



Lawrence Woods beside the Nashua River.

## Dear Susan,

It was a great honor for me assuming the Presidency at our May annual meeting. Dan Wolfe did a superb job in his five-year tenure and he made my transition easy. Thanks so much Dan. I also quickly realized that there is little down time for our all-volunteer Board. These last few months has seen a bevy of activity. While we were disappointed that weather forced postponement of our General Field celebration in June, nonetheless, it was gratifying to see so many people attracted to the site and the spectacular wildflower park we completed this spring. It is a special place. We've been active on

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other land management fronts, completing a significant clean up and restoration of the Blackman Field & Woods at the end of Indian Hill road. Please take a visit and continue on to see the Bells, this is a wonderful site and one of my favorites.

David Black and Mark Gerath met with Division of Fisheries & Wildlife to propose some innovative Habitat Management concepts for our Gamlin Springs property, on which the Division holds a CR.

I am also happy to report that The Trustees of the Reservation, who conducted their annual monitoring of the CR held by them on the Bates-Blackman property, stated "we are pleased to see that the property is well cared for, in a spirit consistent with the terms of the CR."

We are also pleased with the results at one year on at the Bates Property from our field restoration efforts undertaken last year. We have been sharing our learnings from the Invasive control study we conducted the last two years at our Shepley and Bates property with the newly appointed town Invasives Committee.

All of this highlights the continued focus we have on responsible stewardship and active land management of our properties. Take some time this fall and visit one of our sites, maybe try a new property. You can find a comprehensive list of properties at our website, trail maps for most. Finally, stop by our booth at GrotonFest. It is a great way to meet members and share what is new.

See you out and about,  
Ted Lapres  
President

## Quick Links

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[Trustees and Founders](#)

[Groton Trails Website](#)

**Keep up** with all our [events and activities](#) including many summer hikes and festivals, by visiting us online. There is something for everyone just about every weekend in June. We hope to see you out there!

## Guided Hikes with Michelle: October 2



Trustee  
Michelle  
Ruby,  
an

environmental science teacher at Lawrence Academy, continues her

## It's Membership Time!

It is time to renew memberships! Our cycle is October 1 - September 30. [This list identifies everyone who is currently paid for 2016](#), and up for renewal in October. You can pay online, or to make it even easier, we will be at GrotonFest (September 24) and will be happy to renew your membership then! For the past several months, we have been posting why people enjoy giving to the GCT. This month, we thought we would share a story by new member John Moores. His family has been busy finding our forest gnome Harlan this year.

### *Why I became a member, John Moores*

"After many hours of trying, mostly on the wrong properties, I have finally found Harlan this overcast evening! I found him at Wattles Pond at 8pm, Sunday, 7/10/2016.

My 7-year-old daughter and I had spent two hours in the early afternoon scouring the woods east of Wattles Pond, after we discovered the lovely silver maples there next to the water. Although one of the clues said that Harlan was not on one of the main marked trails, such as the trail past the silver maples, we had found some tertiary trails in the adjacent woods and weren't sure if Harlan might be near one of those. When we left the woods northeast of the pond, on the wide secondary trail, we must have been really close to the elusive gnome.

This evening I came in along the northern edge of the pond and took the left trail at the the junction. I was searching



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 October hike will take place on **Sunday October 2** at 10am at the [Skinner Forest](#). We will meet at the entrance off the bend in the Lost Lake Road (between 437 and 453 Lost Lake Road for GPS users).

Dogs are welcome, on leash.

### **Fox Hunts at General Field, Monday, Oct. 10** *by Trustee Wendy Good*

Fox Old North Bridge Hounds is carrying on the tradition of fox hunting in Groton. The old Groton Hunt kennel was at Surrenden Farm.

On Oct 10th at 10 AM hounds will meet at The General Field to follow a scent line of anise liquor through the trails of Groton.

The scent is laid by people to make sure the hounds go



both sides of the trail.

After about 100 yards, I noticed quite a few witch hazels on the right, at a point where the trail descends and curves right then left, just past some seemingly dying young pines and a large standing dead tree.



I didn't look closely, but my 7-year-old asked if the chain is part of Harlan or if it is separate from him and used for some purpose such as keeping him from moving around in the wind. We are also wondering if the snail is his pet or friend.

Thank you for having these contests. My family now knows a lot more about tupelos, silver maples, and witch hazels."



*Postscript: John and his daughter found Harlan a second time last week! John adds, "this round of Harlan searching introduced us to yet more GCT property we had not previously explored, including Hayes Woods, Skitapet, the eastern side of the 3 connecting Throne Hill properties, and the western side of Gamlin Crystal Spring". If you would like to see Harlan, visit us at our GrotonFest booth where*

where the hunt is planned.

This is known as a mock fox hunt. In days of old The Groton Hunt searched for wild fox. However, unlike England, the fox was not dug from its hole but allowed to escape to be chased again.

The hounds bay when they find the scent to call the other hounds to join them. Horses with mounted riders dressed in formal hunting attire will follow the hounds. All can be seen from the General Field parking area.

The huntsman may blow her horn to call any straying hound.

So it is not only a sight to watch but to hear as well. The hunt ends at Groton Place where statues from the Groton Hunt era abound.



*he will be hanging out for the day.*

### **Biological Control in Natural Areas: A good or bad idea?**

*-- A Special Presentation of the Groton Invasive Species Committee: Monday Oct. 3rd, 6:30 PM, Legion Hall*

Did you know that Groton is a major site on the front lines of the battle against an invasive species? Beetles with a particular fondness for purple loosestrife, a beautiful but highly invasive wetland plant, were released at multiple Groton sites in the 2000s. This concept - "Biological Control" of an invasive species via introduction of highly specific species that eat or otherwise destroy the invasive - is in practice worldwide and the focus of cutting edge research. Want to learn more about biological control of invasive species?

The Groton Invasive Species Committee presents Dr. Roy Van Driesche, Professor of Entomology at UMass Amherst to discuss "Biological Control in Natural Areas: A good or bad idea?". Global and local examples will be covered, including practical steps for land managers, property owners, and folks interested in conservation. Refreshments will be served, and the talk will be preceded and followed with time for networking, questions, and discussion.

Please contact the [Invasive Species Committee](#), with any questions. Dr. Van Driesche's biographical sketch and the talk abstract can be found on our [website](#). Come out for a fun and educational evening!



### **GrotonFest, September 24, Booth #46**

Come visit us at GrotonFest! For new or renewing memberships, we are giving out packets of wildflower seeds, the same mix we used for The General Field. We also have note cards featuring some of our properties as well as the wall map of all conservation land in town. We hope you stop by and say hi!



*You can have these same  
wildflowers in your  
garden next spring!*

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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