October 21, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Hardwick, Creamery Road—Bring gloves, clippers, and chain saws and help us to clear brush and fallen trees from the trail. Bring a drink.

EQLT Family Cookout & Potluck: Saturday, October 14, 6 p.m.

Please come for an evening on Mandell Hill, Barre Rd., Hardwick. We will provide a grill. Bring meat, a dish to share, or dessert, marshmallows, etc. and we plan on having a campfire and hayrides and star gazing if the night is right. Bring a chair or blanket. No rain date.

Woods Forum: Wednesday, November 29, 7 to 9 p.m.

A 'Woods Forum' will be led by UMass Extension Foresters Dave Kittredge and Paul Catanzaro at the East Quabbin Land Trust headquarters. The program will be focused on the towns of the East Quabbin region. The forum will discuss the issues surrounding woodland ownership and the importance of these woodlands to local communities.

East Quabbin Bird Club Activities

Check eastquabbinbirdclub.com for up-to-date information and scheduled field trips.

Check our website: www.eqlt.org for details on other activities...

Ruminations from Mandell Hill

by Ridge Shinn, Director of the Bakewell Center

Hope all of you have had a chance to see the cattle we're raising on the EQLT Morss property on Barre Road in Hardwick.

This mix of Devon and Devon/Angus crosses are part of our 100% grass-fed beef program. One hundred percent grass-fed beef means that the cattle have had no grain, even for "finishing," because grain is unhealthy for ruminants. It also means that the meat contains a high proportion of the "good" omega 3 fatty acids and a smaller amount of the "bad" omega 6 fatty acids.

Before World War II, most ruminants were fed mostly grass and hay, but most cattle bred in the last forty years have been selected to live and finish on grain. Nevertheless, some breeds of cattle, and some individual animals



within a breed, are particularly well suited to thrive on a 100% grass or hay diet. Devons are perhaps the best of those breeds for New England because they fatten on grass and hay alone, and mature early, so the farmer doesn't have the cost of raising them through an extra winter.

The herd on the Morss farm includes three cows that were born in New Zealand and imported to this country precisely because they are superior representatives of the breed. Stop by and see if you can pick them out from the crowd. There are also a number of feeder steers with them that had Devon fathers and Black Angus mothers.

They will be harvested throughout the fall for our meat company, Hardwick Beef (www.hardwickbeef.com).

You can buy Hardwick Beef™ locally at the Peter-sham Country Store—Look for our label.

Some days you don't see the cattle in the field by the road and may wonder where they went. The cattle move every day or two to fresh grass much like the buffalo did on the plains. This means that they are constantly being moved to fresh, succulent grass and most importantly it means that the evenly manured grass they just grazed gets a chance to rest and grow back. In about a month, the cattle return for a fresh, new meal. We show the cattle where to eat with a

single strand of electric fence. It doesn't look very imposing but please avoid touching it and be careful with kids around it; the shock is unpleasant. The cattle learned about it long ago and graze right up to it and even under it but do not touch it. They have also learned that someone will soon appear to let them

into new paddock.

If you look out to the east, where we cleared about 25 acres last fall, you will see the vista that results from the clearing, but also a maze of paddocks and laneways that appeared from beneath the bittersweet tangle. These old stone walls will be cleared the rest of the way by the cattle, just as they were originally cleared.

It is exciting to see the bovines return to this land and begin to increase the fertility and production of this farm. These 100% grass-fed Devon cattle are good for the land, good for the health of the consumer, and actually help sequester carbon from the atmosphere. It would be wonderful to see cattle raised all over Hardwick again.

New Federal Tax Incentive on CR Donations

A new law expands the federal tax incentive for conservation restriction donations made in 2006 and 2007.

The law:

- Raises the deduction a landowner can take for donating a conservation easement from 30% of their income in any year to 50%;
- Allows qualifying farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100% of their income; and
- Increases the number of years over which a donor can take those deductions from 5 years to 15 years.

The law also includes sensible reforms that affect the appraisal process for all donated property and tightens the rules for easements on historic buildings. (Source: Land Trust Alliance)

EQLT Photo Gallery



Dunk Tank a Success at the Hardwick Fair!



*First Annual EQLT Dance after the Fair
Joy after Sorrow Provides Great Music!*



Rail Trail Work Day

*Thanks to our loyal volunteers:
Craig Della Penna, Chris Buelow,
Peter Schmid, Brian Klassanos.
Not shown: Jeff Schaaf, Cynthia
Henshaw, Rick Romano,
Rod & Linda Leahy,
Judith & Mary Louisa Jones*

EQLT Board of Directors & Staff

Terry Briggs—Hardwick

Chris Buelow—Hardwick

Judith Jones—New Braintree, V.P.

Martha Klassanos—Ware, Clerk

Jerry Reilly—Hardwick

Rick Romano—Hardwick, Treasurer

Jeff Schaaf—Wheelwright

Stan White—Hardwick, President

Magi Ziff—New Braintree

Marion Cooper, Staff

Cynthia Henshaw, Executive Director

EQLT Wish List:

Laptop Computer

LCD Projector

Floor lamps

Folding Tables

Outdoor Grill

P.O. Box 5
120 Ridge Road
Hardwick, MA 01037
Phone/Fax: (413) 477-8229
www.EQLT.org
Email: eqlt@comcast.net



"Preserving Rural Character Since 1994."

Our Mission :

The East Quabbin Land Trust exists to conserve the natural, historical, agricultural, and recreational character of our region. To this end we gather resources, educate, and develop and implement land-protection strategies.

Land Trust Sponsors "Woods Forum" to Answer Questions from Woodland Owners and Local Communities

At some point in every landowner's life, a decision about what to do with their woods arises. Most woodland owners don't sell land or timber frequently, and often don't know where to turn for advice for these very important decisions. It is important for landowners to know their options.

Bringing together local woodland owners to share information and experiences can create an informal, local network of contacts to help provide information at crucial decision making times. Involving those interested locally in land conservation and protection expands the network to help address larger community needs. Likewise, it is equally important for community members to know the needs of the woodland owners that pro-

vide such tremendous public benefit from their privately owned woods.

Family woodlands are the building blocks of local communities. Bringing woodland owners and conservation organizations together is an important step to achieving both landowner and community goals.

The Woods Forum will feature two short presentations by UMass Extension Foresters Dave Kittredge and Paul Catanzaro. The presentations will then lead to a discussion in which landowners can learn from both neighbors and professionals alike.

Wednesday, Nov. 29th, 7 to 9 p.m. EQLT headquarters, 120 Ridge Road, Hardwick. Open to the public. Please come.