



Pascommuck post

Summer2019

After reviewing all we've done in the last six months, it's evident that there just is too much to cover here in one article. So, alas, I'll save the more thorough details for my President's Report at our February Annual Meeting. However, the ensuing bare bones summary will still be long enough to encourage drowsiness in some of you readers, I surmise.

President's Report

We had two instances of graffiti this year, one at our Dwyer Conservation Area, the other in the gazebo at John Bator Park. Back in February, our treasurer, Brian Dillon, had to step down, due to his increasing business responsibilities. Luckily, Chris Zagars agreed to take Brian's place, saving us from fiscal degradation. Our February Annual Meeting was well attended, and Board member Tom Lautzenheizer gave an enlightening presentation on Invasive plants. State Representative Dan Carey attended our April meeting. Dan is supportive of open space, and offered to help us in any way he can. Board member Bobbe O'Brien took on the onerous task of re-organizing our archives, and did an fine job. This year's High School Conservation Award went to Grace Levins.

Linda Bush, our database manager, gave a bird walk at our Pomeroy Meadows Conservation Area. Marty Klein organized a trust display for the city Cultural Chaos in June. Volunteer Claire Baker set up an Instagram Account for us. Joanne Lucier donated many unusual plants for our fall sale, September 21. We now have a Pesticide Subcommittee to guide how we deal with invasive plants without harming the environment in the process. And, the big news for land protection is the recent closing on the purchase of 23 vital acres in the northern foothills of Mt Tom. This is simply amazing!

Properties maintenance continues to involve all sorts of challenging projects, but this spring we decided to hire Kevin Mulligan to handle the brunt of light chain saw work, hand mowing, weed whacking, and carpentry work. Kevin so far has been toiling away on addressing erosion control, installing/replacing railings, steps and bollards, as well as keeping our trails passable. Gerrit Stover and Eve Endicott have been dealing with



New Trail System

intrusions by neighbors at our Hannum Brook Conservation area, while Gerrit and volunteer Claire Baker are designing a new trail system at Old Trolley Line Conservation Area off Clapp Street. This is a collaboration with Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary and The Manhan Rail Trail Committee.

Hope you enjoy our latest newsletter, and a huge round of applause for our board members and volunteers for all they do to keep us going.

John Bator, President

Development of the new trail system at Old Trolley Line Conservation Area

Gerrit and I have been working on the Old Trolley Line trail system, starting in April of 2019 (and still in the works). The trails go from Clapp Street to Lovefield Street, and include a 'Pomeroy Farm' trail, and an 'Asparagus Meadow' cutoff trail. With John Bator, we got together several times to walk the trail so that we could get a visual idea of what we need to do as far as installing directional signs and a wood and metal bridge.

During our later walks over the trail route, we removed invasive weeds and cut down any additional small branches for easier access. We just finished installing sign posts in the ground and drilling holes to mount directional signage on the posts. We are still in the process of obtaining and installing bike racks at the Lovefield and Clapp street entrances and contacting someone to mow the path through the meadow fields.

A bridge to span a seasonal drainage is being fabricated, and we hope to finish up the rest of the work on the trails in time for a September opening -- at the latest. Keep an eye on the Trust's web page!

Claire Baker

Ed Dwyer Scholarship Award

My passion for the outdoors and learning about how different processes on Earth coexist has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. From collecting and examining the pebbles at the end of my driveway as a child to outdoor summer camps, earth science has been something I love. This past summer (2018) I was able to refine this broad love by attending two programs. SEASCape in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, and Brown Environmental Leadership Lab (BELL) in Alaska, a Brown University pre-college program. While at both, I learned new information which started my focus on specific earth science concepts such as geology. At SEASCape, I participated in a project where our large group was split into divisions of oceanography. The project required traveling to four local beaches and analyzing their features to be a part of a final presentation. My first choice to study was geology. I categorized sand particles by color and sieved portions to determine the quantities of different sizes. This may seem tedious, but I found I could see myself doing projects similar to this as a career. This solidified my interest to explore earth science and dig deeper into geology in college. Then, during my time in Alaska, which was much different than the warm, sandy beaches of Cape Cod, I observed glaciers and their residual features as well as many other geologic aspects. The beauty of the landscapes inspired me to want to know more about how they were created and what will continue to happen. Studying earth and environmental sciences seems to offer an endless opportunity for learning which makes it even more appealing.

Pascommuck land surrounds my home. It is an amazing space to come home to with fields leading into the woods. I have benefitted from the peaceful and quiet nature all of the time that I have grown up in Easthampton. Also, from a young age I attended Mass Audubon Society's summer programs at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary. The land that I spent many summers on is also very close to that owned by PCT. I have hugely benefitted from the land both in a home and recreational setting.

I look forward to exploring more of this land by going on walks and hikes with friends and family. Easthampton has majorly benefitted by the Pascommuck Conservation Trust and I am very thankful for it. My love of the outdoors will continue forever and I hope that the land owned by the PCT continues to be something I am involved with.

Grace Levins

Congratulations to Grace Levins,

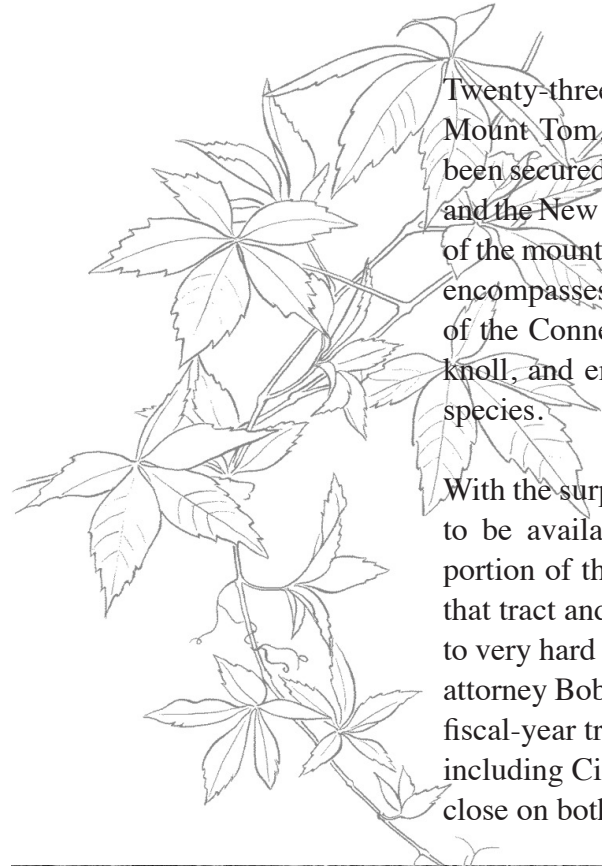
Recipient of the Ed Dwyer scholarship Award.

This year's recipient of the Pascommuck Conservation Trust scholarship award in memory of Ed Dwyer is Grace Levins, a senior who is going on to Brown University in the fall to study earth and environmental science.



MOUNT TOM NORTH TRAILHEAD:

One (SHORT!) Deadline, Two Closings, One Park



Twenty-three acres adjoining the State Reservation at the north end of Mount Tom, of historic, geological, and biological significance, have been secured for creation of an Easthampton trailhead to the Reservation and the New England Scenic Trail. Extending from East Street at the base of the mountain to the boundary of the 2600-acre state park, the property encompasses the site of a recently-demolished house, with broad views of the Connecticut River valley and distant hills, a prominent wooded knoll, and emergent shrubland habitat already hosting threatened bird species.

With the surprise news in early May that state funding was in fact going to be available for Kestrel Land Trust's acquisition of the northern portion of the Mount Tom North Trailhead Park site, purchase of both that tract and of the City's larger section shifted into high gear. Thanks to very hard work in a very short time by Kestrel's Mark Wamsley, their attorney Bob Spencer (both already rushing to finish many other end-of-fiscal-year transactions) and Easthampton municipal staff and attorneys including City Planner Jeff Bagg, all the ducks were lined up in time to close on both pieces on June 25th.



Proposed trail to Viewpoint



East Street Frontage

The City's tract was bought with \$380,000 in Easthampton CPA dollars -- thank you, taxpayers, City Council, and Mayor! -- and a \$400,000 state grant. And lest we forget, this acquisition was jump-started with a critical early investment of \$50,000 from Pascommuck.

With these purchases successfully completed, the next stage will be preparation of a site plan for the Park. The current thought is to hold community meetings to fill out the general concept of parking, trailhead, accessible access path, and hillside viewpoint. Once that vision is in hand, some sort of design competition or request-for-proposals process will lead to a detailed plan. That plan will then serve as the basis for grant applications and public fundraising for construction and maintenance, and eventually be used to solicit construction bids.

Gerrit Stover and Mark Wamsley

conservation

Pascommuck Trust Spring 2019 Plant Sale

Saturday, May 18th dawned sunny and mild with blue skies shining on all our plants. It was a lovely day to be outside in the warm weather for a change. The sale this year was a truly spectacular success, owing not only to the great weather but also to the many members and friends who worked hard to make it so.

Proceeds from this year's Spring Plant Sale were:

| | |
|---------|----------|
| Plants | \$1,204 |
| Raffles | \$ 296 |
| Total | \$1,500! |

Many thanks go to our Plant Sale volunteers: John and Scott Bator, Fred Andresen, Molly Goodwin, Roger Anderson, Dawn Ackley, Darren McQuillan, Deborah August, Sue Walz, Ed Procon, Bill Burgart, Marty Klein, Lesley Milligan, Michael Caron, Bob Smith, Linda Bush, Lesley Harrington, our new and very helpful volunteer, Claire Baker. Another very special thanks to Mike Superson, Co-Owner of the Big E Supermarket, who once again came through with a new tent for our sale and also for our silent auction donated a large yellow wheelbarrow (filled with gardening items) for our silent auction. We very much appreciate the use of the market's parking lot and his long-time support of the Trust. Thanks Mike!

Among the many plant donations we were fortunate to have great selections of plants and gifts for the raffles thanks to the efforts of:

Cindy & Don Mitchell, Jo Lander, Valley Bloomers Garden Club, Kathleen Nash, Nadine Pomakis, Beverly Wodicka, Jennifer Crocker, Suzette Jones, Mike Superson, Harriet Tatro, Emily Gallivan, Lesley Harrington, Shirley and Bob Smith for trays of annuals, Terry Perrea for the gift baskets and plants, Sue Bishop for the wine rack and plant table, Mike Poole from Blue Collar Artists who donated three rebar trellises which sold like hotcakes!

Bobbe O'Brien

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1. Visit smile.amazon.com
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3. In the search field under "Or pick your own charitable organization:" type in "Pascommuck", hit the search button, and select Pascommuck Conservation Trust.
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pctland.org



PASCOMMUCK CONSERVATION TRUST, INC. MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2019

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

- Name _____
- Street _____
- Town/City _____
- State/Zip _____
- Phone _____
- Email _____

PLEASE CHECK YOUR DESIRED MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

- Supporter (\$6)
- Individual (\$15)
- Family (\$25)
- Contributor (\$50)
- Life Member (\$1000)
- Patron (\$75)
- Corporate (\$100)
- Steward (\$100)
- Sponsor (\$150)

MAKE AN ADDITIONAL DONATION FOR:

- Unrestricted \$ _____
- Mutter Field Stewardship Fund \$ _____
- Property Stewardship \$ _____

PLEASE INDICATE VOLUNTEER INTERESTS

- Donate plants for plant sale
- Prepare plants for plant sale
- Setup/take down at plant sale
- Monitor a Trust area near me
- Grant Writing /Fundraising
- Land Conservation (Landowner contacts, Planning, etc.)
- Trail/Property Maintenance
- Social Media Coordinator

MAIL THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHECK TO:

Pascommuck Conservation Trust, P.O. Box 806, Easthampton, Massachusetts 01027

Pascommuck is a 501 (3) (C) non-profit charitable organization. Your gift is tax deductible.



Pascommuck Conservation Trust, Inc.

Preserving our past . . . protecting our future

THANK YOU!



Pascommuck Conservation Trust

P.O. Box 806

Easthampton, MA 01027

pctland.org

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Baby Robins



Beverly Wodicka