



Predator contestant Javelin524 submitted this photo of a Fisher in action.

Greetings!

Every change of season offers a visual invitation to explore our natural surroundings. And fall is especially engaging! We have many chances to get you out and about this fall, from more [iNaturalist](#) challenges, to tree ID hikes, and the last chance to find Harlan. We hope you join us and get out and explore a new GCT property.

iNaturalist Predator Challenge



Linda Loren's Northern Mockingbird observation.

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

[Renew your
membership now](#)

Upcoming Events!

Grotonfest! September 29, Legion Common

We will be there to meet and greet and renew memberships. We have our new car decals for anyone renewing so stop by and check us out. Plus, two mini-iNaturalist challenges!

i-Naturalist challenges

We will have two mini-

iNaturalist is a way to record, organize and share nature findings online. You can [learn more about it](#) and help us learn more about the nature of Groton. So far we have recorded over [300 species](#) right here in Groton.

We asked you to use iNaturalist last month to find predators living among us. Thank you to everyone who participated! We had some amazing submissions, including a Fisher in action, pictured above. The winner is **Linda Loren**, with six predators captured. Linda will receive a gift certificate to Salt and Light and the honor of being our first challenge winner. You have a chance to win as well! Two more mini-challenges are coming up from our booth at GrotonFest, read more about it to the right and on our [Events page](#) at our website!

Help us bring Harlan in for the winter!



Here is a pictorial clue!

Your next clue:

Harlan the gnome is still in the woods waiting to be found. He is in one of the more remote area of Groton.

You are far from roads and hear the bird songs of nature. This GCT parcel abuts state land so many contiguous acres. Things have really greened up with the recent rains. In places along the trail are stone walls so common in New England. The land here is rocky so not good for agriculture but in 1835 when fine Merino wool was selling for 57 cents a pound this marginal land was cleared for sheep grazing.

Harlan is between two big moss covered rocks. A white mushroom is overturned nearby and the top of a small dead hemlock is evident. Enjoy hiking the grass covered rocky trails and see if you can spot Harlan.

challenges from our booth at GrotonFest, one at 11:00 AM and one at 2:30. These will be 30-40 minute romps in the fields around Legion Common to observe and document pollinators on goldenrod and the first signs of fall. Prizes are available! No pre-registration needed, simply show up to our booth.

Not sure how to use iNaturalist?

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

Fall Tree Walk: October 14, Bates Land

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.



Sunset viewing from atop Bates Land.

Looking ahead: Tom Wessels Nov. 23

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. Do you have a [GCT property](#) you want to know more about? [Let us know](#) and we will consider holding the

Remember, a \$25 gift certificate at Johnson's awaits the finder!

In case you missed it....

Last fall, GCT member Mary Metzger wrote a beautiful piece honoring Henry David Thoreau on his 200th birthday. We are please to feature it on our [front page](#) of the website. Check it out!

If you have written a piece on nature, history or even enjoying outside recreation, [let us know](#), maybe we will share it too.

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.

event at that spot!

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



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