

Wow! Have you seen our [new website](http://gctrust.org)! Same address: gctrust.org, great new look!

Like us on Facebook 



Your donation to the GCT helps us manage over 1500 acres of conservation lands, protecting valuable habitat and creating recreational opportunities for all.

DONATE NOW
Secure donations through
Network for Good

Dear Susan,

Bates Land, the First GCT Property

As we begin our 50th year of conservation and land management (*scroll down to see some of the exciting things we have planned!*) we want to highlight some of the outstanding properties we are honored to hold in conservation for all to enjoy. And what better place to begin than with our first property, Bates Land.

The Bates Land, 40 acres of fields and woods off Old Ayer Road and along James Brook was given to the GCT by Natica Bates in 1968. A trail up Indian Hill affords excellent views towards the west and connects to the Blackman Land. A picnic grove called "The Roadside Piece" was developed with R. Harvey Whitehill Memorial Funds. A conservation restriction has been held by The Trustees of Reservation since 1997.

Quick Links

[How you can help](#)

[Our Properties](#)

[Contact Information](#)

[Trustees and Founders](#)

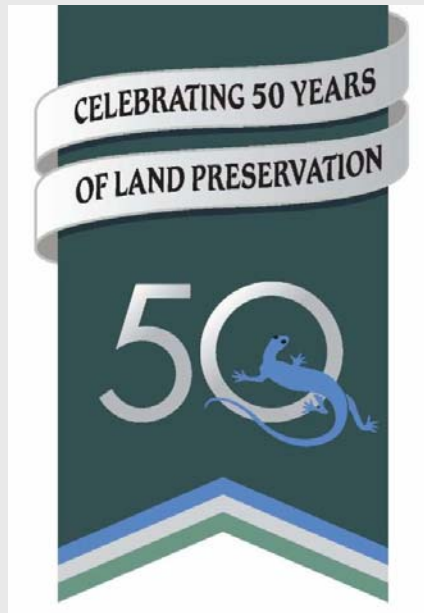
[Groton Trails Website](#)

How can you help with the GCT?

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

Mrs. Bates daughter, Natica, wrote a history of the property for the 35th anniversary of the GCT. You can read a portion of it [HERE](#) and get an idea of what life -- and the land -- was like when Mr. and Mrs. Bates first found it.

Come celebrate 50 years with us!



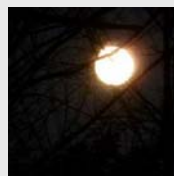
We will celebrate our 50 years by highlighting some of the great achievements of the past 50 years, sharing some incredible speakers and programs, and creating new ways for you to enjoy these great properties. We will remind you of some of the great properties we have been fortunate to protect (like Bates Land!) with stories and articles from our past 50 years. If you have a story you'd like to share, [contact](#) us!

In the meantime, note these dates and watch for more details.

- **May 1**, Annual Members Meeting
- **June 14**, Tom Wessels program and hike
- **November 8**, GCT Birthday Party at Williams Barn

Full Moon Snow Shoe, February 14, 7 PM

And to kick things off, join us **February 14** for a full moon snow shoe at Fitch-Woods. Meet us at Williams Barn at 7 PM for about an hour snow shoe. Then join us for hot chocolate and conversation afterwards. Bring your sweetheart!



- 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 [Susan Hughes](#) for details.

Discover Bates Land

Access the Bates Land from Old Ayer Road, just off of 119. At the entrance you will see a recently refurbished dedication stone. A scenic trail climbs the hill and affords views to the West and South.

Access to other properties by a trail to the east toward Skyfields Dr. and one to the south across the Blackman land to Indian Hill Rd..

Land Steward Meeting

When: Wed. Feb. 26,
7PM

Where: Lawrence
Academy,
MacNeil Lounge

Contact:
[Susan Hughes](#)

From the GCT President:

Winter Hikes!

Happy new year! This year you will notice some changes in our organization as we turn 50 this year. We are moving into the next phase of conservation, which is dedicated land management and protection.

We are undertaking many steps to successfully meet this goal. We are in the process of becoming an accredited land trust with the state. We have created an inventory of which of our properties need invasive control and have begun the process of prioritizing these properties and developing plans. We are creating new, engaging ways to bring you outdoors and enjoy the land, like the full moon hike (see the note above).

Soon, you'll even notice a new look for the GCT. We are beginning work on an updated mission statement and logo for our next half century. All of these ideas and more will be shared with you through this e-newsletter and at our annual meeting May 1. Stay tuned!

I want to thank all of you for your generosity at the year end. Your donations, all of which stay right here in Groton, go a long way to help us protect and manage our properties for you to enjoy. Each donation helps our hard-working team of volunteers make Groton a beautiful place to live and play.

I hope to see you in the woods during this snowy winter!
Dan Wolfe
President

Celebrating 50 years of land preservation



The Groton Trails Network plans to lead a series of winter hikes on various GCT properties in Groton.

Sunday, February 9 at 1PM sharp, join GCT Trustee Ed McNierney, members of the Groton Trails Committee and the Appalachian Mountain Club on a guided hike from Groton Place to Surrenden Farms.

We'll start at the popular "dog park" of Groton Place, but explore the lesser-known gems beyond. Includes hiking through upland forest and along the scenic Nashua River, then through Surrenden Farms, a wonderful conservation area.

Our hike will take 2 to 3 hours and is suitable for those with winter hiking experience. Snowshoes are helpful if there is a deep snow pack. Dogs must be kept under owner's control, and leashed upon request. The hike will be held unless it is stormy.

We will meet for the hike at the entrance to Groton Place, which has a brick wall with a gate leading into the woods, located on Route 225 (Long Hill Rd.), about 300 ft east of where Rt. 225 crosses the Nashua River. 42.6048N, 71.5960W

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.

[Forward this email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to susahughes@gmail.com by susanh@gctrust.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

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