



GROTON CONSERVATION TRUST

gctrust.org



Still Meadow sporting a bounty of Milkweed, attracting monarchs. Photo courtesy of Bob Pine.

Greetings!

A major piece of the ongoing work of the GCT is property stewardship. This includes meadow management as the Trust oversees five properties that feature meadows: Still Meadow (pictured above), Mason Back 100, Bates, Blackman Field and Meadows and the General Field. [Meadows play an important role](#) in our landscape. They provide shelter to many species, attract insects that promote pollination, and provide plenty of open space for the plants that contribute to the positive air quality in our life. The meadows around Groton display many of the grasses native to our area. Fall is a great time to visit one of these properties to see what meadows have to offer.



*Fall haying changes the landscape and creates an impressive view.
Photo courtesy of Rick Muehlke.*

Fall Tree Walk: October 14, 10 AM The Bates Land

October Begins Our Membership Drive

Your support helps us protect Groton's open spaces. We rely on your continued membership not only to help us maintain these beautiful spaces, but also to bring you events and educational activities such as Tree IDs, and the upcoming Wessels walk. A family membership is just \$50. Join us in keeping Groton beautiful by renewing your membership today.

[Renew your
membership now](#)



Trustee Michelle Ruby will lead the next tree walk on **October 14, 10 AM**. Meet at the Bates Land, parking available off Old Ayer Road. Contact [Michelle](#) to make sure she knows you are going. Fall is a perfect time to note the difference between many trees and to note which tree changes to what color. Not only does the Bates Land offer a variety of trees to ID, you will enjoy a view of Groton in all its fall glory from the ridge. This hike involves a small climb, poles may be helpful going up and coming down.



Harlan's last stand!

Fall is a magical time for hiking in the woods, so we are hoping for some magic and Harlan will be found. This will be the last clue.

Park at the cul de sac and follow the yellow trail medallions up the moss covered trail. He sits fifty feet off the trail nestled by lichen covered rocks. Partridge berry (*Mitchella repens*) with its bright red single berries and tiny paired white lined evergreen green leaves carpets the way. Mushrooms are still sprouting. The Eagle Scout track and PVC pipe bridges are helpful to navigate the cart path puddles.

Groton Police to Help Monitor ATV Trail Use



With the purchase of two all-terrain vehicles, Groton Police officer Pat Timmons says they can help our efforts in keeping vehicles from the GCT trails.

Motorized vehicles are prohibited on all GCT properties. Officer Timmons says there are several moving

violations that apply to motorists operating vehicles on the trails, and the new police ATVs will enable them to monitor the areas and keep them free from ATV traffic. As always, if you encounter ATVs, please report to the police.

Upcoming Events

The Esker Trail at Gamlin Gramlin Crystal Springs

October 13, 1 PM

Come and see New England woods at their best. This hike features beaver ponds, the scenic Cow Pond Brook, glacial topography, and all around pretty woods and beautiful settings.

Meet at the end of Cow Pond Brook Road, (42.62493N 71.50263W). Moderate pace, about 2 hours.

This hike is jointly sponsored by the Groton Trails Committee and the AMC. [Olin Lathrop](#), (978) 742-9014.

Worth a fall visit: Taplin Wildlife Sanctuary

Thanks to trustee David Black who, with his environmental science students, worked on removing invasive species, including a "staggering" amount of Buckthorn, which had crippled the trees and shrubs in the area, and made the trail impassable.

In addition to the pond wildlife this site supports, Taplin also features wonderful populations of alder, blueberry, and other natives, which was overcome by the Buckthorn. With this intensive removal effort, over the years these species will grow back.



As you can see, this is a delightful property to visit in the fall. At the end of a short trail, a visitor is rewarded by a beautiful view of Whitney Pond. It is located off Route 40 and has parking for one or two vehicles.



Looking ahead: Tom Wessels Nov. 23

[#optoutside](#)

We will once again participate in REI's #optoutside anti-shopping program on the Friday after Thanksgiving bringing Tom Wessels back to Groton to lead a narrative hike. Tom is [well-known for his "forest forensics"](#), and we are pleased to have him back walking on the Blackman Field and adjacent Audubon property. Stayed tuned for more details.

Not sure how to use iNaturalist?

Here are some [video tutorials](#) that can help you get started. Practice makes it second nature!

Hunting Season is Here

As a reminder, fall also begins hunting season in MA. (Orange is a great color to wear to ensure you are visible to anyone sharing the woods.) We outline [important information on hunting](#) as well detail which GCT properties allow hunting during the appropriate season. MA does NOT ALLOW hunting on Sundays. Be mindful as you share the great outdoors with enthusiasts of all recreational activities.

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](#)

Your membership helps us do our work and protect these properties.

In case you missed it....

It looks like we aren't the only ones to notice the haying at General Field. Bill Knuff noticed this guy monitoring the action.

We posted this photo to our new Instagram account. Find us at: [groton trust](#).

If you happen to capture any fantastic photos while exploring our properties, tag us so we can share!



Renew Now!

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.