



PASCOMMUCK  
CONSERVATION  
TRUST, INC.

POST OFFICE BOX 806  
EASTHAMPTON, MA 01027

## NEWSLETTER

VOL. III No. 1 SPRING '85

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The perception that the land conservation movement is decidedly anti-development is unfortunate and unjustified. What the conservationist is seeking is a strategy of "appropriate land use" that considers the natural resource value of the undeveloped land at the outset of the development planning process. In summary, if land is suitable for development, develop it appropriately. Preserve and protect the natural systems providing resources of important public value.

One vital natural resource value intimately linked to land development and use is water supply. In the better understood case of surface water reservoirs, very little dispute is associated with regulations, restrictions, and prohibitions placed on land use in their watershed area. "Appropriate use" and its relationship to public health and economic welfare is not subject to widespread debate.

The same is not true, however, in the often misunderstood case of groundwater aquifers. Attempts at regulating land use over critical groundwater supplies more often than not is met with skepticism, mistrust, disbelief, and outright anger.

Groundwater aquifers are complex natural systems, the work of advancing and receding glaciers carving out bedrock valleys and backfilling them with the ground-up debris. These porous deposits can transport and store huge amounts of water and, if "inappropriate" activities do not take place above,

provide a pure and plentiful supply indefinitely.

What then must we do? Better public understanding is the first step to adequately protecting these resources. On Monday evening April 29, join with us in gaining new insight and understanding of "Groundwater: Our Abundant but Fragile Resource."

*Robert E. Linkoo*  
President

### WATER SUPPLY FORUM

"Groundwater: Our Abundant but Fragile Resource", a forum on Easthampton's water supply will take place on April 29 at 7:30 pm at the Parish Hall of the First Congregational Church on Main Street.

Hydrogeologist John Sackrey of Curran Assoc. Inc. of Northampton, using pictorial and graphic slides, will provide insight into the origins of Easthampton's groundwater aquifer, its physical characteristics, how it functions, and how it can best be safeguarded. Following Mr. Sackrey's presentation, an expert panel including representatives from area engineering firms and the geology departments of local colleges will be available for questions and discussion.

The evening is open to the public FREE-OF CHARGE and is sponsored by the Pascommuck Conservation Trust as part of our continuing effort to increase public awareness of important environmental issues.



### PASCOMMUCK CONSERVATION TRUST ANNUAL MEETING

Members are urged to attend the Annual Meeting on April 22, at 7:30 pm, Cliffview Manor, off Holyoke St., Easthampton.

Elections will be held for three members of the nine-member Board of Directors for three year terms. Directors Bill Carroll and Frank Galat have agreed to serve for another term. Ken Larson of 15 Concord Drive has been nominated for the third opening on the board, subject to approval by the membership. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor of the meeting. Ken Larson would replace Tom Connor who is leaving the board to attend to professional commitments.

The Trust will also present a film entitled "The Garden of Eden", which deals with a steep and nearly inaccessible valley in Florida, known to residents as the Garden of Eden, being threatened by plans to build a coal-fired power plant. The film depicts the conflict between development and conservation interests.

The film, nominated for an Academy Award, was produced by Florentine Films of Northampton for the Nature Conservancy of Arlington, Virginia.

### BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

The Activities Committee has agreed to participate in Easthampton's Bicentennial Celebration the week of June 8-17, and will sponsor a float in the parade on June 16th.

The float will be based on the theme of "Preserving our Past; Protecting our Future", and will depict the early Pascommuck settlement, contain a replica of the Daughters of the American Revolution monument to Old Pascommuck on East Street, and the sign now standing near that monument marking the Trust's property there.

The committee plans to conduct a Bicentennial raffle with a FIRST Prize of \$1000.00, SECOND Prize \$500.00 and 10 THIRD Prizes of \$50.00. Tickets are \$1.00 each in books of 10 and will be available from directors, committee members, Chamber of Commerce Office, as well as some local merchants. Look for our poster soon, or call if you can help sell tickets.

Also, plans to sell balloons and popcorn during the parade and water-show on the Nashawannuck Pond are in progress.

The committee asks anyone who is willing to devote time to the project to do so by contacting its chairman, Mike Tautznik.

### NASHAWANNUCK REVISITED

It has recently been announced in the press that the Nashawannuck Pond may soon become the property of the Town of Easthampton. Officials of the town and of J.P. Stevens & Co., Inc., current owners of the pond, are reportedly close to agreement. Voters at the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for May 21 may be asked to accept the product of their negotiations.

Ownership would make the town eligible to apply for funding assistance under the Commonwealth's "Clean Lakes Program". That funding would provide monies for an extensive year-long study of the pond and its watershed to find appropriate solutions to the rapid eutrophication condition in the pond. A second phase would partially fund an implementation program to effect a long term remedy aimed at eliminating the rampant weed growth that is slowly consuming the pond.

For the past two years the Trust has sponsored "Free Pond Tours" on the Nashawannuck with the expressed intent of giving the general public and interested government officials an opportunity to view the situation and learn of possible causes and remedies. Hopefully our effort has, in some small way, kept the issue alive and will ultimately result in a rebirth of this most valuable recreational, economic, and aesthetic resource.

We commend those officials who have been, are, and will be working to bring that about.

### ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The Easthampton Annual Town Meeting on May 21 will consider an article which asks the town to transfer ownership of a 40-acre parcel of land off Pleasant St. between Burt Ford Tractor and Notre Dame Parish.

The Trust plans to clean accumulated trash from the area, which contains one-mile of streambank and two wetland areas, then keep it in its natural state thereafter. An outdoor "nature classroom" is also a possible future use for the property.

Selectmen have agreed to support the article on the Town Meeting floor, with the stipulation that if the Trust should dissolve in the future, the land would revert back to the town.



## THE TRUST NEEDS YOU

With Spring upon us, the Trust can use some helping hands for several projects you will find interesting, rewarding, and above all, fun. Active Trust members get the satisfaction of doing good work for a worthy cause, and enjoy the company of like-minded individuals in preserving our natural resources.

Your personal involvement in the Trust's activities is the glue that will hold this organization together for the future. Without participation, even a minimal amount, by our members the Trust cannot get involved in as many projects as it should. The alternative is that the same people handle all the work, placing an unfair burden on their time and energy.

So, if you can spare some time to cut down brush, participate in our talks to local civic groups, work on our newsletter, or attend meetings contact one of the directors and work out an activity. You'll be glad you did.

## LAND ACQUISITION & MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

### NEW PROPERTIES

The Dwyer parcel was acquired in December, 1984 a gift from Mr. & Mrs. John Dwyer to the Pascommuck Conservation Trust. This parcel is approximately 1 acre in size with about 200' of frontage on the Manhan River. The land is entirely on the floodplain and is wooded, quite similar to the floodplain part of the Old Pascommuck Conservation Area. At the present time, there is no public access to this parcel, except by boat. In addition, Mr & Mrs. Dwyer are donating a Conservation Restriction on an adjacent parcel of floodplain land with about 900'

of river frontage. At this time the legal work is incomplete, but we hope to complete this transaction before our Annual Meeting.

The Borawski parcel was acquired in January, 1985 a gift to the Trust from Mary Borawski of Florence. This parcel is approximately 3.8 acres with about 900' of frontage on the Manhan and 80' of frontage on West St. The property slopes down to a marsh, probably an old cutoff meander and extends across the floodplain to the river. The parcel is wooded with a thickly brushed area in and adjacent to the marsh. A footpath is planned to provide access into this parcel.

We would like to thank Mr. & Mrs. Dwyer and Mrs. Borawski for their generosity in donating these parcels to the Trust. They are valuable acquisitions for us and a big step in the establishment of the Manhan River greenbelt.

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

During the winter we have continued to contact and negotiate with property owners along the Manhan River. We hope to add several more parcels to the Trust's holdings during this year

Periodic litter pick-ups at Old Pascommuck were carried out, along with several trips through the E. Florence Smith Memorial Nature Trail to clear blow-downs and winter storm debris. Also a minor trail relocation was made. The Nature Trail appears to have had steady use throughout the winter.

The Land Acquisition & Maintenance Committee NEEDS MEMBERS. Anyone who might be interested in helping to maintain our properties and trails or might be willing to help in the land acquisition process please call me.

BILL CARROLL

YES, I/WE WANT TO JOIN WITH OTHER ENVIRONMENTALLY CONCERNED CITIZENS AND HEREBY MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION FOR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE PASCOMMUCK CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.

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P. O. Box 806  
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☐ NEW MEMBER  
☐ RENEWAL

☐ REGULAR VOTING MEMBER.....\$ 6.00 OR MORE  
☐ SUPPORTING VOTING MEMBER.....\$ 15.00 OR MORE  
☐ CONTRIBUTING VOTING MEMBER.....\$ 50.00 OR MORE  
☐ LIFE VOTING MEMBER.....\$150.00 OR PROPERTY

☐ I WOULD LIKE  
TO BE ACTIVE  
IN THE TRUST.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_



## DUPLICATE MAIL

We are required to maintain a list of individual members. The expanded effort necessary to maintain a separate list grouping individual members sharing the same address is not justified in light of drastically reduced postage resulting from our Bulk Mail Permit. We appreciate the concern of those who have contacted us on this matter. If you receive duplicates, pass them on to interested individuals.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Bank Balance 1-1-85 \$8430.66

### INCOME:

Membership	804.00
Projects	50.00
Interest	136.55
Gifts/Memorials	350.00
	<u>1340.55</u>

### EXPENSES:

Printing	104.00
Postage	107.97
Land Acq. & Mtce.	50.00
Other	87.45
	<u>349.42</u>

991.13

BALANCE ON HAND 3-31-85 \$9421.79

### OTHER ASSETS: (assessed value)

Old Pascom. Cons. Area	600.00
Dwyer Parcel	500.00
Borawski Parcel	3000.00
TOTAL NET WORTH	<u>\$13521.79</u>

## OUTING

An all day walk over Bald Mountain, Bennington, Vermont is scheduled for Sunday, June 23. This is an Appalachian Mountain Club sponsored trip, being led by Bill Carroll. Trust members and friends are welcome. This is a 6-mile walk of moderate difficulty with some fine views of southern Vermont. Meet at Memorial Hall, Easthampton at 8:00 am. Return late afternoon.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 22 - ANNUAL MEETING 7:30 pm at  
Community Room of Cliffview Manor

APRIL 27 - Tour of Town Parcel 1:00 pm.  
Meet at Memorial Hall.

APRIL 29 - Water Supply Forum, 7:30 pm at  
First Congregation Church, Easthampton.  
See related article.

MAY 11 - Work party at the Old Pascommuck  
Conservation Area, 10:00 am till ?

MAY 25 - Tour of new properties, 1:00 pm  
Meet at Memorial Hall.

MAY 8, JUNE 12, JULY 10 - Board of Directors  
meeting 7:30 pm Sunrise Manor Community  
Room.

JUNE 23 - Walk over Bald Mountain, meet  
at Memorial Hall 8:00 a.m.



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### OFFICERS & DIRECTORS:

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Michael Tautznik, Treasurer  
Charles Conner, Clerk  
William Carroll  
Thomas Conner  
Francis Galat  
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