



An old mare barn is one of the "finds" along the new trail on The General Field.

Dear Susan,

It's been a busy summer at The General Field. Trustees and volunteers were creating an open park, putting in an accessible walkway, clearing a new loop trail around the property, and planting! Planting also means many volunteer hours from our trustees to weed and maintain the area. Big thanks to our friends at the Groton Trails Network for a new loop trail through the woods and around the field. Fall is a spectacular time to take in the views at The General Field, (the picture above, courtesy of Mark Gerath). The trail is not yet marked but easy to follow.

If you go: Take a right off of Farmers Row on Joy Lane, then left on Shirley Road. Follow this to the GCC Surrenden kiosk. Go straight (east) across the field that is on the other side of Shirley Rd. from the kiosk at Surrenden Farm. When you get to the



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Come see us at GrotonFest September 19. (We look kind of lonely...)



line of trees, turn right (south) and go about ¼ mile to the trail opening on the left. (Shortly after entering the woods the trail goes through a rock wall.) When you come out of the woods, stay on the mowed trail to the left (north), which goes past an old mare barn, and continue north to the main field. If you turn left and stay along the edge of the trees, you will come back to where you started on Shirley Rd. Parking is available along Shirley Road.



Trustee Mark Gerath worked with GTN volunteers Dave Minott, Paul Funch, Kiirja Paananen, Dave Burnham, Jim Peregoy and Greg DiSanto on the trail.

Lotz Land Dedication



Second time was a charm for the Lotz Land dedication on August 9th. 30 guests joined the Lotz/Lang family to unveil the new sign and hear trustees Ed McNierney and Bob Pine explain the significance of the property. If you missed it, GCT advisory council member Karen Riggert [captured the event](#) for you. Many

What to do outdoors?

Check out our [website](#) for great activities featured in the Swarm of Drumlins. Also coming up October 18th is the [18th Annual Groton Forest Trail Race](#).

The [Nashua River Watershed Association](#) is offering the Heart Healthy Trails Project: Exploring Trails in Groton on Tuesday, September 22, 6 pm. A short guided walk at two sites: Sabine Woods and General Field/Surrenden Farm. Each of these walks is 1.5 miles or less, and is easy to moderate in activity level. This trail tour is free, open to all ages and all communities, but no dogs. Park at the Groton Place parking area off of Rt. 225 (West Main Street) in Groton, on the left just before you cross the bridge over the Nashua River. Preregistration is not required, but appreciated for planning purposes. To preregister, [contact Al Futterman](#), or (978) 448-0299 .



Next Harlan Clue: Mushrooms



Harlan has noticed toadstools are popping up all over the GCT property he is resting

thanks to Bob and Sue Lotz!

Membership Renewal Time

Property maintenance (like the work on The General Field mentioned above) is just one area that benefits from your membership. Whether we are paying neighbors to mow fields or purchasing native plants to repopulate landscapes, your donation helps us be mindful stewards of these beautiful properties.

Your \$50 family membership says you are proud to protect and manage our rural landscape and that you value the diverse ecosystems we are lucky to have here.

Another thing we were busy at work on this summer is erecting new signs (Lotz and Perry) and replacement signs on our properties (Hayes Woods and Skinner Forest).



Your donations help us with this work!

If you made a special donation to the GCT at year-end in 2014 you are paid until April 2016, thank you very much. If you are unsure of your membership status [drop us an email](#) and we will be happy to check for you. See us at GrotonFest to renew or please consider [renewing online](#) today!

Your membership says you care about Groton's open spaces

Thank you to everyone who has taken a few moments to renew your annual

on. Gnomes and toadstools go together don't you think? There are maroon ones, yellow ones, gold ones, tan ones, etc.. Even the pretty Deathcaps (Amanita) sitting picturesquely beside the main trail. Despite its lovely orange cap with white warts and white veil it is very poisonous. There is also a large clump of green topped white bodied mushrooms near the junction of the rock trail. Not surprising for there are over 1,000 varieties of mushrooms native to the United States. If you are seeing mushrooms you maybe very near Harlan, and could get free ice cream for finding him!

Good luck! Watch for more clues on our [Facebook](#) page!

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And now for something completely different...

We have passed along reports before on the restorative qualities of nature. The Japanese call it shinrin-yoku, or forest bathing. The people at Dream Tree Film and Productions put their personal spin on this message with [this very clever TV ad](#) we wish we could see on TV! Enjoy!

membership. The support means a great deal, and goes a long way in helping us with our annual goals. This year our goals include continuing our invasive species project, creating new access to the Blackman/Genther Woods lands, and finishing The General Field park project. Your membership dues -- and your donation of time -- help our all-volunteer board get this work and much more done. If you haven't renewed your membership, please take time do so now, simply by clicking the DONATE NOW button. And remember, each recurring membership receives a thank you of note cards featuring GCT properties.

Thank you! Susan, Ted, Ed and David on membership



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.

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