



PASCOMMUCK
CONSERVATION
TRUST, INC.

POST OFFICE BOX 806
EASTHAMPTON, MA 01027

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 8

NO. 2 Fall 1988

Fall 1988

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 8
EASTHAMPTON, MA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am honored to serve as President of the Trust, and will strive to perform the duties of the office with professionalism and diligence.

We have an organization that is in generally good health. However, our continued success depends upon the enthusiasm and involvement of the membership-at-large. Therefore, I would like to encourage volunteers to help with the work of our organization. The membership Committee needs to be re-enforced in order to help increase our numbers. Also, the Land Acquisition and Maintenance Committee is being re-established to help develop a long-range plan for future acquisitions and to provide public access to our land holdings. Please help us become an even better organization. Volunteers should contact one of the directors if they are interested in helping in any capacity.

In closing, I would invite members to attend our monthly Directors meetings. They are held the first Wednesday of the month, at our new office at 395 East Street. Your comments are encouraged. Please write to me at P. O. Box 806, Easthampton, MA.

Edward Dwyer

President

FALL FESTIVAL

Once again this Fall, the Trust will participate in the Fall Festival on Saturday and Sunday, September 24 and 25. Plans call for the Trust to have a booth as in previous years, and the exciting Nashawannuck Pond Boat Tours conducted by Michael Tautznik and Bill Carroll. Members are invited to offer their time and services and to share in the Festival spirit.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Membership Committee of the Trust will be conducting their Membership Drive during the last two weeks of September. Your mailing label has the date listed on it when your membership to the Trust expires. If you have any problem deciphering this

code, please call Ken Larsen at 527-2749, our computer expert. Since our membership list keeps expanding, it would be so helpful if members would send in their renewals to the address listed on this Newsletter.

UP-COMING EVENTS

The AMC is having a day hike, led by Bill Carroll, of about nine miles in the Monroe State Forest on Sunday, September 18th. This walk is fairly easy, and passes some very nice look-outs over the Deerfield River Valley. There should be some fall colors out to add to the scenic beauty. We will leave Memorial Hall Parking Lot in Easthampton at 9:00 A.M. All Trust members are invited to join the AMC hikers. Bring a lunch and cold drinks with you. Interested members may call Bill Carroll at 527-5148.

"THE CHESTNUT ROOM"

The Board of Directors of the Trust are very pleased and excited to report that after seven years of moving and storing their valuable documents and materials from place to place, the Trust has finally located a permanent home!

The Board wishes to express its sincere appreciation to Bill Burgart, whose tireless efforts and at great personal expense, has provided the trust with an office, a library and a workroom. The custom-made shelving, designed and installed by Bill, will hold the many books which the Trust annually adds to its growing library. In addition, the Trust is pleased to announce that thanks to the generosity of Ken Larsen, the Trust now owns a computer. Our President, Ed Dwyer, has also generously donated a printer, all to be housed in our new offices.

Jennie Brown, a Trust member, whose Grandfather built this house, supplied the history of this 1874 dwelling. She reports that this room located on the second floor with both southern and eastern exposure was used to dry the chestnuts after they were gathered in the fall. This annual event was carried on for years until the deadly blight destroyed these beautiful and hardy trees of New England early in the 1920's.

In completing the decor for this room, Bill painted our office with hues of brown to keep in harmony of the chestnut color and to help keep its historic character.

LAND ACQUISITION

The Land Acquisition Committee of the Trust has been working closely with the Massachusetts Audubon-Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary of Easthampton to acquire a plot of land to be called the Pat Bond & Anne G. Burgart Memorial. This very detailed process is anticipated to be completed soon, assuming that no complications arise, and a formal dedication and walk around this area is anticipated shortly.

An invitation will be extended to members of the Trust by the Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary announcing the date and time of this formal dedication. We sincerely hope that many of the members will attend.

"KEEP EASTHAMPTON GREEN"

The Trust held its second annual "Keep Easthampton Green" program sponsored by the Research and Education Committee on April 30th. Over 400 seedlings of a variety of species which included shrubs, hardwood and conifers were distributed to the public.

Many thanks go out to Hampshire Soil Conservation Districts for their donation of these seedlings. Included this year with the distribution of plants was a Bake Sale held at both Big E in Easthampton and the Big Y in Southhampton.

This fund raising event resulted in over \$400.00 in donations. The Research and Education Committee would like to thank all those who contributed to the Bake Sale and to those who gave of their valuable time, which contributed to a successful fundraiser for the Trust.

MAY OUTING IN THE WHITE MOUNTAINS

This outing was sponsored jointly by the Trust and the AMC. We left Easthampton on Friday, May 13th and drove to Wildwood Campground in the White Mountains National Forest. On Saturday, we took a circular walk of about 15 miles over South Peak, Mt. Kinsman and North Peak. Both of these summits exceed 400 feet elevation and are slightly above the tree line. On Sunday, we took a shorter walk of about eight miles over Mt. Moosilauke, well above tree line of 4810 feet. The weather was perfect, sunny and mild and very clear, with outstanding views of the entire White Mountain region. At lower elevations, there were wildflowers blooming profusely, particularly masses of red and painted trillium, trout lily and spring beauty, as well as many other varieties. From elevations around 3000 feet up to the tree line, of around 4000 feet, there was still extensive snow cover, waist deep in places. For the most part, we were able to walk on top of the snow without sinking in too much. The summits, above the tree line, were free of snow. It was a very enjoyable trip - ideal weather and outstanding views.

Bill Carroll

4th GRADERS VISIT ARCADIA

The Pascommuck Conservation Trust has once again presented a grant of \$1,000 to Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary to fund the third annual science classroom presentation by Arcadia naturalists and study tours for all fourth grade students of the Easthampton public schools.

During their visit to Arcadia, these students studied pond life at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Nashawannuck and Lower Mill Ponds. A highlight of the program is the collaboration among school principals Richard Guistina and Cliff Burt, the classroom teachers of the grades involved, the Audubon Sanctuary staff and the Pascommuck Conservation Trust education Director, Kenneth Larsen.

The teachers who gave so generously of their time to this interesting outdoor science classroom project, were, from Parsons Street School: Ms. Curtin; from Center: Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Benoit, Mrs. Scadgel; from Maple: Mrs. Zedonis, Mrs. Pricket and Ms. Parnell, with Ms. Kristin Fulmore, a member of the Board of Directors of the Trust as a volunteer.

BIKE TRIP

On Saturday, September 10th, Bill Burgart will lead a 25-30 mile bike ride at a moderate pace 13-15 miles per hour, through Easthampton, Williamsburg, Northampton, with an ice cream stop. Ten speed bikes and helmets are strongly recommended. We will meet at Big E's on Union Street, Easthampton at 1:00 P.M. Interested members and friends may call Bill at 527-9080 for further details.

TREASURER'S REPORT—August 3, 1988

Income:	
Membership	\$ 853.00
Interest	498.16
Fund Raising	418.10
Gifts & Memorials	<u>1,270.68</u>
Total Income 1/1 to 8/3/88	\$ 3,039.94
Total Expenses	1,703.89
Net Income to date:	\$ 1,336.05
Account Balances: 7/31/88	
Checking:	888.37
Savings:	11,016.28
Memorial:	6,131.38
Total funds available	\$18,036.03

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

RENEW--AND BETTER YET INCREASE--YOUR SUPPORT TODAY! FILL OUT THE MEMBERSHIP FORM BELOW, DETACH AND FORWARD WITH YOUR CHECK TO THE ADDRESS LISTED ON THE FORM, MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO PASCOMMUCK CONSERVATION TRUST, INC. REMEMBER, ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

YES, I/WE WANT TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING PRESERVATION OF THE AREAS NATURAL RESOURCES AND HISTORICAL HERITAGE, AND HEREBY MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IN THE PASCOMMUCK CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.

PASCOMMUCK CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.
P. O. Box 806
EASTHAMPTON, MA 01027

- REGULAR VOTING MEMBER.....\$ 6.00
 - SUPPORTING VOTING MEMBER.....\$ 15.00
 - CONTRIBUTING VOTING MEMBER.....\$ 50.00
 - LIFE VOTING MEMBER.....\$ 150.00 OR PROPERTY
- I WOULD LIKE TO BE ACTIVE.

NAME _____ DATE _____
ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

BATS

The Research and Education Committee began a mission to enhance the image of bats a few months ago. They researched what they were able to and discovered a remarkable lack of information about this mammal which inhabits this planet in numbers second only to man himself.

Committee members initially wanted to make several bat houses to be sold exclusively to members on a break even basis. But, they discovered some of the bat house configurations made by others in the past were not successful. So, proto-type were made in basement workshops by the committee members to experiment with various designs to determine which, if any, would be successful (be inhabited by bats).

Six bat houses were made and are now in place in our environment in Easthampton. Two of these can be viewed along the E. Florence Smith Memorial Natural Trail at the Old Pascommuck Conservation Area on East Street. One of these is just past marker number one on the trail...as you approach the first log steps. Look left toward the railroad tracks on a tree trunk up about twelve feet. The other is along the water...when the trail first reaches the water, make an about-face and look along the river's edge about 100 yards in, up a large tree trunk perhaps fourteen feet up. The other four houses are mounted on trees at the homes of individual R & E Committee members.

There are strong indications that at least one of the bat houses is occupied; it looks like *Myotis lucifugus* (small brown bats). Let us hear from you should you spot one on our Nature Trail.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Board of Directors Monthly meetings 1st Wednesday of each month.

September 10 - Bike Ride through Easthampton, Northampton and Williamsburg.

September 18 - All-day hike Monroe State Park, Call for further details.

September 18 through October 1 - Trust Membership Drive

September 24 & 25 - Easthampton Fall Festival Booth at Easthampton High School. Pond Tours on Nashawannuck Pond.

September through December - Research and Education Division Fund Drive for Annual 4th Grade Arcadia Outdoor Science Classroom.



PASCOMMUCK
CONSERVATION
TRUST, INC.

POST OFFICE BOX 806
EASTHAMPTON, MA 01027

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS:

Edward Dwyer, President
Kenneth L. Larsen, Vice Pres.
Michael Tautznik, Treas.
Jeffrey Champagne, Clerk
William Burgart
Frank Galat
Kristin Fulmore
Morris Lanier
Stella Wiernasz

NEWSLETTER STAFF:

Editorial & Layout:
Diana Pinkos
Stella Wiernasz

Graphics:
Robert Pinkos