



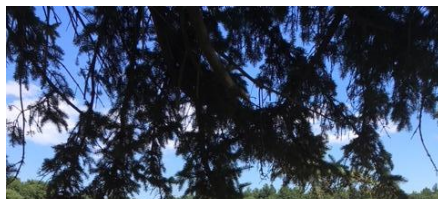
GROTON CONSERVATION TRUST

gctrust.org



Photo Courtesy of trustee Rick Muehlke.

It may seem like the lazy, hazy days of summer, but in fact there is much going on in the beautiful open spaces in Groton. On your visit to The General Field, many of you may have been lucky enough to see a true agricultural partnership in action. John and Laurie Smigelski, owners of Excalibur Farms and neighbors, have worked with the GCT for many years to grow and harvest the hay and winter rye that is so abundant on the property. This last month was haying season and as these photos suggest, it is quite the production. While visitors enjoy the beautiful vistas



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protect Groton's
open
spaces.**

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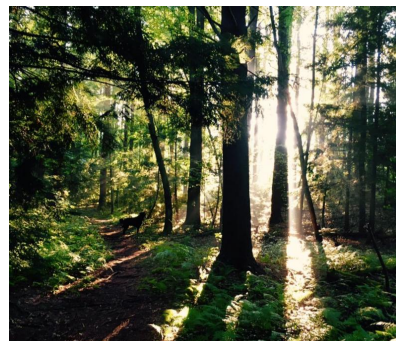
Summer Tree Walk: August 25

Trustee Michelle Ruby will lead the next tree walk on August 25, at 10 AM. Meet at the Rockwood Lane entrance to the Throne Hill property in

of waving wheat and rye, the farming process is beneficial to the overall health and care of the property and key to preserving the agricultural composition of our community. According to a Groton Herald report, the Smigelski's local farm leases about 250 acres in Groton and is the largest full-time farming business in town. Many thanks to trustee Rick Muehlke for capturing the action.



West Groton. Contact [Michelle](#) to make sure she knows you are going.



Thanks to Sally Reed for this image.

Upcoming Events!

In addition to the August tree walk, there are several ways to come out and enjoy Groton!

Grotonfest! September 29, Legion Common

We will be there to meet and greet and renew memberships. We have our new car decals for anyone renewing so stop by and check us out.

i-Naturalist challenges

We are creating new challenges to use the i-Naturalist app and to document the nature of Groton. Two upcoming event include a **predator challenge** and a **moth night**. Stayed tuned for dates and details.

Not sure how to use iNaturalist?

Here are some [video tutorials](#) that can help you

As a reminder, The General Field is one of the few properties where we respectfully ask that you do not allow your dogs to roam. As an active agricultural site, pets are not allowed as it may not be safe for your pet. Please find alternative spots for your dog walking!

Harlan is STILL Hiding!



Here is a pictorial clue!

Member John Moores and his daughters found Harlan last month, but thought it might be fun to leave him and let someone else follow his clues to get there. You still get an ice cream gift card Johnson's (a nice reward on these hot days) and get to cool off a bit in the shade of the trails.

Your next clue:

Harlan still is hiding waiting to be found. With all the rain, his mossy rocks are a lush green. Along the trail Indian pipe (*Monotropa uniflora*) is sprouting up everywhere pushing the decaying leaves aside.

It is a translucent white and two to twelve inches tall. The one flower hangs head down but as the fruit develops the stem straightens. Usually they grow in clumps of three or more plants.

This plant has no green leaves but gets its nourishment and growth upon organic matter that has built up from other plants in the soil or forest litter. So if there are Indian pipes along the trail you are hiking Harlan may be near.

Survey says...

Thank you to everyone who completed our survey and congratulations to **Matt Miller**, winner of the gift card to Gibbet Hill.

Some findings this year include:

- Top properties visited: General Field (58%), Sabine Woods(44%), Gamlin (40%)
- Marked trails(46%) and trail maps(34%) are the top enhancements
- There is overall support of current balance of conservation versus recreation
- 50% of respondents are 11+ year residents of Groton, and 60% are over 55

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.

get started. Practice makes it second nature!

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Thank you to everyone who joined us for our volunteer event for the Groton Community Dinners. Despite the heat, the evening went well!

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

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