

# Groton Conservation Trust



Thanks to Advisory Council member Karen Riggert for this beautiful shot and the many others now appearing on our [website](#).

Like us on Facebook 

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 joining us with a \$50 family donation.

**Dear Susan,**

**Accreditation Awarded by the  
Land Trust Accreditation**

**DONATE NOW**

Secure donations through  
Network for Good

## Quick Links

[How you can help](#)

[Our Properties](#)

[Contact Information](#)

[Trustees and Founders](#)

[Groton Trails Website](#)

## Commission

The Groton Conservation Trust has achieved full land trust accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the national Land Trust Alliance. This accreditation demonstrates that the GCT meets national standards for excellence, upholding the public trust and ensuring that conservation efforts are permanent. Accredited land trusts are authorized to display a seal indicating this accreditation. (Which we will do in this newsletter!)

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, based in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., awards the accreditation seal to community institutions that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places.



"This is a proud moment for the GCT and for Groton. To have the GCT awarded accredited status recognizes the conservation work the Trust has been doing for the past 50 years. It demonstrates our commitment to permanent land conservation that benefits the entire community. And it says that Groton is a community that values its natural landscape." says Dan Wolfe, GCT President. Read the complete story [HERE](#).

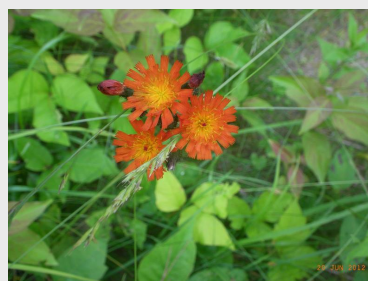
## Advisory Council Formed

The GCT Advisory Council was formed to help expand the work of our all-volunteer organization and capitalize on some common intersections we have with other quality conservation groups in town. At the first meeting on Sept. 3, AC members met with Trustees for a dinner and conversation on how conservation efforts can expand. Some of the outstanding ideas included creating a town-wide volunteer coordinator to

## GCT Mission Statement (adopted 2014)

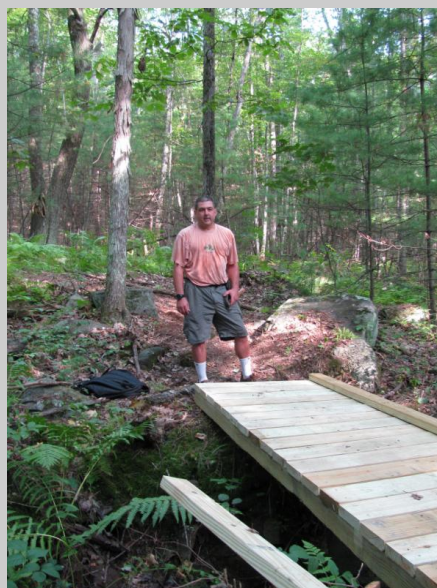
**The Groton Conservation Trust enhances the quality of life in our community through environmental conservation, and engages residents in the enjoyment and stewardship of our remarkable natural landscapes.**

## September Outdoors



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

## Gamlin Footbridge Project Completed





energize people around projects, including Groton trails and open spaces in state-wide recreational events, and collaborating on beautification projects around town.

The new AC members are:

Stacey Chilcoat  
Paul Funch  
Suzanna Black  
Tom Delaney  
John Maynard  
Peter Morrison  
Diane Carson  
Alex Woodle  
John Llodra  
Mary Metzger  
Karen Riggert

These people represent the NRWA, Groton Lakes Association, Groton Trails Network, Conservation Commission, hunters, farmers, and land stewards.

Are you interested in volunteering? [Contact us!](#)  
It's that easy!

## Bates - Shepley Invasives Project Update

The Groton Conservation Trust, with funding from a grant from the Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts, embarked on a project at the beginning of July to study different invasive species removal techniques at two different properties in Groton, the Bates Land and Shepley Hill. The project has been conducted under the direction of trustee David Black with assistance from trustee Michelle Ruby. Most of the work has been carried out by technician Sarah Black and intern Nicole Fronsdaahl.

As of July 29, the mechanical removal at both properties is complete. The two properties differed drastically in the type and size of vegetation encountered. While both had many of

Project Volunteer Paul Nuccio

*by David Minott*

A new footbridge at Gamlin Crystal Spring was installed in August in the Gamlin Crystal Spring conservation area, affording trail hikers a sure-footed replacement for the rickety beaver dam that was being used to cross a stream. The project, after receiving approvals from both the Groton Conservation Trust and the Groton Conservation Commission, was shepherded by Dave Minott of the Groton Trails Committee. Dave extends a big thank you to trail maintenance volunteer Paul Nuccio, shown in the photo, who proposed the footbridge and lent his able assistance to the task of constructing it.

## Invasive Species Management Update

Grant work in progress:



Bates Land before invasive removal efforts.

the same species present, common buckthorn (*Rhamnus Cathartica*) and Japanese barberry (*Berberis Thunbergii*) were the most common at Shepley Hill.

As of August 6, the smaller brush piles at the Bates Land have been removed using a portable chipper. The larger brush pile will be left to decompose. We plan to recruit volunteers to help chip the multiple smaller brush piles at Shepley Hill. We have been working with an herbicide application company to set up a time to conduct the cut-stump and foliar spray herbicide applications. See the before and after pictures on the right. More detail about the project, maps and photos are available [HERE](#).



The same Bates Land parcel after invasive species treatment. Next year, a simple pull will remove new growth.

### From the GCT President:

It is with great pride that I tell a little story out of school on my fellow trustees. The pride comes from the announcement this month that we are one of only 10 land trusts in Massachusetts that has been awarded accreditation since the fall of 2008. (See the full story up top.) The story is that we are a bunch of land loving, field-roaming, action-taking individuals who would rather be ANYWHERE outdoors instead of at a computer. But for the last couple of years, GCT volunteer trustees, under the helpful eye of Connie Lapres, have done some pretty heavy desk duty to prepare our trust for this national recognition. It is a recognition that we share with all of Groton because it truly aligns us with much larger communities who value the

### GCT Events



**Sept. 20, 10-5 PM**

Grotonfest  
Legion Field

**Nov. 8, 2-4 PM**

GCT Birthday Bash  
Williams Barn

[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

beauty of the their natural landscapes. So if you see some wildly-joyous people romping along The General Field, or Fitch-Woods or Gamlin Crystal Springs, no worries. It is just a bunch of free GCT trustees!

We hope to see you out there in our nationally recognized open spaces!

**Dan Wolfe**  
President

*Celebrating 50 years  
of land preservation*



possible by maintaining these open spaces. Your annual membership helps us keep these properties beautiful, enjoyable, and most important, protected.

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.

---

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 email**



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



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