



# GROTON CONSERVATION TRUST

gctrust.org



Sunset view from Bates Land.

## Dear Susan,

As cooler weather transforms our woods and wetlands, we are reminded by the beauty around us how fortunate we are to live in a community which has come together repeatedly to preserve many special places and to keep them open for the public to enjoy. As you walk, run, bike, ski, or snowshoe the web of public trails laced throughout Groton's diverse landscapes, we invite you to pause for a moment to consider supporting the GCT volunteers who work year-round to protect, preserve and sustain these remarkable landscapes and the rich ecosystems they encompass.

Look for our annual newsletter in your USPS mailbox

**Your support helps  
us protect Groton's  
open spaces.**

[Renew your  
membership now](#)

### **Time to renew your GCT membership!**

We've enjoyed sharing nature with you through the owls, vernal pool walks, hikes, tree ID, Harlan adventures, even a big

in mid-December. In it you will find stories about our accomplishments during the past year. We hope you will respond with a generous donation. Of course you can [donate online](#) now! Your membership helps us preserve and maintain these beautiful open spaces for all to enjoy. Thank you for your generous support.

### Shepley Hills has a new use



If you were out in the drizzle on October 8 at Shepley, you might have seen an interesting exercise in action. Dog rescue and recovery trainers from [Mark9](#), a charitable, non-profit, volunteer search and

rescue unit dedicated to the training of search and rescue dogs, will periodically use this property for training. They could have up to 10 dogs and handlers there during a session. They will always post a sign indicating they are on the trails at each entrance. And the dogs are highly skilled, and will not present any problem if you happen upon them. Let us know if you see them while they are engaged in this important work!

## Upcoming Events:

### Tree ID Walk: October 29, 1 PM, Shepley Hills

Trustee Michelle Ruby will lead us along this beautiful stretch and help cure our "tree blindness" by giving us tips to quickly identify the trees we see along the way. Meet at the rail trail parking lot on Sand Hill Road. We will lead these throughout the seasons to help get an idea of how trees change.

### Tom Wessels and OptOutside Hike: November 24, 1 -3 PM Throne Hill

Plans to spend the day after Thanksgiving outside with us instead of shopping. We are very pleased to bring back Tom Wessels to Groton to lead us on walking history tour of [The Throne Hill](#). Located at the top of Rockwood Lane, off of Townsend Road in West Groton, this 121 acre parcel provides a wide variety of forest landscape.

*Mr. Wessels' talk is made possible with a grant from the Groton Commissioners of Trust Funds.*



party at The General Field. Join GCT and your contributions help us steward these special places for all to enjoy. How can you do that? Several ways!

- Easiest is to [donate online](#), it is quick, easy and safe.
- Mail in your donation (still using checks?) to us: PO Box 395, Groton, 01450.
- Other ways to help: forward this newsletter to a friend you think might want to join us. Thanks!

No matter how you renew know that your membership helps our all-volunteer board acquire and maintain over 30 properties in Groton. Thank you!

### Conservation presentation Wed. October 25 FREE

Our friends at the Groton Trails Committee have a free program at the Groton Library featuring conservationist Peter Westover. His program, a multi-media presentation "[New England Natural Areas](#)" begins at 7 PM in the Sibley Room. Enjoy!

### Hunting on GCT Land

The fall also brings the

## Help bring Harlan in for the winter!



Rarely one will see a tree that has developed a big bumpy growth. These are called burls and caused by an injury that hyper stimulates the cambial growth of the tree. The burls are covered by bark. Generally the tree continues to be healthy and grows for many years with this anomaly. These burls are highly prized by wood sculptures for have a beautiful, interesting and unique grain. As mentioned before Harlan is among some big white pines. One of these white pines has a very distinctive burl. If you would like to see a burl tree one can find one off the main town forest road between the pump house and the well site. Every burl is unique just like Harlan our elusive gnome. Watch our [Facebook](#) page for clues.

## Quick Links

### [Amazon Smiles](#)

(where Amazon donates to the GCT with every purchase!)



### [GCT Events](#)

### [How you can help](#)

### [Our Properties](#)

### [Contact Information](#)

### [Trustees and Founders](#)

### [Groton Trails Website](#)

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.

start of hunting season and we want everyone to be safe while enjoying the outdoors. The GCT does allow hunting on some properties (based on donor requests). For more, [guidelines are posted on our website](#). There is never any hunting allowed on Sundays in MA!

## In case you missed the owls....



Thanks to the Williams Barn folks the owls felt right at home!



About 6 different owls were on display in this engaging program. Many thanks to the Groton Commissioners of Trust for the grant!

Groton Conservation Trust, PO Box 395, Groton, MA 01450

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