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Dear Friends,

Thanks to you, Groton Conservation Trust has had a fantastic year! With your support, many projects and programs that had long been in the pipeline came to fruition: we now have 1,400 acres (and growing — more details in 2020!) under protection; the transformation of our oldest property, Bates Land, into a more usable recreation area has begun; critical infrastructure upgrades were made at several of our properties; and we worked collaboratively with many other local volunteer organizations including Groton Trails Committee, Groton Historical Society, and Groton School to make much needed improvements.

Our programs welcomed record numbers of community members: our vernal pool walk in the early spring; our annual meeting featuring stone wall expert Kevin Gardner; and an enjoyable walk across Groton through our inaugural Traverse, to name a few. These programs are enabled by your generous support, and we appreciate each and every contribution.

Groton Conservation Trust is a small organization with a big reach. Like many non-profit organizations, we count on annual donations from supporters like you to help permanently protect and preserve land in Groton, and to provide programs to provide access to our local environment. When you donate to Groton Conservation Trust, you align yourself with our core mission: local conservation. With your help, our work helps to address climate change, protects endangered species, and keeps open space under protection for our children and generations to come.

Why Groton Conservation Trust? We are a group of scientists, educators, and land conservation activists with a singular focus on promoting local sustainability through land protection. As a local organization run primarily by volunteer trustees, we make every dollar count, but we count on each and every donation to advance our mission. As we look back on 2019, we thank you for your friendship, your membership, and your very generous support.

As we look forward to 2020, we need your support more than ever! Please visit <http://www.gctrust.org/website-donation> to make your secure, eco-friendly donation. We have made the conscious decision to decrease paper use for this year-end appeal. If online giving is not your thing, please feel free to drop your donation in the mail to Groton Conservation Trust, PO Box 395, Groton, MA 01450.

Thank you,  
Your neighbors and friends

Ted Lapres, President

Mark Gerath, Vice President

John Llodra, Treasurer

Scott Wilson, Clerk

David Black

Holly Estes

Wendy Good

Susan Hughes

Ed McNierney

Richard Muehlke

Bob Pine

David Pitkin

Heather Rielly

Michelle Ruby

Chuck Vander Linden



KATY COBURN PHOTO

*Bates Land, GCT's first property, has undergone a substantial transformation this year. Thanks to hours of great work from many volunteers, the first phase of our long term plan for renewing this property has started with the clearing of land around the picnic area on the south side of the main trail. Overgrowth of woody invasives, many fallen trees, and widespread poison ivy have been removed to restore the shaded area around the two large rhododendrons. Looking ahead, we have plans in place to restore the parking and entrance area, and a long term strategy for improving the trails and maintaining the meadows.*

**We are thankful again this year to have Tom Wessels come to Groton and #optoutside with us. This year at Skitapet we learned about esker ridges being formed and the durability (and genius!) of the white birch. This wonderful event, which is made possible with funding from the Groton Commissioners of Trust Funds, is a gift to us all!**



STEVE LIEMAN PHOTOS



KATY COBURN PHOTO

**The General Field is our most visited property, one we are happy to show off every summer when the wildflowers bloom. Music, nature, good friends, what could better?**



**GROTON  
CONSERVATION  
TRUST**

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**Our annual Vernal Pool event, in conjunction with MA Dept. of Fish and Game, is a real family outdoors treat. What better way to start the spring than sloshing around in mud and looking for creatures!**



SUSAN HUGHES PHOTO