

Groton Conservation Trust



Lotz Land.

Photo credit: Bob Lotz

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Your donation to the GCT helps us manage over 1400 acres of conservation lands, protecting valuable habitat and creating recreational opportunities for all. Please consider becoming a member with a \$50 family donation.

Dear Susan,

You are invited!

Our 50th Celebration Continues with a Birthday Bash: Nov. 8

Our official birthday will be a family affair at The Williams Barn. We will have activities for all ages and barn music with the Contra Banditos featuring Bev Rodrigues. Richard Roth, the creature teacher, will be on hand showing off some of his critters.

Williams Barn 2-4 PM

2:00 - 3:00 Guided hikes, birdhouse building

3:00 - 4:00 Rick Roth:

The Creature Teacher

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GCT Mission Statement (adopted 2014)

The Groton Conservation Trust enhances the quality of life in our community through environmental conservation, and engages residents in the enjoyment and stewardship of our remarkable natural landscapes.

October Outdoors



2:00 - 4:00 Music by the Contra Banditos, cupcakes and cider.

First Parish Church Vestry 5 PM



Our 50th Birthday Bash will conclude with a talk by renowned bear expert Ben Kilham. Ben operates an extensive rehab facility for orphaned black bear cubs in Lyme, NH, where he has raised and released dozens of young bears into the wild over the years. Ben will show slides and video, and describe insights he has gained during decades of close observation and interaction with these intelligent and surprisingly social creatures. Q & A (and cake and cider!) will follow.

[Register](#) for these free events, made possible through a grant from the Groton Commissioners of Trust Funds. We hope to see you!

Gamlin Property Hikes

Two hikes this fall explore the beautiful Gamlin Crystal Springs property. The first:

Sunday, November 9
1:00pm - 3:00pm
Gamlin Esker Trail

Join trustees and members of the Groton Trails Committee on a late-fall guided hike on the Esker Trail through the Gamlin Crystal Spring Conservation Area. We will hike together through the woods, up and over a



Thanks to Advisory Council member Mary Metzger, you can print an [Outdoors Groton Calendar](#) for all events in October. Enjoy!

GCT Events



Nov. 8, 2-4 PM
GCT Birthday Bash
Williams Barn

Nov. 8, 5 PM
First Parish Church Vestry
Bears!

[MORE](#) information!

Come see us!

Friend-Raiser!

For our 50th anniversary, we have a goal to bring on 50 new members at a \$50/family membership. Your membership says you care about the beautiful open spaces in Groton and you enjoy the recreation, the peace, and the natural habitat that is possible by maintaining these open spaces. Your annual membership helps us keep these properties beautiful, enjoyable, and most important, protected.

beautiful esker overlooking Cow Pond Brook and flanking a large wetland area where beavers are very active. This hike showcases one of the many wonderful conservation areas owned by the GCT. Our hike on the Gamlin Esker Trail will take be about 1½ hours, and is suitably short for families with children. Dogs must be kept under owner's control or leashed upon request. Wear comfortable hiking shoes. The hike will be held unless it is very stormy. We will meet to start our hike at the very end of Cow Pond Brook Rd., past the transfer station. Park on the side of the road.

Sunday, December 7 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Gamlin Crystal Spring Conservation Area

This beautiful GCT area is accessed via skillfully routed trails and features dense woods, rocky outcrops, beaver ponds, huge boulders, and an old "lost" quarry. The hike will take about 2 hours and is suitable for families with children. Dogs must be under owner's control or leashed if requested. Wear comfortable hiking shoes as there are some short rocky sections. The hike will be held unless it is very stormy. We will meet at the trail head on Old Dunstable Rd. Take Lowell Rd. (Rt. 40) to Old Dunstable Rd. Proceed north on Old Dunstable Rd., passing the intersection with Bridge St. after 1.25 miles, then continuing for another 0.25 miles on Old Dunstable Rd. The trail head and parking are on your left, just past the sign for the Gamlin Conservation Area.

Harlan the Gnome is still out there

Somewhere out there on one of the GCT's properties is Harlan, our wood Gnome. He hides until someone finds him. The first one to find him receives a \$25 gift certificate to Johnson's for ice cream. Here's a hint: right now he is 80 feet from the trail. If you spot him, [EMAIL](#) us to claim your prize!



From the GCT President:

I want to highlight some of the good work done this year by our trustees. You'll be reading more about this in our year-end appeal coming out soon, but here are three areas of note.

Invasive Species. GCT has taken a leadership role by developing and field-testing control

If you are not a member, please [join today](#). Already a member? Send a friend our way! Help us make our friend-raiser goal!



50th Anniversary:
Family/\$50.00

Support GCT with Amazon!

The GCT is participating in a trial donation program with Amazon. By logging in [HERE](#) and doing your usual shopping, Amazon will donate a portion of the purchases to the GCT. You will use your same Amazon account and log-in information, now you will just see the AmazonSmile logo and Groton Conservation Trust as the charity. Let us know what you think.

Did you know?

We are one of Ten Accredited Land Trusts in Massachusetts

On August 26, 2014 the Land Trust Accreditation Commission recognized the Groton Conservation Trust for meeting national standards for excellence, upholding the public trust and ensuring that conservation efforts are permanent.

Congratulations to all of Groton!

techniques that can be used by land trusts across the state. The Community Foundation of North Central MA recognized this significant management effort by awarding GCT a sizable grant to underwrite our innovative work on the Shepley Hills and Bates properties.

Land Use. The Trust has joined with other conservation groups to discuss areas of shared concern: motorized vehicles on trails, hunting, volunteer invasive "pulls," agriculture, and ways to enhance and expand responsible recreational uses.

Public Access. A key part of our mission is to promote outdoor recreational use that respects the conservation values underpinning our decision to protect the land in the first place. We organize guided walks, snowshoe hikes and trail talks. We actively collaborate with the Groton Trails Committee to connect trails across multiple properties. We work constantly to improve signage and access to properties. New plans for The General Field include a visitor landing with picnic tables and a wildflower pasture.

We look forward to seeing you and celebrating on November 8!

Sincerely,
Dan Wolfe
President

Land Trust Accreditation Commission Accredited

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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