



Jacob Llodra presents at the Conservation Summit on behalf of the GDRHS Environmental Club

Dear Susan,

The second annual Conservation Summit was held earlier this month. Hosted by the Groton Conservation Commission, this community presentation gave the various groups in town the chance to update everyone on their good work. In all, 15 groups representing everything from turtles to ponds shared what is happening in Groton to protect our natural resources. Also in attendance was Pat Huckery from the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. She expressed her appreciation for all the efforts in Groton and explained why the Groton landscape is so appealing to conservation groups. The meeting also presented "The Marion Lake Story", a film about volunteer-led water conservation in Ohio. The Conservation Summit was initiated by the GCT in 2015 as a way for groups to share experiences and resources around common issues

Join us in protecting
Groton's open
spaces. [Renew your
membership now!](#)

**Guided Hikes with
Michelle**



in conservation. Next year's host will be the Groton Trails Committee.

GCT Planning Session

In January, the GCT trustees met for a full day of strategic planning and goal setting for the Trust. We first reviewed our 2015 activities including:

- Dedicated a new parcel - Lotz Land - 13 acres on Half Moon Road - Adjacent to other conservation parcels
- Design and installation of wildflower meadow, paths and seating at General Field
- Rehabilitated meadows at Bates, Blackman, and General Field
- Invasive plant projects at the Throne and Bates
- Established maintenance fund for Forest Bells - A memorial to Arthur Blackman

After a review of the member survey (see more results below), we set goals for the coming year:

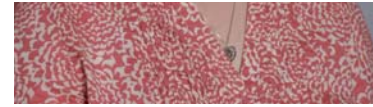
- Codify, schedule, and implement "routine" projects - including more concerted effort to maintain meadows including returning to native flora
- More outdoor activities - nature walks, field days
- Engage volunteers, particularly GCT members
- Work with the greater conservation community to develop a more coordinated approach to conservation and recreation
- Build on the Conservation Commission's 2012 Open Space and Recreation Plan
- Increase routine coordination and partnering - consider resource sharing and a town-wide approach
- GCT suggests that the 2017 summit focus on active coordination and planning.

Trustee Mark Gerath presented a [complete review of the day's work](#) at the 2016 Groton Conservation Summit.

Member Survey Results

Last month we sent a survey to all current members. The response was wonderful, thank you, and the information will help form our goals for the year. Interesting observations:

- The most visited property: [Fitch-Woods](#).
- 64% of members live a short walk from a



Trustee Michelle Ruby, an environmental science teacher at Lawrence Academy, continues her monthly hikes on GCT land. Hikes will take place at 10am on the first Sunday of the month, barring inclement weather or unavoidable conflict.

The March hike will take place on Sunday March 6 at 10am at [Shepley Hill](#). We will meet at the Common Street rail trail parking lot. Leashed dogs are welcome. This is a hilly hike, with a visit to a soapstone quarry!

Looking ahead, the April 3 hike will be on [Skitapet](#).



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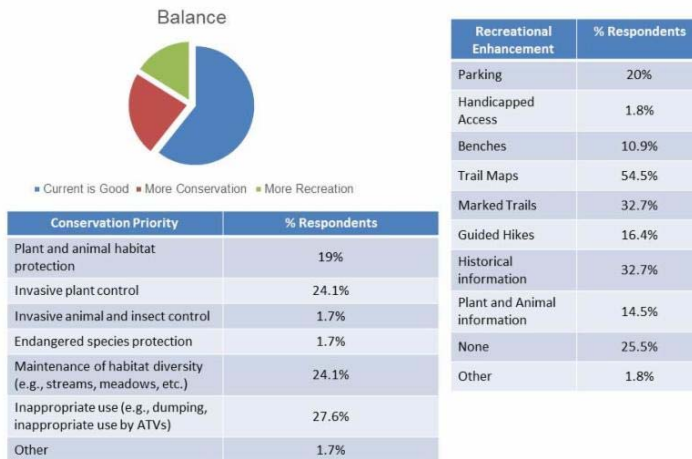
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[Groton Trails Website](#)

- GCT property.
- Trail maps are what people most would like to see more of from the Trust, along with guided hikes on various properties.

It is good to know the efforts we are putting into our [property pages](#) are on target.

GCT Member Survey (2)



Some member survey results

Thanks to everyone who participated. As an incentive, we offered a \$100 gift card to Gibbet Hill Grill. Member Bob Dragon was the lucky winner!

See you outside,
Susan, Ted, Ed and David for the Membership Committee.

PS: Did you know the GCT is made up of 15 all-volunteer [trustees](#)? Over the year we commit thousands of hours to protect these lands and to help you get to know them better. And nothing makes us happier than to hear how much you enjoy being out there. [Let us hear from you!](#)



Harlan the GCT Gnome has been enjoying his winter vacation, but he is getting itchy to get outside. Come Spring, we will set him free so he can once again hide out on our properties, waiting for you to find him.

MA Land Conservation Conference

The 26th annual conference will feature a workshop led by trustee Michelle Ruby (our hiking trustee!) presenting data from invasive species field work done in 2014 and 2015. The workshop, titled *Field Experiments in Invasive Plant Management for Land Trusts and Best Management Practices and Case Studies for Controlling Invasive Species on Conservation Lands* gives the GCT the opportunity to share our findings from our experiments that evaluated cost (in time and money) and practicality of invasive management techniques with other land trusts. This work was made

possible by a grant to the GCT from the Community Foundation of North Central MA in 2014. The Conference will be help on April 2.

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.

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

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