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Late Summer in Lawrence Woods

## Come see us at GrotonFest: September 21

Dear Susan,

As we wind down a busy summer around the beautiful places in Groton, we thought you would like to know where we have concentrated our time. In preparing for our LTA application (see story below) we reviewed all of our properties, and thanks especially to trustees Mark Gerath, Michelle Ruby and David Black, we were able to document (and save online!) baseline reports of all our properties. Special consultant to the Trust, Connie Lapres, guided us through the daunting task of putting all the pieces together and we submitted a successful application.

### Inventory, Cleaning, Management

Trustees and summer interns were also busy this summer taking visiting the many properties we protect, noting the ones that need help with invasive control, and generally picking up the place. Genthner Woods was one property that needed cleaning. These two shots show property use and the resulting clean up necessary.

### Quick Links

[How you can help](#)

[Our Properties](#)

[Contact Information](#)

[Trustees and Founders](#)

[Groton Trails Website](#)

### Renew your Membership!



Members receive newsletters and invitations to walks and talks. Memberships start at \$25 per year. You can join by printing the [membership form](#), filling it out, and sending it in. Please help us in our efforts to protect open space and manage conservation lands to protect biodiversity and promote an appreciation for the rich



GCT properties are fantastic recreational spots, please be responsible with your use and activity. Trustees happily grant camping privileges, please contact us when you want to visit and we can ensure you -- and the property -- have a safe time!

## Invasives Clearing at Shepley Hill



Trustee Rick Muehlke worked with trustees David Black, Michelle Ruby and interns Sarah Black, Trevor Bossi and Ali Ciccicola on the Japanese barberry control project at Shepley Hill. Rick is a MA licensed herbicide applicator. He followed the others, who cut down the many-stemmed bushes to about 2" above the ground and removed all the top growth first, and placed flags at each bush. The pith of the bush is bright yellow, which helps in seeing it under the closed forest canopy of mature hardwoods in this area.

Rick then brushed away all the leaves and duff on top of the soil, and cut any stems the others had missed. (This plant sends out stems along the top of the soil in a horizontal direction, in addition to the normal vertical stems!) He then applied a solution of the herbicide Triclopyr and blue dye, with a paint brush/sponge applicator 1" wide. This allowed him to put just the right amount of solution on the stem itself, without it touching the ground or other plants nearby. After treating the stems in a given area, he would move to the next. The bright blue dye made it easier to tell exactly where he had been. One of the others would then follow him and pull out the flags if they could see that all the stems had been treated.

## Land Trust Accreditation:

resources that we enjoy.

## Hike Lawrence Woods Sunday, September 22!

The NRWA and Groton Grails committee will lead a hike along the Nashua River to the newly restored Fitch's Bridge this Sunday, Sept. 22 from 2:00 to 3:30. The guided hike, led by Al Futterman and Paul Funch, will take you through Lawrence Woods (see our story below), the Taisey property and through a ConComm tract, Farmers and Mechanics. Meet at the GCT parking area on Route 225. Free to all, please no dogs this time. The NRWA appreciates pre-registration: contact Al at 978-448-0299, or email [alf@nashuariverwatershed.org](mailto:alf@nashuariverwatershed.org).



## Discover Lawrence Woods

The Lawrence Woods offers a beautiful trail to hike, horseback ride or cross-country ski along the picturesque Nashua River. You can also connect to the newly completed Fitch's Bridge, thanks to the Groton Trails Committee.

Given to the Trust by John and James Lawrence and Dorothy



## GCT accepted for review

Groton Conservation Trust is pleased to announce that the GCT application for land trust accreditation has been accepted for review. Gaining accreditation recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever.

### A public comment period is still open.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission is continuing to invite public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how GCT complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. For more information, read the [full list of standards](#). Comments on GCT's application will be most useful by October 25, 2013 and can be sent via:

- email: [info@landtrustaccreditation.org](mailto:info@landtrustaccreditation.org)
- fax: 518-587-3183, Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments
- post: Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments, 36 Phila Street, Suite 2, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

To learn more about the accreditation program, visit [www.landtrustaccreditation.org](http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org).

### From the GCT President:

As you may know, all the trustees of the GCT are volunteers, doing what is needed to purchase, monitor and care for the land that we hold in Groton. We are scientists, landscape architects, engineers, lawyers, communicators, financial managers and outdoors enthusiasts. We have also been lucky over the last several months to have another volunteer, Connie Lapres. Connie is not a trustee, but someone who volunteered to help us with the complicated, tangled process that is Land Trust Alliance Accreditation. Connie poured over the application requirements, doled out tasks, and organized 50 years of dedicated work into a tidy application package. The result, as you have read, is that we have been accepted for consideration.

This culmination of effort will, among many things, greatly enhance the quality of our baseline documentation, create a well-documented and regular monitoring process, provided a more thoughtful framework for selecting new Trustees,

Lawrence Mackenzie in 1976, the parcel contains 26.6 acres of wooded land on Long Hill Road across from Groton Place.

Once on the trail, you'll find a variety of wooded conditions including dense white pines toward Long Hill Road. In several areas of regeneration where limited logging has occurred in the past, more open areas provide a variety of wildlife habitat, particularly for song birds.

### Be a land steward!

With over 30 properties we always appreciate your help!

We have land stewards who "adopt" a particular property and let us know when you see something we should address.

If you are interested in helping in this way, contact Susan Hughes at

[susanh@gctrust.org](mailto:susanh@gctrust.org) with the space you'd like to watch, or I can give you one we need help with!

Thank you!



### Visit our booth at GrotonFest

When: Sat. Sept. 21 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Stop by when you are at GrotonFest! We have conservation maps to sell, you can join or pay your annual dues, and tell us where you like to be in Groton!

document many good but informal practices in a formal, sustainable way, and create a process and culture in the Trust that helps ensure success. This improved structure will prove to be a gift to the Town of Groton for years to come.

There is more work to do, but already, thanks to Connie and other dedicated Trustees, we have restructured our processes and practices for the improved and sustained preservation of conservation lands within the Town of Groton.

When you see Connie around town, (and I know you see her!) please give her a thanks for Groton!

Sincerely,

[Dan Wolfe](#)

President

Groton Conservation Trust



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. If you no longer wish to receive this email, click [HERE](#) and note "remove me" in the subject line. Thank you.

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