



# April GCT News



## LTA's Laura Johnson to Speak May 7

We are pleased to bring [Laura Johnson](#) back to Groton to speak at our annual meeting.



Laura is the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Land Trust Alliance. As you remember, the GCT was one of only two MA land trusts to be accredited last year by the LTA Accreditation Commission. Laura will spend time with us and talk about the state of land trusts across the country. Many of you may remember Laura from the last time she spoke to the GCT. She was then president of Mass Audubon where she spent 14 years leading the country's largest independent state Audubon organization.

Laura also worked extensively with Arthur Blackman in securing the Audubon Rocky Hill property here in Groton. We are especially happy she will be on hand as we will also present a tribute to Camilla Blackman to express our gratitude for the impact Arthur made in Groton.

The meeting is free and open to the public at the Groton Country Club. A social time



## Throne Hill Hike

Sunday, April 19 at 1PM sharp, join members of the Groton Trails Committee on an early spring guided hike through the woods on the trails of GCT's Throne Hill in West Groton. The Throne is one of the largest contiguous undeveloped parcels in the area. The Throne provides habitat for deer, bears, porcupines, fishers, moose, and beavers. It features upland forest and interesting wetlands. Our walk on the Throne trails will take about two hours and is suitable for families with children. Dogs must be kept under owner's control, and leashed upon request. The hike will be held unless it is stormy. Take Townsend Rd. in Groton to Rockwood Lane. Meet at the end of Rockwood Lane at the top of the hill. 42.62968N, 71.64003W. For info: [Olin Lathrop](#). (978) 742-9014.

## Blackman Land and Bells Walk

Wednesday, May 6, join the GCT

begins at 6:30 with a cash bar and appetizers, with the program beginning at 7 PM.

## April is Membership Renewal Month

You are not the only one anxious to get outside! All winter we have been identifying property projects such as sign repairs, washed out bridges and beavers who may need help relocating. Now is when we spring into action!

Some projects could use your hands-on help. If you are interested in work groups, [let us know](#).

Some projects require professional attention and that is where renewing your GCT membership will help. Your \$50/family gives us what we need each year as we work to keep our 1400 protected acres open and accessible to all.

See our membership letter below for a special offer with renewals. And please consider [renewing online](#) today!

## Connecting Communities: Groton

The GCT is happy to be a player in the Connecting Communities 2015 project coming to Groton, May 31. This day long event is designed to introduce newcomers to Groton and educate all of us on the biodiversity of our landscape. Titled "The Gift of the Glaciers", the Groton event features [day-long activities](#), with something for everyone to enjoy. GCT trustee Bob Pine delivers the keynote presentation along with Michael Roberts, outlining Groton's unique geology, ecology, and human history. The events are free and many require preregistration. Contact [Paul Funch](#) for more details.

## What to do in April?

Check out the [outdoor calendar](#) created by Advisory Council member Mary Metzger.



as we walk to the bells on the Blackman Land. [Newly repaired last fall](#), the forest bells were created by local artist and craftsman Paul Matisse in 1995, and installed on land owned by Arthur and Camilla Blackman. The Blackmans donated the land to the GCT in 2000, and the Trust has been the steward of the land and bells since then. Trustees will give a brief history of the area and see what kind of music we can make. Meet at the end of Indian Hill Road at 6 PM for the hour hike.

### Quick Links

[How you can help](#)

[Our Properties](#)

[Contact Information](#)

[Trustees and Founders](#)

[Groton Trails Website](#)



Join us in protecting Groton's open spaces. Renew your membership now!

## A note from Membership:

As spring begins, we begin our membership renewal drive. Your \$50 family membership says you are proud to protect and manage our rural landscape and that you value the diverse ecosystems we are lucky to have here. We hope by making the renewal drive happen at the same time during the year, it will be a convenient way to remember and budget your support. We also hope to make renewing your membership an easier process as well. You can renew online using the Donate Now button to the right.

All memberships are due now, May to April.2016. As part of our 50th celebration, if you made a special donation to the GCT in 2014 you are paid until April 2016, thank you very much. If you are unsure of your membership status [drop us an email](#) and we will be happy to check for you.

One easy way to set up your memberships is with the [recurring donation feature](#) of the Donate Now site. One transaction takes care of your membership for this year and every April after that. We hope to encourage many of you to do that. Simply select the ANNUAL button for donation frequency.

For every recurring membership we receive, we will thank you with a special box of note cards featuring pictures of our special places. These note cards are created by GCT Advisory Council member Karen Riggert and each box features 10 cards of two different designs. All new memberships will receive these cards as well.



Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,  
Susan Hughes, Ted Lapres, Ed McNierney and David Pitkin on Membership



The Groton Conservation Trust is a private, non-profit land trust in Groton, Massachusetts. It was founded in 1964 to acquire, preserve, and provide public access to lands with significant conservation value. The Trust is governed by a Board of Trustees made up of Groton residents with varied backgrounds, occupations and interests.

You are receiving this email as an interested member of the GCT.

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