



# Pascommuck post

Summer 2012



## The Save Open Space in Our Neighborhood Campaign

Imagine if every neighborhood in Easthampton had nearby protected open space with publicly accessible trails. With two new acquisitions, PCT is looking to make this a reality for two new neighborhoods. As you may know, the Pascommuck Conservation Trust has been working to conserve land for the last 30 years. This year, we have a rare opportunity to add a combined 30 acres to our Pomeroy Meadows and Brickyard Brook Conservation Areas. By doing so, we will not only be protecting land but making it possible for more neighborhoods in Easthampton to have trails through forests and fields right out of their door step.

To support this effort, PCT will soon be launching our, Save Open Space in Our Neighborhood, campaign to raise money to support the expansion of these two conservation areas. We have already received generous support from the Easthampton Community Preservation Act (CPA) Committee, have applied for multiple grants, and received commitments from several donors. But to fully pay for these acquisitions and to build appropriate trails, we need to raise additional funds from existing and new members and friends.

PCT actively raises money throughout the year primarily through plant sales and our annual membership drive. This annual fund raising activity helps us pay the ongoing costs of running PCT. We have annual costs for insurance, mailing, printing, accounting, and other overhead costs that are

We Support  
Open space  
in our  
neighborhood



Find out more at [www.pctland.org](http://www.pctland.org)

required to keep the organization functioning. We also have costs related to managing our conservation areas such as, surveying, mowing, and building materials. We also need to periodically pay professional arborists to remove trees that fall on our neighbors properties. With the storms of this past year, this was a very large expense.

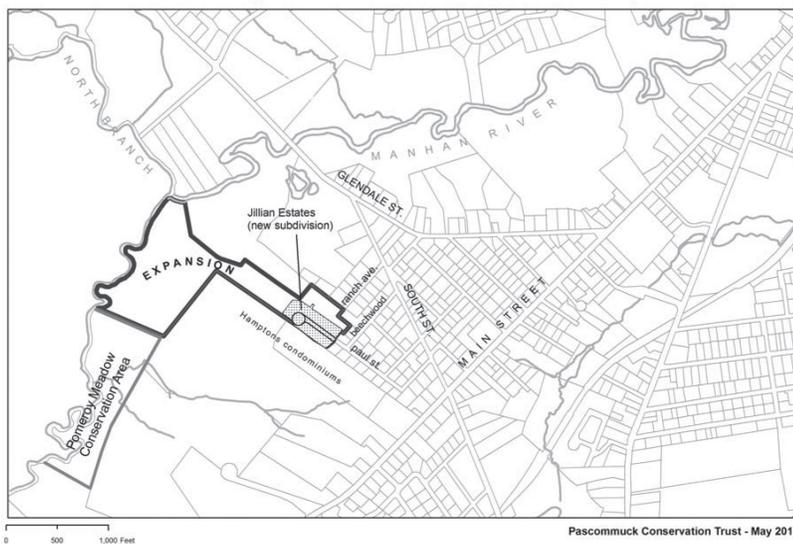
We also have regular expenses related to the protection of properties that we are either considering acquiring or that we are assisting another conservation organization to help protect. For example, we may offer to pay for an appraisal of a property to help us determine if it is feasible for PCT to acquire a property. We may also pay for an appraisal if there is an urgent need to acquire a property and other organizations do not have the flexibility to move as quickly as PCT.

This is all to say that fulfilling the mission of PCT requires money. These funds come from generous gifts from people like you and also from our fund raising activities.

But while these ongoing fund raising activities are enough for keeping the organization running, it is not adequate to purchase new properties. We are enormously proud to be expanding the Pomeroy Meadows and the Brickyard Brook Conservation Areas. Our Save Open Space in Our Neighborhood campaign is needed to pay for these acquisitions. You will soon be receiving more information about our campaign. Please be generous when considering an additional gift.

We would like to tell you a little bit more about our two acquisitions.

### **Pomeroy Meadow Conservation Area Expansion**



### ***POMEROY MEADOWS CONSERVATION AREA***

Not many people know about our Pomeroy Meadows Conservation Area. Before our recent acquisition it was a landlocked 15 acre parcel on the Manhan River. The closest landmarks are the Big Y grocery store and the Hamptons Condominiums. Across this portion of the Manhan River lies Southampton.

The majority of the property is wetland, but there is an upland component too. It helps retain the integrity of the Manhan River corridor and has four major habitats:

*The Red Maple Forest is the largest community, which includes a shrub wetland in the southern half and a floodplain red maple forest on the northern section.*

*On an elevated bench at the north end is a White Pine Forest. This stand is a good habitat for roosting or nesting owls, hawks, or crows.*

*The third community is a vernal pool almost completely filled with buttonbush.*

*The fourth community is a shallow marsh that is a beaver-flooded wetland with somewhat more diversity. In addition to buttonbush it also contains cut-grass, halberd-leaf tearthumb, dodder, and spotted touch-me-not.*

The Manhan River itself is 20-25 ft wide, 1-3 ft deep, has a silty, sandy bottom, and mud banks 6-7 ft high. It is mostly unshaded in this section. The expansion not only adds nearly 24 acres of land, but it will allow access to both properties from Ranch Ave, Paul St., and the Hamptons Condominiums. We feel very fortunate to be able to expand an existing property and to allow public access to area that was previously off-limits. The location of the property will make public open space available to the surrounding neighborhoods for the first time.

PCT is planning approximately 1 mile of hiking trails leading down to the river. The dingles and small streams on the property require some bridges and stairs for crossings. Trail easements from an adjoining neighbor were secured to make some of the trail construction easier. As grants and other funds are essential to help pay for these costs, PCT has applied for a trails grant and hopes to hear results in August 2012.

## **BRICKYARD BROOK**

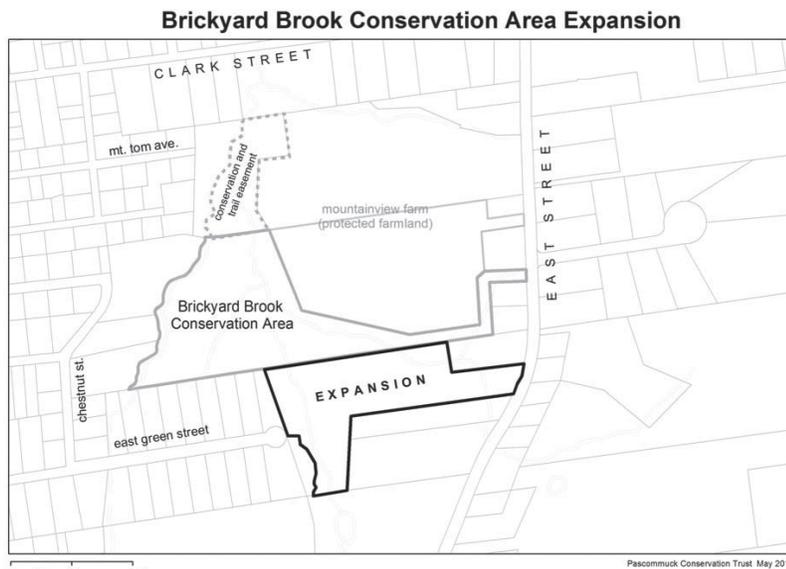
Brickyard Brook is possibly our most used conservation area. Access is available from Mt. Tom Ave and also from East Street and abuts Mountain View, a CSA farm. The property is entirely forested with a looped trail system. It is traversed by three streams that converge to form Brickyard Brook. Forest types include Mixed Hardwood, White Pine forest in the upland areas, and Red Maple forest in the lower, wet areas near the streams. The streams vary in size, ranging from 5 to 8 feet in width with banks 1 to 3 feet high. The bottoms are sandy or silty, and in summer months the flow is reduced to a trickle. Also notable is the presence of a small number of pitch pines, which are not common in Easthampton. Additionally, a small vernal pool used by breeding wood frogs, has been observed in the spring of most years.

The expansion will add 6 acres to the existing 9 acres of land, increasing the land area by nearly 40%. When combined with the Mountain View Farm, which is protected by an agricultural Preservation restriction PCT helped establish many years ago, there will be a contiguous 31 acres of protected land.

PCT has agreed to purchase the expansion from Maryanne and Robert Donais who inherited the property from Maryanne's father, Jim Mutter. We are hoping to close in early July. The expansion consists of a mix of meadow, wooded areas, and a stream on the west and southwest end which feeds into Brickyard Brook. The property includes a magnificent wildflower meadow, with a stunning view of a portion of the Mt. Tom Range.

PCT is planning to expand the Brickyard brook trail network onto the new acquisition and extend the trails to East Street and East Green St. Expansion will potentially allow expanded access from East St., including potentially a small parking area. Possible future access through the cemetery would draw in the Mayher Street, Grove Street, and Bay Avenue neighborhoods.

We hope you understand why we are calling this the Save Open Space in Our Neighborhood Campaign. If you would like to help with this campaign, please contact Doug Wheat at 413-433-3332 or [doug\\_wheat@yahoo.com](mailto:doug_wheat@yahoo.com).



# Our Annual Meeting

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commitment

Our annual meeting is a time to entertain and inform those interested about our many activities during the year.. It's an opportunity to show the public who we are and what we do. We invite as guest speakers, those whose presentations will be both interesting and also provide educational information to the general public.

Our Bylaws dictate when the meeting must be held and the business to be handled; therefore at the start of the evening, this short meeting takes place and members up for re-election are motioned, and approved by a vote from the floor. John Bator, our President, also goes over the past year's accomplishments and gives a brief overview of the goals for the current year. At that point, we then move on to the entertainment for the evening.

This year, on February 28th our annual meeting was once again held at the Mt. Tom Room at Lathrop Community, and we welcomed 30 guests. As usual, the 12 attending members of the Board of Directors, who are all volunteers, sat at the head table and conducted the business portion of the meeting. After this, Gerrit Stover, our Land Acquisition Consultant, gave an honorary presentation to Stuart Beckley, Easthampton's former City Planner, to show our gratitude for all Stu's assistance to the Trust in his many years of service.

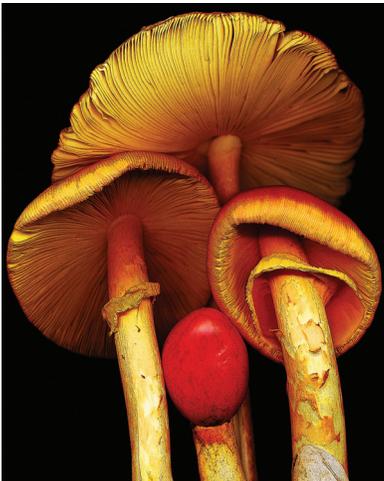
Doug Wheat, a board member, spoke about 2 new parcels that the Trust is in the process of acquiring and the need for fundraising. After an invitation to the Floor to ask any questions or open any discussions, the main program began.

Michael Caron, also a board member and volunteer property monitor, had created a very nice slide show of Trust properties which was set to music, and this played while people were invited to have coffee, snacks, and mingle during the short intermission.

The featured presentation was a talk and slide show by Marty Klein, also a board member. Marty gave an interesting and informative talk about mushrooms, explaining the many varieties and their uses. He explained the difference between edible and poisonous, and showed that the variety of mushrooms is astounding, with many of the edible ones also having an almost identical twin which is not edible. He also showed the beauty of mushrooms in their colors, textures, and forms. He uses mushrooms in his artwork, scanning their images and creating stunningly beautiful prints of nature's bounty. If you are interested in seeing more of his work, feel free to go to [www.martykleinart.com](http://www.martykleinart.com).

The evening ended about 9:30 pm. It was a very enjoyable evening and one well worth attending, according to some of our guests. Please watch for our posters and postcards next February to see what we will come up with next. We'll guarantee it will help beat cabin fever!

Dawn Ackley, Clerk



# Why I Joined Pascommuck Conservation Trust

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In 2005, I sold my house in Westhampton and moved to an apartment in Easthampton (not senior housing). Being an active older person, I began delivering Meals On Wheels in parts of Easthampton, Southampton and Westhampton.

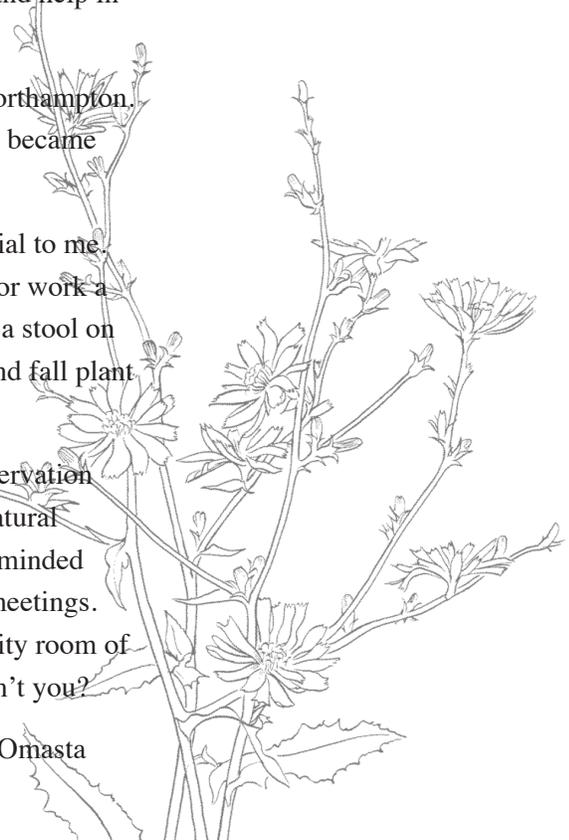
At the Fall Festival, held at Easthampton High School that year, I costumed up and urged people to volunteer to become drivers for Meals On Wheels and also to purchase raffle tickets. I didn't want to carry my purse all over the field, so I asked a friend where I might leave it. She suggested leaving it at the table of the Pascommuck Conservation Trust. The folks at the booth were so pleasant and accommodating (yes, they gave safe harbor for my purse) that I was truly impressed. I felt that those were the kind of people I would like to join and help in any way I could.

I was born and raised on a family farm in the West Farms area of Northampton. My in-laws lived at the Micka house on Park Hill Road. When the Trust became involved in the Echodale Farm project, that was dear to my heart also.

Every endeavor that the Trust has been involved in seems very special to me. At the age of 87, I cannot clear trails, put up bird houses, pot up plants, or work a computer- but I can dress up in outfits with flowers all over them, sit on a stool on the sidewalk at Big E's and urge the public to buy plants at our spring and fall plant sales, and still attend nearly every monthly meeting.

I would encourage folks to get involved with the Pascommuck Conservation Trust. They are a dedicated group of all volunteers, who truly love the natural preservation of Easthampton land, and who are always looking for like-minded folks. I have been known to bring home baked goodies to the monthly meetings. These meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at the community room of Sunrise Manor, which is located off Clark Street. Come and join us, won't you?

Lydia Omasta



## **Donations to PCT can now be made online.**

PCT has partnered with Network for Good to process and collect donations. There is a link to Network for Good on our web page. Clicking the link will take you to a secure web page for processing of donations. Network for Good charges 5 percent from each donation to cover their operating expenses. They partner with a number of non profit organizations to make giving accessible and affordable. To find out more about Network for Good go to: [www.networkforgood.org](http://www.networkforgood.org).

# Ed Dwyer Scholarship Award

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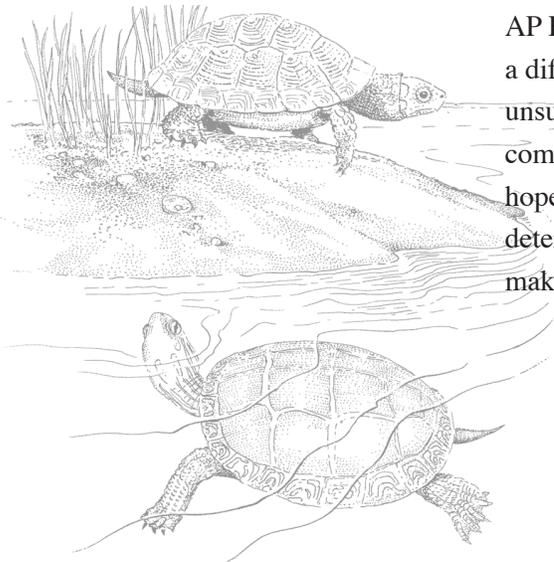
## ***Congratulations to Kara Lewandowski,***

### ***Recipient of the Ed Dwyer Scholarship Award***

This year's recipient of the Pascommuck Conservation Trust scholarship award in memory of Ed Dwyer is Kara Lewandowski, a senior who is going on to Roger Williams University in the fall to study Marine Biology. Chris Soverow, EHS guidance counselor, felt that Kara was a compelling and obvious choice since she has such high achievement, could benefit from the financial support, and has a strong interest in the environment.

Hello, my name is Kara Lewandowski and I am a senior at Easthampton High School. Within the four years I've spent at this school, I have managed to accomplish many things. In my senior year alone I have taken four Advanced Placement (AP) courses, including Environmental Science, Chemistry, Calculus, and English. While it has been an incredibly challenging year, it has been worth all the effort. Even before my final year at the high school I was involved in other AP and Honors classes, such as AP History in my sophomore year. Even with all of the challenging courses, I am still able to maintain a high GPA and remain in the top 11% of my class. In addition to these rigorous courses, I am vice president of my school's Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA), am a member of the Key Club, and recently joined the National Honor Society. In the future I only plan to add to my arsenal of accomplishments.

Since it is my firm belief that determination and hard work are the characteristics that will take me far, I will be taking summer courses at Holyoke Community College in addition to attending Roger Williams University (RWU) in the fall. I plan to major in Marine Biology at RWU, and I will most likely pick up a minor in Environmental Science. Taking AP Environmental Science this year solidified the idea that I want to make a difference in the world of sustainability and conservation. While I am unsure about where I see myself in 15 years, I plan to get involved with the community at RWU so that I may find the path that I wish to take. It is my hope that with the combination of my passion for the environment and my determination to receive the best education possible, that I will be able to make a difference.



We are looking for an experienced volunteer Treasurer.  
If interested contact Shirley Smith at 413-527-3126

# Spring Plant Sale

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May 12th dawned bright and clear. It was rather a cool day, which was good, because of all the work which still had to be done within the next hour before the plant sale would start. We had arrived at Big E's parking lot at 7:30 a.m. to find the tent already standing, thanks to Mike Superson and his people. Mike is one of the most selfless people when it comes to helping out in the community and we sincerely appreciate his help in both the past and present.

As the plants were dropped off by the various volunteers transporting them, several people began checking for plant tags and prices, and all the while new plant donations were beginning to arrive. We attempted to get each donor's name and address so we could properly thank them later. As we were doing all this, people had begun to mill around to get an early look at our offerings and find just that special plant. The Sale Had Begun!

But, I'm getting ahead of myself. The work for this sale actually began in March and continued into late April, when most of these plants were uncovered from their winter's nap and were then prepped for sale by our various volunteers. Items were tagged and priced as needed. As you can imagine, all of this work takes much time and effort and we are grateful to have a dedicated group of volunteers doing it each and every year.

We also have some dedicated volunteers who make themselves available to not only bring these plants to the sale and help set them out, but also come back after the sale and pick up the left-overs. Everyone pitches in to do whatever it takes to make this day a success.

For those of you who haven't attended one of our sales yet, we invite you to drop by for our Fall Sale which is usually held in mid-September. We will be putting out fliers at Big E's, and various other sites as the time approaches. Credit for the lovely first prize raffle item we offer each year goes to one of our Trust members. Several other Trust members have also donated smaller baskets of various gardening items, or neat household items, for our use as additional prizes. We sincerely appreciate everyone's help in making this sale and raffle such a success.

The following people were winners in this year's raffle:

*1st prize- rocking chair & asstd. gardening items - Gary LaCroix, Easthampton*

*2nd prize - basket with china items - Mary Corriveau, Easthampton*

*3rd prize winner – basket- asst'd items - Marianne Huber, Easthampton*

*4th prize winner- basket – asst'd items - Jane Procon, Northampton*

*5th prize winner – basket-asst'd items - L. Pelis, Northampton*

We sincerely hope everyone found that "special" plant or enjoyed "just looking". We look forward to seeing you again at our Fall Plant sale. Til then, have a great Summer!

*Shirley Smith*

## Pascommuck Conservation Trust Board

### *Officers*

John Bator, *President*

Sue Walz, *Vice President*

Shirley Smith, *Acting Treasurer*

Dawn Ackley, *Clerk*

### *Board Members*

Roger Anderson

William Burgart

Michael Caron

Molly Goodwin

Stanley Jasinski

Marty Klein

Tom Lautzenheiser

Lydia Omasta

Doug Wheat

### *Coordinator of Volunteers*

Molly Goodwin

### *Land Preservation*

Consultant

Gerrit Stover

### *Database Consultant*

Julie Smith

### *Newsletter*

*Design & Layout*

Beverly Wodicka

### *Webmaster*

Michael Caron

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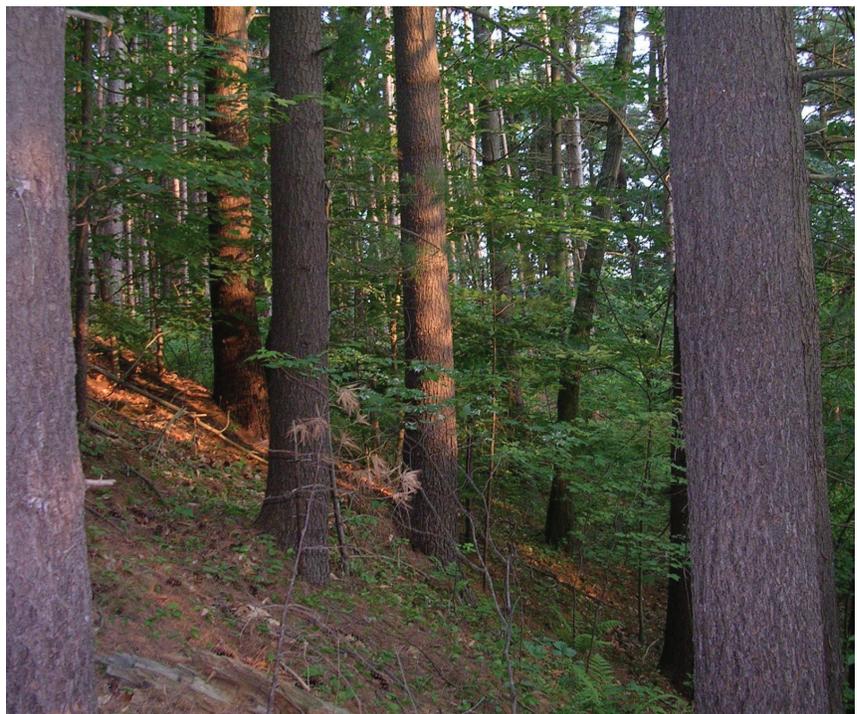


**Pascommuck Conservation Trust**

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*Pomeroy Meadow*