



# GROTON CONSERVATION TRUST

gctrust.org



January 7 animal tracking snowshoe. Courtesy of Susan Fry

## Dear Susan,

This has been an interesting winter! More ice than snow, long periods of frigid temperatures and yet not everything is frozen. As we found out on our popular animal tracking snowshoe in early January (31 participants at 10 degrees!), you can never know about ice. Fortunately, we only experienced wet boots, but please be careful -- and mindful of your surroundings -- when out exploring!

We have a lineup of activities to keep you engaged in late winter and early spring starting with the town's annual Groton Conservation Forum in February.

The forum began through the combined efforts of the GCT, the



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us protect Groton's  
open spaces.

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## GCT at the MA Land Conservation Conference Mar 24

We are pleased to have trustee **Rick Muehlke** presenting at this year's conference. His talk, part of the Land Management and Stewardship session, will

Groton Trails Network and the Groton Conservation Commission to increase coordination and cooperation among environmental organizations in our area. This collaboration began in 2014 and each year the forum focuses on a project all groups can bring to their constituents. This year, the forum will be hosted by the GCT and the theme is fostering environmental education and data collection. GCT Trustee Mark Gerath will review the GCT's plans including the use of [iNaturalist](#), a program the GCT will be applying. iNaturalist is an online-based data gathering tool that allows anyone to collect information from our landscape and post them for the scientific world for confirmation and study. Under iNaturalist, the GCT has created our own project called "[The Nature of Groton](#)" and we hope that others will use it too!

The summit is February 15 at 6:30 PM at the MCC on the Lawrence Academy campus. It is open to all.

### What to do in early 2018

Here is a list of activities we will be hosting. All are invited and all are free!

- February 15, Groton Conservation Forum (see above)
- March 25: iNaturalist demonstration, Groton School 1 PM, with outdoor practice included
- April 14, Vernal Pool Walk, Throne Hill 1:00 PM
- May 5, Tree ID Walk, details to follow

Watch our [Facebook](#) page for pop up hikes and events. We like to take advantage of full moons, new snow, owls mating and other last minute excuses to get outside!

#### *And a bit later this year...*

A few events you can count on: an early summer party at the General Field, another visit with the Eyes on Owls folks and Tom Wessels always has great insight on the Groton landscape and we will bring him back in the fall!



focus on property monitoring.

Property monitoring is an annual charge of the GCT, to check out each of the properties and report any issues. We enjoy checking up on the properties and we wonder if this is something members would enjoy as well. With properties all over Groton, there is bound to be one near you! If you think this is something you might enjoy [let us know](#) !

### March 25: Learn to be an iNaturalist!

Interested in learning more about the nature of Groton? The Groton Conservation Trust will spend 2018 focusing on helping our members and the public record the biodiversity of town. Join [iNaturalist.org](#) today and then join our learning session at the [Groton School, March 25 at 1:00](#). iNaturalist expert Nicholas Block, assistant professor of biology at Stonehill College, will help us sign on and learn how to use this exciting tool. We will then get outside for an actual test run.

You can find our project right from the [GCT homepage](#).





### Help improve our property signs!



The Trust made great progress in 2017 in replacing older wood signs on our properties. We installed six completely new signs and three parts of signs, which were broken or rotted. Our

goals for 2018 are to:

- Create an inventory and map of all our existing aluminum and plastic 1' x 1' signs which read "Welcome - Protected Area". These usually dot the perimeter of the property.
- Determine where additional such signs should be placed. Are they damaged or missing?
- Install any additional signs.

**Rick Muehlke** is heading up this project and he needs volunteers to assist. If you'd like to help, please contact Rick or take note when you are out and about. Thanks!

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.  
Mission Statement Adopted July, 2014

[Donate Now](#)

[iNaturalist.org](#)

- House Finch**  
Observer: mruby  
Date: Jan 18 2018  
Place: 100 Hollis Street Groton MA
  - Barred Owl**  
Observer: dhblackjr  
Date: Jan 10 2018  
Place: Middlesex County, US-MA, US
  - Northern Cardinal**  
Observer: susanhughes  
Date: Jan 04 2018  
Place: 62 Watson Way, Groton, MA, US
- [View more observations from The Nature of Groton on iNaturalist.org =>](#)

Join us! It is free but please [RSVP](#) and let us know you are coming.

### Quick Links

[Amazon Smiles](#)  
(where Amazon donates to the GCT with every purchase!)



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

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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