



PASCOMMUCK  
CONSERVATION  
TRUST, INC.

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## NEWSLETTER

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our planet's myriad of life forms, including Homo Sapiens, are intrinsically dependent upon the natural world for survival. Yet each year in the United States alone, several hundred-thousand acres of forest, mountain, wetland, desert, prairie and cropland are lost; the result of ever increasing pressure exerted by our modern industrial society and expanding population to convert more and more land into housing developments, shopping centers and manufacturing operations. That increasing pressure toward development makes it more and more difficult for landowners to retain open space or agricultural land in the face of ever-increasing taxes and attractive opportunities for sale.

While development is necessary, even vital, to satisfying the wants and needs of an expanding population, so too are the natural systems that provide us with so much of the "stuff-of-life"; the things that technology and the man-made environment alone can never furnish. Food from our croplands, water from our wetlands and aquifers, wood products from our forests, the protection of life and property afforded us by our wetlands and floodplains, the simple enjoyment experienced by observing wildlife in its natural habitat or by gazing upon a special view, all contribute to a quality of life many take for granted. These life sustaining and enhancing benefits provided by all of our various landforms are being neglected or forgotten in the "mad-dash" to squeeze maximum economic gain from every acre.

More than 35 years ago, noted conservationist author Aldo Leopold wrote: "We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see the land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect." That vision forms the central theme of all land trusts.

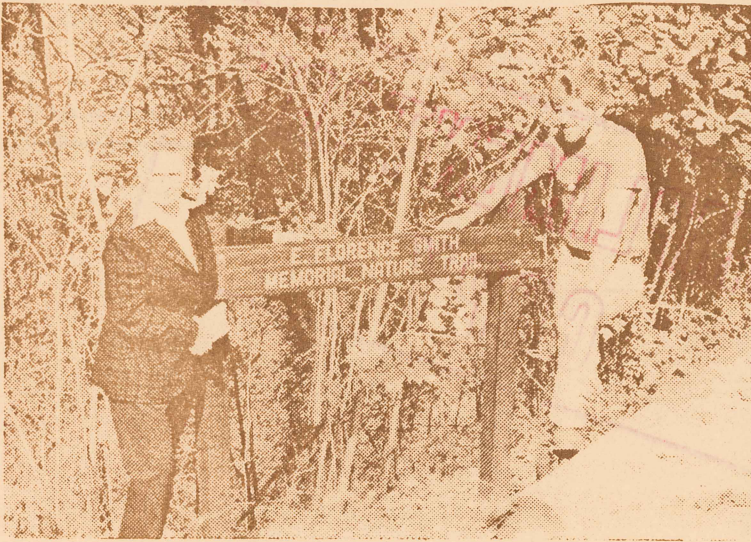
Land trusts have been created to offer landowners an appealing opportunity to guarantee in perpetuity, that the land they treasure for environmental reasons will be protected and cared for according to their exact wishes while realizing valuable tax benefits. And unlike governmental agencies, which must serve all taxpayers and whose policies can change with changing politics and administrations, land trusts are private corporations free to act on behalf of specific landowners with an unswerving purpose and duty -- fixed by charter -- to preserve land.

We are capable of destroying or preserving our natural habitat and future generations will judge us based on how we treat the land. We must begin to preserve a resource base capable of sustaining the future.

Mohandas K. Gandhi's wisdom is reflected in his observation that "land belongs to a large group of people, many of whom are dead, a few of whom are living, and the vast majority as yet unborn". The most significant value of preserving land is the continuing value to those who follow us. Only thoughtful landowners today can provide for tomorrow that priceless gift-- open land. We need to have and keep forever, places where we and the children yet to come can walk and look and listen.

*Robert E. Pinkos*  
President





(Hamilton Photo)

#### NATURE TRAIL DEDICATED

The E. Florence Smith nature trail, built by Trust members on the Trust's East Street Property was dedicated in a ceremony October 10th. President Bob Pinkos spoke briefly about the trail, named for the mother of Trust benefactor Ms. Florence Eaton, who also attended the ceremony.

With official guides in hand, about 15 Trust members were led on a tour of the trail by Bill Carroll, who explained the property's topography, vegetation and significance to the town's history as the site of the first white settlement.

Volunteers over the summer cleared trails, built stairs from donated telephone poles, marked its beginning with a sign and placed markers at each of the points of interest. A granite settee, rescued from the town landfill, was also painstakingly hauled up to a high lookout by several members. The trail is checked every week and footprints on the trail show that members of the public have toured the property.

Pictured above is Ms. Florence Eaton and Bob Pinkos standing astride the sign marking the E. Florence Smith nature trail at the dedication ceremony.

Printed "Trail Guides" are available at the Easthampton Public Library, the Easthampton Chamber of Commerce Office, the Penguin Fish Market, the Early Times Lounge, and the Arcadia Sanctuary.

#### BICENTENNIAL PARTICIPATION

On June 16, 1785 the village of Pascommuck was formally set aside as the district of Easthampton by an act of State Legislature. This year marks the 200th Anniversary of our community and the Pascommuck Conservation Trust is involved in this historic event. Festivities have been planned by the Bicentennial Committee commencing with the Brigade & Ball on Friday, June 7th and will conclude with a Parade on Sunday, June 16th. The 10-day event also includes fireworks, block dancing, a road race, activities on Nashawannuck Pond and more.

The Board of Directors has reserved space in the Parade for a float and received permission to be the official concession at the Pond activities on Wednesday, June 12th. The Activities Committee will hold an open meeting on Sunday, January 20th at 2:00 pm at the Sunrise Manor Community Room off Clark Street. Any and all persons interested should plan to attend. All volunteers are welcome regardless of the extent or amount of time available to help. We will be discussing the planned events and making plans for related activities. This committee needs all the support it can muster to do justice to this historical occasion. Come to the meeting and be involved with us, please volunteer in whatever capacity you can. The possibilities are limited only by the people.

If you are interested but cannot attend this meeting, please contact Mike Tautznik at 527-4233.

#### AMISH NIGHT

Pat Bond and Bill Burgart, members of the Trust will present "An Evening in Pennsylvania Dutch Country" on Saturday, January 12th at 7:30 pm at Cliffview Manor Community Room in Easthampton. This will be free to the public and will include a 16 mm film, "The Amish Farm and Village" along with a slide show and talk by William Burgart on the Pennsylvania Dutch Farmland. There will be light refreshments served afterwards with a "tasting" of some of the "Amish treats". For further information, call days 527-9080 and evenings 527-9456.



## MANHAN RIVER GREENBELT

The Trust has adopted, as a guide to future planning, those portions of the 1971 "Master Plan for Easthampton, Mass." and the 1982 "Easthampton Open Space and Recreation Plan" dealing with establishment of a greenbelt along the Connecticut River Oxbow--Manhan River floodplain. In recent months, the Land Acquisition & Maintenance Committee has been actively informing owners of property along the Manhan and Connecticut rivers of the benefits of donating their land to the Trust or placing a conservation restriction on their parcels. The efforts of the Committee to expand the Trust's holding of environmentally sensitive conservation property in Easthampton were rewarded with the donation of one parcel of land along the Manhan River, a conservation agreement for another, and a pledged donation of a third property. The donations and pledges stemmed from the committee's concerted effort to show property owners how they, the town and all citizens can benefit by direct donations of land or conservation restrictions.

Of 58 letters mailed to owners whose property abuts the Manhan River, about 18 responded, according to committee chairman Bill Carroll. John and Margaret Dwyer of Lovfield Street rewarded those efforts by donating a 1-acre parcel of riverfront land and allowing a conservation restriction to be added to the deed of an adjacent 2 acre parcel. The agreement means the land will always remain in its natural state. The property is located behind the Strong Bus Co., and has no access, except by boat. The agreement for the 2 acre parcel will contain a clause allowing a footpath to be developed in the future. Transfer of the 1 acre parcel to the Trust was completed in late December.

At the December 26th Selectmen's meeting Bill Carroll and Bob Pinkos asked the Board to consider donating a 39 acre parcel of land, owned by the Town, with approximately one mile of frontage along the Manhan River, between Terrace View and the Notre Dame Parish property. Selectmen were asked to donate the property, since it has not been utilized by the Town since acquiring it from Lesnow Mfg. Co. in 1937. Why it came into town hands is unknown, although Selectmen think it was taken in payment of taxes during the Great Depression.

Selectmen will reserve an article on the Annual Town Meeting warrant for a proposal to donate the property. They will review the matter with the Town Attorney before deciding

whether to endorse the donation. The Trust would assume responsibility for maintaining the property and a footpath would likely be constructed if the land is acquired.

Bill Carroll also reported that a 3½ acre parcel with 900 feet of frontage along the Manhan is also a strong possibility for inclusion in the Trust's portfolio. Negotiations are continuing, and a certified appraisal has been furnished the owners.

## LAND TRUST CONVOCATION

On Sept. 29th three directors attended, at Trust expense, the 2nd Annual Land Trust Convocation at the Yale Inn in Meriden, CT. Entitled "Open Doors...Open Lands: Land Acquisition Strategies for the 80's", the event was co-sponsored by the Connecticut Land Trust Service Bureau and the Connecticut Chapter of the Nature Conservancy. The event was designed to provide conference participants with some of the needed skills for successful open space land acquisition. Seminars dealt with a variety of topics including acquiring gifts of land, negotiating easements, land stewardship problems, and Internal Revenue Service codes applicable to non-profit, tax-exempt corporations.

## FINANCIAL CHANGES AHEAD IN 1985

With the approval of the Board of Directors, the Treasurer has undertaken the task of restructuring the financial record keeping for the Pascommuck Conservation Trust, Inc. Some of the highlights of these changes include; the creation of a double entry book-keeping system, with expanded accounts to allow for more accurate tracking of actual expenses incurred in membership related activities, overhead expenses and community project costs. The adoption of a fiscal budget for projectable costs such as postage, printing, supplies and insurance, as well as the use of an expanded financial statement, designed to allow the directors to better understand the financial position of the corporation at any given time.

The Treasurer will also be looking into other, more lucrative forms of investment for the free cash now being held in a regular pass-book savings account. This change in investment policy will not be one of increased risk to our assets, instead we will look for a higher return on our investments using short term certificates or other guaranteed savings programs available through local financial institutions.



The Pascommuck Conservation Trust is currently in a very strong financial position. It is hoped that through more accurate and informative record keeping and increased return on our investments we can maintain this secure posture through expected change and expansion of our programs.

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1-1-84 to 12-31-84

Bank Balance 1-1-84 \$ 946.82

#### INCOME:

Membership	\$2414.00
Interest	231.93
Projects/Fundraisers	1689.38
Gifts & Memorials	3870.17
Grants & Endowments	1000.00
Other	455.75

TOTAL INCOME 9661.23

#### EXPENSES:

Printing	391.49
Postage & Supplies	357.56
Projects/Fundraisers	822.10
Insurance	200.00
Other	406.24

TOTAL EXPENSES 2177.39

NET INCREASE FY-1984 7483.84

TOTAL BALANCE ON HAND 12-31-84 \$8430.66

#### CORPORATE SUPPORT

We are pleased to acknowledge the support we received from the following corporations during the last quarter:

AUDIT SYSTEMS, INC.  
EASTHAMPTON DYE WORKS, INC.  
KELLOGG BRUSH MFG. CO.  
RIVERSIDE INDUSTRIES, INC.  
STANHOME, INC.

Businesses and corporations contributing a minimum of fifty dollars receive an 8x10, matted certificate, suitable for display.

#### IN MEMORIAM

The Pascommuck Conservation Trust has received a \$550 memorial gift honoring the late Gerald Robert Frost, Sr. who passed away on October 5, 1984. Initiated by a group of friends, the fund will result in the future establishment of a suitable permanent memorial on Trust property.

Bob was an active member of the Pascommuck Conservation Trust and participated in many of its projects and fund raising activities. His helping hands will be missed.

#### MT. TOM RESERVATION CUTTING

In keeping with the Trust's active role in environmental and conservation issues, the Board of Directors has been participating in the dialogue concerning the management of the Mt. Tom forest.

Directors have been involved with the issue since July and have visited the area of the Reservation where the cutting has occurred. The Board also sent representatives to the public hearing held at Holyoke Community College on November 28th.

As a result the Directors, at their Dec. 4 meeting, voted to send a letter to the Commissioners of Hampshire and Hampden Counties stating the Trust's opposition to current forest management practices at the Mt. Tom Reservation.

The Trust letter in part stated: "The Board of Directors of the Pascommuck Conservation Trust remains opposed to any continuation of current forest management operations at the Mt. Tom Reservation. While we see the need for removal of fallen or badly decaying trees in the vicinity of the trail system, so-called salvage and sanitation operations, the need to remove healthy growth from the forest is not apparent. There exists no compelling ecological or biological reason to do so. By and large the hikers, naturalists, and others who regularly use this forest for their recreational and aesthetic enjoyment are nearly unanimous in their opposition to further large-scale management". To back their stand, directors cited a section of the "Forest Management Plan for Mt. Tom State Reservation" which states: "While the total volume and value (of wood product) are substantial on the Reservation, recreational considerations and environmental concerns other than forest management considerations should take precedent. The recreational goals and objectives of the Reservation should be considered prior to any harvesting operation."

This effort appears to have borne fruit, as both commissions have agreed to halt cutting, at least for this year, pending further study.

#### BULK RATE POSTAGE APPROVED

The U.S. Postal Service has approved a NON-PROFIT Bulk Mailing rate for the Trust, reducing the price for newsletters and other mass mailing from 22¢ to 5.2¢ effective



January 1, 1985. The drastic cost reduction with allow the Trust to keep in touch with its members without detracting from its goals of land acquisition.

#### BENEFIT CONCERT UPDATE

The "Water is Life" Benefit Concert held at Whitebrook Middle School in mid-October was well received. \$590 remained after all expenses were met, making this our largest fund-raising event to date.

The success of the event has prompted the Board of Directors to authorize the Activities Committee to consider the possibility of an annual concert. Don't miss us next time!

Again, many thanks to all the musicians and those who contributed their time to make this concert a great success.

#### MEMBERSHIP GROWING

Membership in the Pascommuck Conservation Trust reached a new high of 159 prior to the close of 1984. Summarized by category the total is comprised of 105 regular, 33 supporting, 22 contributing, and 10 life members.

Excluding life members, who do not make an

annual contribution, these numbers represent an annual income, at face value, of \$1675. Membership monies provide the basis for the general operations of the Trust, covering expenses such as insurance premiums, copying, printing, postage and office supplies.

Not reflected in the above totals are the results of the fourth quarter membership renewal effort. Sixty-five memberships were due to expire on December 31st and 36 have been renewed as of this date. We are hopeful of receiving renewals from the remaining 29 now that the holiday rush is past.

#### CHRISTMAS GATHERING

The first Trust Christmas get-together brought 52 members and friends to Cliffview Manor on December 12th, where a business meeting was combined with a social gathering. Presentations by President Bob Pinkos and Treasurer, Michael Tautznik updated the membership on the accomplishments of the past year, including the receipt of a \$1,000 challenge grant from the FRANK STANLEY BEVERIDGE FOUNDATION, marking the Trust's successful drive to raise another \$1,000 through its activities, including bake sales, Nashawannuck Pond tours, and tag sales, as well as other fund-raising activities throughout 1984.

#### 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 JOIN WITH OTHER ENVIRONMENTALLY CONCERNED CITIZENS AND HEREBY MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION FOR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE PASCOMMUCK CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.

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

☐ 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 \_\_\_\_\_



After the business meeting guests viewed a film on the issue of groundwater pollution, an important issue facing the citizens of the town, which depends on underground wells for its water supply. Members and guests then enjoyed a delicious buffet served by Joe Enright of the PENGUIN FISH MARKET.

Special guests at the affair included John and Margaret Dwyer, who donated a parcel of land to the Trust. The Trust presented them with a plaque entitling them to a lifetime membership.

#### LAND-USE BOOKSHELF

"A Sand County Almanac" by Aldo Leopold; Oxford University Press, New York, 1949. A classic book of essays on land use and environmental issues, by an author with a clear view of both.

"Design with Nature" by Ian L. McHarg; Doubleday/Natural History Press, Garden City, 1969. An easy reading textbook advocating an ecological approach to land-use planning.

"Creative Land Development: Bridge to the Future" by Robert A. Lemire; Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1979. A clear concise, practical, how-to-do-it manual for concerned citizens and public officials of every city, town and county being inundated by uncontrolled growth. The author is from Lincoln, Mass.

#### TRUST OFFERS SPEAKERS, SLIDE PRESENTATION

Trust members have assembled a colorful twenty-minute slide presentation depicting the local area, its beauty and its problems. Thoughtfully delving into issues of environmental, conservation, and historical interests, its purpose is to inform and enlighten. A photographic tour of the Old Pascommuck Conservations Area and a series of slides depicting Trust activities is also included.

The presentation, complete with live speakers, is available to church, civic, and social groups and organizations, regardless of size. To reserve us and our slides for an evening, simply contact Mr. Carroll at 527-5148 or Mr. Pinkos at 527-9456.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

JAN. 12 - AMISH NIGHT, Cliffview Manor at 7:30 pm. Free to the public.

JAN. 19 - Nature Hike Old Pascommuck Conservation area 1:00 pm with Bill Carroll.

JAN. 20 - Activities Committee Meeting, 2:00 pm Sunrise Manor Community Room. See Bicentennial Participation article.

FEB. 13, MAR. 13, APR. 10 - Board of Directors meeting 7:30 pm Sunrise Manor Community Room, Paradise Drive (off Clark St.).

APR. 22 - Annual Membership Meeting, Cliffview Manor, more details to follow.



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#### OFFICERS & DIRECTORS:

Robert Pinkos, President  
Joyce Neal, Vice President  
Michael Tautznik, Treasurer  
Charles Conner, Clerk  
William Carroll  
Thomas Conner  
Francis Galat  
David Kennedy  
Stella Wiernasz

#### NEWSLETTER STAFF:

Editorial & Layout:  
Walter Hamilton  
Diana Pinkos  
Lynne Gosselin  
  
Graphics:  
Robert Pinkos

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