

# NEWSLETTER



## PASCOMMUCK CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.

P. O. Box 806  
EASTHAMPTON, MA  
01027

VOL II NO. 3 AUTUMN 1984

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When I think of a river I think not only of the stream channel but also of the floodplain; the flat areas adjacent to the stream channel that are periodically inundated by excess water that the channel can no longer contain. This "flooding" is a natural river phenomenon most often occurring as a result of heavy snowmelt or rainfall. The floodplain is a natural part of the river providing for temporary storage of its floodwaters until they can be slowly released through evaporation, percolation to ground water, and surface discharge. The damaging affects of the flood are thereby minimized.

Encroachment reduces the flood carrying capacity of the floodplain, resulting in increased flood height and hazard in areas beyond the encroachment itself. Downstream homes, roads, and businesses are flooded because construction has filled in upstream areas once capable of storing the floodwaters.

It seems wiser and more appropriate to use these flatlands bordering waterways in ways that do not alter or hinder their flood storing ability. Floodplains often contain agriculturally rich soil regularly replenished by the river's flooding action. They provide excellent habitat for a variety of wildlife, plants and aquatic life. They also provide pleasant surroundings for hiking, fishing, nature study, and similar passive recreational pursuits; and taken as a whole, provide aesthetically pleasing, natural green areas even in the midst of a totally developed environment.

Our first long-term program is aimed at preserving the integrity of the Manhan River/floodplain system, while encouraging and promoting such appropriate, low-impact uses.

COMPLIMENTARY  
COPY

Such preservation can be achieved in a variety of ways ranging from outright land acquisitions to negotiated conservation restrictions or easements. The Land Acquisition and Maintenance Committee has mapped the river, developed a strategy, and begun the process of contacting owners of land bordering on the river.

Often referred to as the Manhan River Greenbelt, the first step in this ambitious effort is the Old Pascommuck Conservation Area and the E. Florence Smith Memorial Nature Trail. I invite you to attend the formal trail dedication at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 20 and to walk the half-mile guided trail with us. We are proud of our accomplishment to date and want you to share with us in this event.

*Robert E. Pinkos*  
President

### FALL FESTIVAL PARTICIPATION

The Trust provided free boat rides again for an up-close look at the critical condition of Nashawannuck Pond. Clearing skies on the second day of Easthampton's annual Fall Festival brought people by the droves.

Tours left the dock off Williston Avenue every half hour Sunday, carrying 200 people of all ages out over the pond in a boat donated by Mickey Duda of the Oxbow Marina.

The passengers heard a brief explanation of the problem of eutrophication, a process by which weeds proliferate at the bottom, eventually growing to choke all other life out of the pond. The members tending the sign-up and information booths, as well as helping with the tours, reported many people were unaware of the problem and expressed their thanks to the Trust for pointing it



out to them.

Even though cold weather and rain kept people away on Saturday, the Trust gained 12 new members on Sunday. Donations and the sale of baked goods added \$370 to the Trust coffers.

Despite invitations mailed to 21 town officials, only Selectman Paul V. Parker took the tour of the pond, which has been offered to the town for \$1 by its owner, J.P. Stevens, Inc.

The effort of the many volunteers that staffed the sign-up and information booths on shore and at the High School made the entire weekend a success.

#### LAND ACQUISITION & MAINT. COMMITTEE REPORT

The recently formed Land Acquisition & Maint. Committee, comprised of Bill Burgart, Bill Carroll, Stella Wiernasz and Terry Dame was formed by the Board of Directors in June.

The committee has been preparing a set of maps of property abutting the Manhan River as a first step in a long-range plan to acquire enough riverfront property and/or easements to establish a greenway along the river.

When the maps are completed, the committee plans to send a letter to all abutting property owners which will explain the Trust, its activities and goals, and describe some of the benefits they may enjoy by donating property for conservation.

The committee meets monthly. Members interested in serving on this committee may contact Bill Carroll.

#### MEMBERS CANOE MANHAN RIVER

On July 3, Bill Burgart and Bill Carroll canoed the Manhan River from East St., Southampton to the Oxbow - a 14 mile route that took 8 hours to complete.

The canoeists found a variety of ecological communities, including open farmland, hardwood forest, pine forest and brush land. Most of the route is shaded by overhanging trees.

A variety of wildlife was seen, including a pair of great horned owls, and a variety of birds, small mammals and, of course, insects.

Numerous portages were necessary because of fallen trees. Each required finding the best bypass route and some involved scrambling through tough terrain.

The river offered solitude and privacy, and a unique vista of Southampton & Easthampton. The changing scenes along the Manhan equal those of any other New England river.

After 14 miles and 8 hours, the pair arrived at the state boat ramp at the Oxbow, feeling that a similar trip be recommended travel for Trust members. A spring trip is being considered. Anyone interested should call either Mr. Burgart or Mr. Carroll.

#### TRUST OPENS NATURE TRAIL

The E. Florence Smith self-guided nature trail has been completed and will be officially dedicated on October 20th at 2:00 pm. It is located at The Old Pascommuck Conservation Area on East Street.

The trail, named after the mother of Trust benefactor Ms. Florence Eaton, allows visitors to tour the property and observe the flora and fauna of the area.

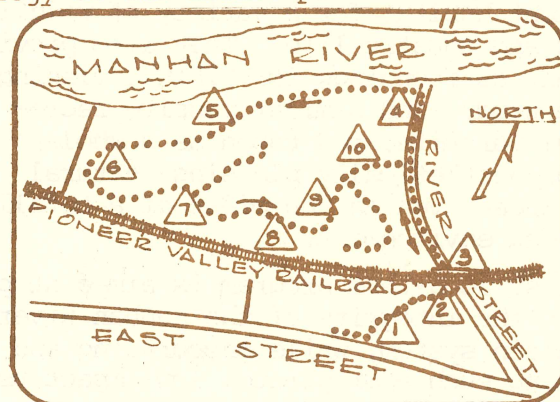
The trail begins at the Pascommuck Boulder, commemorating the 1704 Indian attack on the village of Pascommuck, the first settlement in what is now Easthampton, established in 1699.

At the site of the boulder, the trail meets the former River St., a discontinued county highway and the Colonial Springfield-to-Northampton road, follows it down past successive stages of vegetation to the Oxbow, and riverbank environment. It then travels up through several terraces, past steep gullies and lookouts, to a marshy area and back to River Street.

Work parties during the summer cleared a path through the thick underbrush and built steps with old telephone poles donated by the telephone company.

The trail will be open to the public during the daylight hours for bird watching, nature study, wildlife photography, fishing, hiking and similar forms of passive recreation.

The Trust has printed a brochure with a map and posted signs along the area, allowing visitors to observe the various types of vegetation in each of the property's environments and to better understand the ecology of the entire parcel.





## BENEFIT CONCERT

**WATER IS LIFE** - A benefit concert for the Pascommuck Conservation Trust, Inc is a reality. Nine months in planning, we will finally give birth to our first major fundraiser on Saturday, October 13, at 7:30 pm.

The Trust, founded with a concern for the environmental integrity of Easthampton and surrounding communities, holds the areas resources in the highest esteem. Water, the staff of all living things, was the logical choice. Some of the money generated by this benefit will go to help protect this valuable asset through a public education program tentatively scheduled for late Spring 1985. Other money generated will be used to develop and promote a protection program for the Nashawannuck Pond in downtown Easthampton.

The idea of a benefit concert first cropped up during a Christmas visit from Mr. Bob Stone of Sarasota, Florida. Bob had been involved in a local benefit some years before and offered to lend his musical expertise to our cause. Mike Tautznik, Treasurer and Director, took the responsibility of putting the whole idea together. In the following months, these two, along with the Trust's Board of Directors and Mr. Paul Lamoureux, acting as the local musical coordinator, finalized such details as music composition, theatre location, timing and most important, the theme, WATER.

As mentioned before, Bob Stone, the musical dynamo of this production, currently hails from Florida. He was born in Northampton and began singing in local bands around 1963. He is scheduled to appear at the Florida Fall Festival in late October.

In 1980, while playing at Knightly's Boston Pub in Easthampton, Bob teamed up with Paul Lamoureux of Easthampton and Doug Gray of Holyoke. Together they developed an act into what they consider their "Most Rewarding Harmonic Vocals to Date". They have performed in several Western Mass. clubs including: Two Mattoon, Theodore's, College Inn, and Golden Lemon. We are in for a treat from these three.

Also working with us on this production is Rick King of Easthampton. Rick has been playing for 20 years and is an accomplished musician. He is especially skillful on the guitar and has played in countless bands including: Flight, Clean Living, and John Coster & The Medicine Band.

# water is life

a benefit concert  
for the  
Pascommuck  
Conservation  
Trust, Inc.

~ featuring ~

- bob stone
- paul lamoureux
- rick king
- steve setkiewicz
- steve cohen
- rocky strempel
- & friends

**Saturday October 13, 1984**

**at 7:30 PM**

**Whitebrook Middle School  
Auditorium**

**tickets \$5<sup>00</sup>/available at**

**Knightly's Pub • Bart's Ice Cream**

**• Penguin Fish Market •**

**• Copies Unlimited •**

R.E.P.



Bob Stone has worked on several original compositions with Rick in a Hadley studio, their work together is sure to shine through at our "Water is Life" Benefit.

Steve Cohen of Northampton began to study music at an early age, he plays drums, flute, guitar and recorders. He has performed with The Country Comfort Band and is now with "Two of A Kind".

Rocky Stempel of Longmeadow has been playing drums for 13 years, he has been associated with Art Thompson Quartet, Tavern Tree, and Troubadour.

Steve Setkiewicz of Springfield plays guitar, accoustic base, electric base and vocals. He has been playing rock, jazz and classical for the past 20 years, playing for the Holyoke Symphony for 2 years as well as Chamish band, The Muffin Band, Steve Ferguson & The Mountain Boys, and Pendrift. One of the most tasteful bassists around the area.

We hope you feel positive about the need to work to preserve our water resources and will come and share this wonderful experience with us. Tickets are \$5.00 each and are available by mail, from directors or at the following:

Penguin Fish Market, Union St., E'ton  
Knightly's Boston Pub, Main St., E'ton  
Bart's Homemade Ice Cream, Main St., N'ton  
Copies Unlimited, Main St., N'ton

Seating is limited so get your tickets early. A concert information line has been established at 527-9667.

Activities Committee

#### ECOLOGY COMIC BOOKS

More than 1500 comic-style books designed to teach children about conservation and ecology were donated to the White Brook Middle School by the Trust in August.

The books will be used by 4th through 8th grades as supplementary reading to their science and social studies textbooks, according to William G. Erickson, middle school principal. Mr. Erickson said "while the books are in comic book form, they provide factual information about the environment and are written in language children can relate to."

The Board of Directors approved the \$275 cost for the books at its June meeting. This material is part of the Trust's efforts to educate the public about the wise use of natural resources.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance		\$5,627.18
Income:		
Memberships	360.00	
Projects	51.00	
Other	430.49	
	<u>841.49</u>	
Expenses:	<u>510.15</u>	
Net Income		<u>331.34</u>
BALANCE ON HAND		\$5,958.52

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 29 - Bake Sale at Big E's Foodland at 8:00 am. All donations gratefully accepted.

October - A walk over the Mt. Tom range will be held on a Saturday in October during the foliage season. This date will be announced in the Hampshire Life Calendar and in the Gazette. Call Bill Carroll for further information.

Oct. 13 - **BENEFIT CONCERT**, White Brook Middle School, 7:30 pm. Tickets available at: Penguin Fish Market, Union St., E'ton Knightly's Boston Pub, Main St., E'ton Bart's Homemade Ice Cream, Main St., N'ton Copies Unlimited, Main St., N'ton Concert Information Line 527-9667

Oct. 20 - E. Florence Smith Nature Trail dedication 2:00 pm. at Old Pascommuck Conservation Area, East St., Easthampton.

Jan. 12, 1985 - Amish Night, Community Room at Cliffview Manor Housing for the Elderly. For further details see next newsletter.

#### DIRECTORS:

Robert E. Pinkos	Joyce Neal
Michael Tautznik	Charles Conner
William Carroll	Thomas Conner
Francis Galat	David Kennedy
Stella Wiernasz	

#### NEWSLETTER STAFF

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