

Spring 1987



PASCOMMUCK
CONSERVATION
TRUST, INC.

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NEWSLETTER

Vol. 5 No. 1 Spring 1987



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On entering our 6th year, as an organization, it is a good time to reflect on our accomplishments and on our future directions.

During the past 5 years, we have permanently protected some 60 acres of ecologically fragile flood-plain land in Easthampton. Through various methods of education and publicity, we have focused the attention of the town on Nashawannuck Pond and on the Town's water supply. Many of our politically active members have played a vital part in the protection and preservation by the Town of these two resources and in attaining state grants to guarantee their protection.

We have successfully complimented the local school system in the area of environmental education, and have sponsored programs at the Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary for some of the local students.

Our two basic directions are land preservation and education. In the coming years education should become an increasingly important part of our operations, both within and without the school system.

Maintenance at our present land holdings should be stressed more than in the past, not only to protect the local biota (flora), but to improve access for the general public. Recreational use of the Manhan River should also be addressed. We can expect less stress in the coming years on land acquisition, a result of the present tax laws, and the appreciation of property values. More will be written on this subject in the future.

To accomplish our goals, we need the support of our membership. We need to increase our membership and our income. We need to educate the leadership of the Town in the techniques of land preservation. Most of all, we need to keep you, our membership, informed of what we are doing and why we are doing it.

The Newsletter -- after a long and regrettable lapse -- should now be resumed on a regular basis.

William F. Carroll
President

"KEEP EASTHAMPTON GREEN"

Thanks to the combined efforts of the Trust's three B's: John Bator, Mike Biegnier and Bill Burgart, many Easthampton homeowners were able to avail themselves with a variety of seedlings in the "Keep Easthampton Green" project held on Saturday, April 25th at Big E's Foodland parking lot.

Homeowners had an opportunity to select from four varieties of seedlings: Colorado Blue Spruce, Sugar Maple, Black Walnut and Douglas Fir, purchased through the efforts of the Trust Treasurer, Michael Tautznik and the Hampshire Conservation District.

The enthusiasm and support for this project can be judged by the generosity of the participants in their donations for these tiny seedlings. May these tiny seedlings grow to provide shade, maple syrup and joy for many generations to come!

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION THROUGH THE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The Trust has once again addressed Fourth Grade students at the Center Street School on a conservation issue. Mrs. Benoit, a teacher at the school, requested a return visit this year following the enthusiastic reception shown by the students following the lecture "Leaking Underground Storage Tanks".

Mr. Kenneth Larsen and his 11 year old son, Matthew, presented "Helpful Insects and pesticides" on Tuesday, May 19th in Mrs. Benoit's Fourth Grade classroom. Matthew introduced his father to the students, who then introduced words such as entomology, biology, ecology, geology and pesticides giving definitions of each. Emphasis was placed on the "helpful insects" and how pesticides destroy all insects both helpful & harmful. Children were warned of the dangers of handling pesticides and were requested to remind their parents to minimize the use of these chemical controls.

Following this brief lecture, a contest was announced and each student was presented with a 3-page coloring booklet on a helpful insect while Mrs. Benoit was presented a Teacher's Guide. The results of this contest will be judged by the Research & Education Committee when they convene on June 9th. Prizes to be awarded are as follows:

- 1st Prize: Student Knapsack & Insect Book
- 2nd Prize: Butterfly Net & Bug Book
- 3rd Prize: Insect Poster & Bug Book

All students who submitted an entry by May 29, will receive a "Certificate of Participation". All winning entries will be announced following the June 16th meeting of the Board of Directors, which is open to the public.

WILL TRUST BE AWARDED GRANT?

The Board of Directors are very excited as they await with great anticipation, the decision of the judges for The Fund of New England. These judges are to study and select those outstanding proposals submitted by non-profit organizations in the proposed use of lands under their jurisdiction in their local communities. Should the proposal, which was submitted by the Trust, be approved by The Fund of New England it would mean an award of grant funds up to \$5,000.

Plans are presently underway, with or without grant funding, to contract the Conway School of Landscape Design to have Ms. Susan Reed of that school prepare a Master Plan for the 40+ acres at the rear of the Notre Dame Parish and School off Pleasant Street. Plans call for the removal of accumulated trash, removal of undergrowth and unnecessary shrubs and branches. Response to requests for assistance by Civic Organizations has been very enthusiastic.

Long-range plans include the preparation of this acreage as an outdoor classroom, due primarily to its proximity to the Notre Dame, Parsons Street and Center Street Schools. Its use as a mini-park for the enjoyment by students, local residents, hikers, fishermen, photographers, and bird watchers are also in the plans.

Trust members are excited at the prospects of the potential of this beautiful flood-plain for all local students and conservationists.

MEMBERSHIP WEEK - JUNE 21-28

The Trust will hold their first Annual Membership Week June 21st through the 28th. Beat us to the Punch by filling out the membership form printed in this letter and sending it back with your check to the address listed.

In Memoriam

Patricia (Bond) Burgart, 1943-1987
Members of the Pascommuck Conservation Trust are saddened to learn of the tragic death of one of their most enthusiastic members-- Pat Burgart.

Her wonderful dedication to perfection in all that she undertook, her tremendous energy in seeing any project she accepted was carried out to the fullest potential. Her love for others endeared her to all who knew her. The memory of her beauty and love for others will not soon be forgotten. Our prayers go out to comfort her husband, Bill, and her loving family.

Our loss is Heaven's gain.

NATURE TRAIL CLEAN-UP DAY

Many thanks to all our hard-working members and friends of the Trust who assisted with our May 2nd Clean-Up day. Trash that accumulated during the winter was picked up and the lawn was mowed. A bridge was constructed over the stream to insure a safe walking path as well as a lasting structure that will not be washed away by the Spring floods.

Future work presently under consideration is another bridge and a barrier to prevent motorized vehicles free access to the nature trail. The heavy tires of the vehicles dig through the light cover vegetation exposing the fine sandy soil to washout during a heavy rain.

Volunteers are needed for the next clean-up day, which will be announced. Usually the work consists of clearing paths, cleaning up trash and beautifying the area with new shrubs or flowers. Please contact the Land Acquisition & Maintenance Committee or a member of the Board if you would like to volunteer any amount of time. The Board of Directors invites all members to visit the E. Florence Smith Nature Trail.

NORTHAMPTON-NEW HAVEN CANAL

The Trust is very concerned that the last remaining portion of the historic Northampton-New Haven Canal may soon be lost forever. One small segment of this famous canal can still be viewed from O'Neil Street, just below the Goldmine Restaurant. It is feared by many that with ever-encroaching industries even this last remaining historic site may be lost for all time.

Members are urged to use their influence to try to save this site so that future generations may be aware that this famous canal once traversed the Town of Easthampton on its journey from the Connecticut to the Atlantic Ocean.

SLIDE PRESENTATION AVAILABLE

The Trust has assembled a slide show depicting land use and environmental issues for use in talks for local civic groups. Using a script, Bob Pinkos & Bill Carroll have already made several presentations and will take the show to any group requesting it. Interested members may help out with these shows. The Trust is also in need of its own slide projector, as it is now forced to borrow a projector. Anyone that can spare a used projector, or knows where we can get one could be of help.

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.

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P. O. Box 806
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- 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 _____

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Board of Directors held their organizational meeting on May 19th, at which the following officers were elected to serve the 1987-1988 year:

OFFICERS 1987-1988

President	William Carroll
Vice President	William Burgart
Treasurer	Michael Tautznik
Clerk	Edward Dwyer

Members of the Board 1987-8
Expires

William Carroll	1988
Frank Galat	1988
Ken Larsen	1988
Barbara Diamond	1989
Edward Dwyer	1989
Dennis Reil	1989
Bill Burgart	1990
Elsie Johnson	1990
Stella Wiernasz	1990

A note of appreciation is extended to those Directors who have served the Trust during the past years, Ruth Green, Joyce Neal and Michael Tautznik.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Income:	
Membership	\$447.00
Interest	284.66
Project&Fundraiser	109.00
Gifts & Memorials	<u>10.00</u>
Total Income	\$850.66
Expenses:	
Printing	30.35
Postage	54.00
Supplies	326.38
Community Projects	676.47
Other	<u>62.88</u>
Total Expenses	<u>1150.08</u>
Net (Loss) to Date	(299.42)

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 9 - Research & Education Committee - Including judging "Helpful Insect" entries.

June 16 - Monthly Board of Director meeting - Presentation by Conway School of Design regarding plans for the 40 Acre parcel acquired this year.

To Be Announced - Clean-Up Day(s) coordinated group date will be in Hampshire Life Activity section. Individuals are welcome to stop by at any convenient time.

To be Announced - July/August Board of Directors Meeting, will be in Hampshire Life Activity Section.



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OFFICERS & DIRECTORS:

William Carroll, President
 Bill Burgart, Vice President
 Michael Tautznik, Treasurer
 Edward Dwyer, Clerk
 Barbara Diamond
 Frank Galat
 Elsie Johnson
 Ken Larsen
 Dennis Reil
 Stella Wiernasz

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