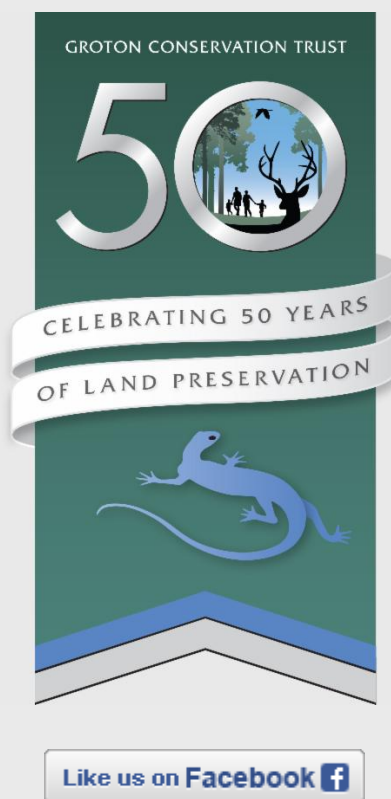


Wow! Have you seen our [new website](http://gctrust.org)! Same address: [gctrust.org](http://gctrust.org), great new look!



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



Dear Susan,

### 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 (read further to discover how the GCT came to protect Genthner Woods) and feature stories and articles from our past 50 years. If you have a story you'd like to share, contact us.

#### Note these dates and watch for more details.

- May 1, Annual Members Meeting. We will present [Ted Elliman](#), Sr. Botanist from the New England Wild Flower Society talking about invasive species in our area and what we can do to about them.
- June 14, [Tom Wessels](#) program and hike. Tom is an

#### Quick Links

[How you can help](#)  
[Our Properties](#)  
[Contact Information](#)  
[Trustees and Founders](#)  
[Groton Trails Website](#)

#### The General Field in the Movies!

A movie production crew from Devens will be filming a romantic comedy in the area, "[Tumbledown](#)". The film

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

- November 8, GCT Birthday Party at Williams Barn. Family-friendly activities including a visit by the creature teacher [Richard Roth](#) with his "pets", a contra dance with the Contra Banditos, bird-feeder making and a walk.

## Bob and Sue Lotz Donate Half Moon Pond Land



Bob and Sue Lotz recently gave to the Groton Conservation Trust 13 acres of land that spans an area from the trail known as Half Moon Road down to and including Half Moon Pond. The Lotzes bought

the land more than 25 years ago with the hope that a significant area along and near Half Moon Road could be preserved as part of Groton's public land heritage. The GCC property, Half Moon Swamp Conservation Area lies to the southwest of the gift, and the GCT Reynolds Tract abuts to the northwest and north, and reaches to Indian Hill Road. "We feel grateful to live in Groton, where so many have contributed their talent, time and other resources for the common good," said Bob and Sue. "Because of its history of thoughtful conservation management, the Trust provided the logical and satisfying choice for us to ensure this land is preserved for the long-term benefit of our community." This beautiful property connects the end of Indian Hill Road to Old Ayer Road. Approximately ½ of the parcel is upland with steep grades and bedrock outcrops with of oak and pine forest. The other half of the parcel makes up a significant portion of Half Moon Swamp including the largest portion of open water. The swamp has been documented to exists since the 17th century. The GCT thanks the Lotzes for this thoughtful and important gift, and will formally acknowledge their donation at the May 1 Annual Meeting.



For more information and pictures of Lotz Land visit our [website](#)

will feature a scene with our own General Field as the backdrop.

## 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 [Susan Hughes](#) for details.

## Discover Genthner Woods

Access the 5 acres of woodland along Nate Nutting Road, off Boston Road.

The adjacent Blackman Field and Woods includes a scenic trail that allows visitors to discover and enjoy Paul Matisse's "Forest Bells," donated by the Groton artist in 1997.

## Guided Hike

and explore our properties. *Pictures courtesy of Bob Lotz.*

## Groton Conservation Forum

During the winter months the GCT has been meeting with other conservation-minded groups to discuss issues that affect all groups in Groton. These meetings have included members of the Groton Trails Network, the Conservation Commission, our own Land Stewards, and coming up, meetings with NRWA, Mass Audubon and maybe even the AMC. The goal of these meetings is define where our interests intersect and to work with each other to protect and promote our open spaces. Some of the issues discussed include hunting on protected lands, the use of motorized vehicles, snowmobiling in particular and invasive control. At our March meeting, the GCT endorsed the formation of the Groton Conservation Forum as a way to gather these groups during the year. If you would like to be a part of these discussions [contact us](#) and we will keep you posted.

## "From our Family to Yours"



*In our continuing series of property histories, this is the story of how Genthner Woods came to be.*

On a damp Sunday afternoon in October 1994, Trustees met with Ms. Sally Genthner Smith and Ms. Jane Genthner DeCourcy at the end of Indian Hill Road, and walked back to the land. What we

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

### Sunday, March 16

1PM sharp, join members of the Groton Trails Committee and the Appalachian Mountain Club on a guided hike from historic Williams Barn through the Sorhaug Woods. This hike has a bit of everything, from a low-lying beaver pond, to upland woods, to open orchard, then a climb to the highest point in Groton, Chestnut Hill, affording nice views. Our hike will take about 2 hours and is suitable for those experienced in hiking woods and hills in winter. Wear appropriate hiking shoes. Dogs must be kept under owner's control, and leashed upon request. The hike will be held unless it is stormy. Meet for the hike at Williams Barn, located at 160 Chicopee Row in Groton. 42.62651N, 71.56098W. Olin Lathrop, [olin@embedinc.com](mailto:olin@embedinc.com), (978) 742-9014.

found was a mixed forest of hardwoods and dense stands of hemlock, a sheer rock wall almost twenty feet high, and a nearby rock outcropping that was clearly home to a den of porcupines and perhaps fox. So began our relationship with Genthner Woods. [Read more](#) about what this special place meant to the family.

### From the GCT President:

When you think about conservation and protection of public land, you probably don't think of boosting the economy. In fact there is a major court case in front of the [MA Supreme Court](#) right now discussing the taxable reality of keeping conservation lands protected. And it seems every week there is a new town in MA questioning the economic value of their protected land.

So it is encouraging to see John Judge, president of the AMC, make the case that there are very real economic benefits of protected land. In the latest issue of *AMC Outdoors* he quotes an Outdoor Industry Association report that says outdoor recreation is responsible for \$646 billion in direct spending annually nationwide, and supports over 6 million American jobs. In MA, the [Trust for Public Land](#) "conducted an economic analysis of the return on the Commonwealth's investment in land conservation through a variety of state funding programs and found that every \$1 invested in land conservation returned \$4 in natural goods and services to the MA economy" according to their report released in Sept. of 2013.

The term "public benefit" keeps popping up in these discussions and I feel you don't have to look too far to find public benefit at work here. We have consumer enterprises like the Nashoba Paddler operating on a clean river, a farmers' market located on a former barn site giving small farmers and artisans new commerce, even movie producers taking interest in our cinematic-worthy views (see

### Top 10 Outdoor Activities Based on Money Spent:

10. Hunting: \$23 Billion
9. Wildlife Viewing: \$33 Billion
8. Fishing: \$35 Billion
7. Motorcycling: \$43 Billion
6. Snow Sports: \$53 Billion
5. Off-Roadng: \$66 Billion
4. Trail Sports: \$81 Billion
3. Bicycling: \$81 Billion
2. Water Sports: \$86 Billion
1. Camping: \$143 Billion

*From [Outdoor Magazine Online](#).*



the side article on The General Field's screen test).

I like thinking of our open spaces as contributing to our overall economy. It's a new way to appreciate the good work of the GCT.

Dan Wolfe  
President

*Celebrating 50 years of land preservation*

**DONATE NOW**

Secure donations through  
Network for Good

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](mailto:susahughes@gmail.com) by [susanh@gctrust.org](mailto:susanh@gctrust.org) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

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