

## Groton Conservation Trust

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Wattles Pond

Your donation to the GCT helps us manage over 1400 acres of conservation lands, protecting valuable habitat and creating recreational opportunities for all.

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Network for Good

**Dear Susan,**

### Tom Wessels: June 14

We look forward to bringing Tom Wessels back to Groton. Tom brings his "forest forensics" program to Groton and leads a hike. Tom is an ecologist and founding director of the master's degree program in Conservation Biology at Antioch University New England. Of his many books, *Reading the Forested Landscape* endures as a classic forest guide.

#### Quick Links

[How you can help](#)

[Our Properties](#)

[Contact Information](#)

[Trustees and Founders](#)

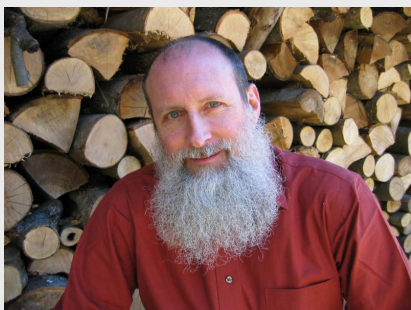
[Groton Trails Website](#)

#### Friend-Raiser!

For our 50th anniversary, we have a goal to bring on 50 new members at a

Tom will begin his talk with a presentation at 1 PM at the Groton School Library Conference Room. This will be followed by a walk on the Gamlin Crystal Spring property with Tom narrating what he sees. Even if you have hiked this property before, this guarantees to be a new experience!

The program is free, but [registration](#) is requested. Put Wessels in the "subject" line of the Contact Us form.



*This program is made possible with a grant from the Groton Commissioners of Trust Funds.*

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## The GCT Opposes the Proposed Route of the NE Pipeline Expansion

The Trust opposes the siting of the Tennessee Gas pipeline expansion project that is currently being proposed by Kinder Morgan. Their route is across conservation properties of critical concern in New England. We do not support using conservation land for the pipeline as it would have great impact on the protected habitat of endangered species that we have worked so hard to establish. Further, disturbing the existing habitat invites invasive species into this critical biodiversity, something we are working hard to eradicate on all our properties.

We will work with state groups such as the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program and the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to make sure Kinder Morgan understands the full environmental impact of this route.

Specifically, we are concerned about Wattles Pond, the GCT property affected by the proposed expansion, and you can read more about this property below.

\$50/family membership. Your membership says you care about the beautiful open spaces in Groton and you enjoy the recreation, the peace, and the natural habitat that is possible by maintaining these open spaces. Your annual membership helps us keep these properties beautiful, enjoyable, and most important, protected.

If you are not a member, [join today](#). Already a member? Send a friend our way! Help us make our friend-raiser goal!



**50th Anniversary:**  
Family/\$50.00

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### How can you help with the GCT?

There are many ways volunteers can help with the work of the GCT:

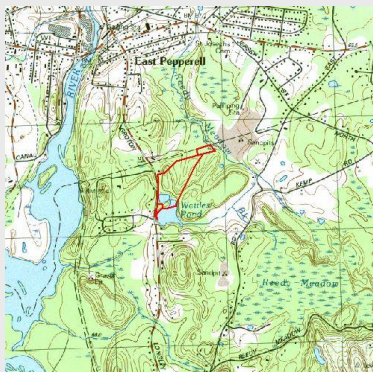
- monitor properties by becoming a land steward
- assist with special projects like our 50th anniversary events
- volunteer with work groups for clearing and invasive control
- lend expertise to the work of Trustees

Interested? Contact

We feel the route of this pipeline is damaging to critical protected environments and we urge an alternative approach. [More information](#) and some links to the many conversations and letters about the pipeline project can be found on our website.

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### *Getting to Know* **Wattles Pond Conservation Area**



The MA Natural Heritage Program's [BioMap2](#) program shows that Wattles Pond is less than 300 meters from a "Priority Habitat of Rare Species".

Wattles Pond was donated to the trust for preservation in 1980 by the owners, the Rinaldos and Mandersons. It was the site for ice harvesting for the town of Groton at one point in its history. When you see the smooth, accessible surface, you will see why.

Learn more about what makes [Wattles Pond](#) special, like the fact that you can find one of the few Black Tupelo trees in Groton is here!

#### **From the GCT President:**

The Northeastern expansion of the Tennessee gas pipeline must be on every agenda of local conservation groups now. It is a heated issue and has many complicated layers. And like most charged issues, there is a great deal of information posted everywhere, some helpful, some just not factual.

There have been informational meetings here in Groton and surrounding towns which have been full to capacity. The upcoming meeting on **June 23 at**

[Susan Hughes](#) for details.

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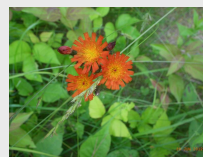
### **Harlan the Gnome is Back and Hiding!**



Somewhere out there on one of the GCT's properties is Harlan, our wood Gnome. He hides until someone finds him. The first one to find him receives a \$25 gift certificate to Johnson's for ice cream. Here's a hint: right now he is 80 feet from the trail. If you spot him, **EMAIL** us to claim your prize!

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### **June Outdoors**



Thanks to Mary Metzger, you can print an [Outdoors Groton Calendar](#) for all events in June. Enjoy!

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### **GCT Events**



**Lawrence Academy** will be the first time for Groton citizens to meet with Kinder Morgan, the company behind the proposed expansion. No matter how you feel about this issue, we encourage you to attend this meeting and get all the facts. In addition, there is another **town meeting with our elected officials on Monday, June 16** at the G-D middle school auditorium. This is another opportunity for you to hear what your neighbors are thinking and voice your opinions and concerns to our town.

The GCT, like other conservation groups, opposes the use of conservation land for this pipeline. The **NRWA** letter outlines the many environmental and ecological concerns that we trustees share.

We also hope to see you at one of the many events we will be at this summer; they are all listed on the side. Particularly I hope you join us for **Tom Wessels**, a very special presentation made possible by the Groton Commissioners of Trust Funds. Registration is appreciated, and the link will take you there.

Daniel Wolfe  
President

*Celebrating 50 years of land preservation*

**June 8, 11 - 5 PM**  
Greenway River Festival  
Nashua Boat Launch

**June 14, 1 - 4 PM**  
Tom Wessels, Groton  
School Library  
Conference Room

**Sept. 20, 10 - 5 PM**  
GrotonFest  
Legion Field

**Nov. 8, 2-4 PM**  
GCT Birthday Bash  
Williams Barn

[MORE](#) information!

Come see us!

**DONATE NOW**

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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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