



# GROTON CONSERVATION TRUST

gctrust.org



Checking the wildlife at the 2017 Vernal Pool Walk.

## Dear Susan,

April begins our busy season of outdoor activities, starting with the **Vernal Pool Walk** on April 14. This is our third year doing this fantastic event. Kids love it, even the adults get into it. Our friends, Pat and Jen of the MA Fisheries and Wildlife scientific team know just where to look for turtles, fairy shrimp, baby salamanders, all the life in these protected ecosystems. Last year, we certified two new vernal pools on the property, bringing the total to seven in our area.

Join us on **Saturday April 14, at 10 AM**. We meet in the circle of Castle Drive, off Pepperell Road in West Groton. Remember to wear appropriate shoes and protect yourself against ticks. This is a great hike for kids of all ages, but please no dogs.

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

[Renew your  
membership now](#)

## July 27: GCT gives back

Community Dinners  
First Parish Church in Groton

Join your friends at the GCT as we help with the July 27 [Groton Community Dinners](#). We will be serving, cooking and cleaning and you can join us in this valuable service in our area. If you are interested, please

Contact [Susan Hughes](#) so we know to expect you. Each family will get a free copy of the *Vernal Pool Field Guide* as your souvenir.

### Taplin Family to be Honored at May 2 Annual Meeting for a lifetime of Groton Conservation

The Trust is honored to have Tom and Carl Taplin present at our May 2 Annual meeting to receive our Conservation Appreciation Award for 2018. The designation honors a lifetime of conservation efforts in Groton by the Taplin family through donations of property. The Taplin Wildlife Sanctuary (so named because of the many species they saw right from their window), Skinner Forest (named for dear friend Joseph Skinner) and Skitapet (donated by the Skinner Family, but named to honor lifetime Groton friends: Taplin, Skinner and Peterson families) were gifts to commemorate the joy they all remembered as they and their children roamed the woods and fields near Lost Lake.

Most recently, the estate of Mrs. Virginia Taplin donated the largest cash gift to the Trust in our history. President Ted Lapres noted, "The Taplins and Skinners were so close and both families were remarkable

philanthropists in the cause of Groton conservation. Our town has been so fortunate to have had the Taplins care so deeply about the long term care of conservation land." He also noted the Trust will explore all possibilities to fully honor the Taplin legacy and that the gift will enable the Trust to move forward on key conservation projects.

Please join us at the May 2 Annual Meeting, 7:00



contact trustee [David Pitkin](#).

### New GCT member stickers

Wear your GCT membership proudly on your car with our new decal. Free with your new or renewed membership, these decals say we are partners in keeping the open spaces in Groton beautiful, accessible and enjoyable for all. If you have renewed your 2018 membership and want a sticker [let us know](#) and we will get one out to you as fast as we can.



Trustee Scott Wilson displays his support!

### Quick Links

#### [Amazon Smiles](#)

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



PM. You are also welcome to join a walk along the Skinner Forest with views into the Taplin Wildlife Sanctuary, beginning at 5:00 PM. We will meet at the home of trustee Holly Estes. Parking is available on Amanda's Way off Route 40. Please contact [Holly](#) for information and to RSVP for the walk.

Location is at the [Media Conference Center at Lawrence Academy](#). Parking is available at the top of the new drive off 119, and at the First Parish church lot. Handicap parking is available right in front of the building on Schoolhouse Road in the middle of campus.

## May 5, Tree ID and iNaturalist Challenge!

Do you know a maple from an oak? Can you spot a birch or white pine just by the leaves? For many of us, despite seeing them every day, we suffer from [tree blindness](#)! On **Saturday, May 5 at 10 AM**, trustee Michelle Ruby will help cure us with the first in a series of tree ID hikes. This one will be on the **Shepley Hills property**. Parking is available at the rail trail lot off Sand Hill road.

In addition to learning about the trees of our area, we will also conduct an iNaturalist challenge. (Not sure how to use iNaturalist? Find instructions and info on our [homepage](#).)

Please [RSVP](#) so we know to expect you. Wear appropriate clothing for a walk in the woods.

This hike is appropriate for all ages and dogs on leash are welcome.

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.

The Groton Conservation Trust enhances the quality of life in our community through environmental conservation, and engages residents in the enjoyment and stewardship of our remarkable natural landscapes.  
Mission Statement Adopted July, 2014

Donate Now

iNaturalist.org

**House Finch**  
Observer: mrsby  
Date: Jan 18 2018  
Place: 100 Hollis Street Groton MA

**Barred Owl**  
Observer: dblackjr  
Date: Jan 10 2018  
Place: Middlesex County, US-AA, US

**Northern Cardinal**  
Observer: ssaahughes  
Date: Jan 04 2018  
Place: 62 Watson Way, Groton, MA, US

View more observations from The Nature of Groton on iNaturalist.org =

[GCT Events](#)  
[How you can help](#)  
[Our Properties](#)  
[Contact Information](#)  
[Trustees and Founders](#)  
[Groton Trails Website](#)

## Help improve our property signs!



The recent heavy snows has done damage to many of our property signs. If you are out and about and notice a sign down or damaged, please [let us know!](#)

## Annual Sunflowers and Sunsets June 7 at 7 PM

Be sure to mark your calendars to join us again for our member thank you night at The General Field. We will enjoy snacks, complimentary wine and beer, local music and of course the beauty of the wildflowers at The General Field. You are welcome to bring your chairs and a picnic for this annual early summer treat.



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