Observing the Land One Tree at a Time



the most present invasive species common topics. With its early sping leaves, it has betiou trown, American bit tesswers, awoody come a popular choice for neisting by sovine with colorful jet low/orange per-seed botts. Unifortunately, this our branches of the
beries this time yet and orange person better, bit is time of the state of the second the distribution of the second the second the distribution of the second th ree identification began just over the brook, Burning bush, another plant now considered t the edge of the parking lot, with one of an invasive, was one of our next discussion as a boely sumy morning when we net traill lead, we encounteed some large white trees Merile Be by and Sasan Hughes at I mean and doopy. Nevery spruce, where trees Merile Be by and Sasan Hughes at I mean and doopy. However, some trees the stand pasking late on Old Ayer Road. Midnelle explained the differences between that othered us to join them in this year's bark and needles among our numerous deminfraction Walk. At several points in the walk, the trustees points out "wolf trees," which are trees with low wide bandles, or multiple trunks, that seem unusually large and out of place in the forest. This is because they once threved in pasture land, and were allowed to broaden to provide shade for animals. bush, genus Euonymus, is another member of the bittersweet family.

When we came to the Harvey Whitehill Memorial picnic area, a short distance from the

Michele pointed out the value in noting with terminal leaflest that are more uniform whether the leaves are opposite (two leaf stems on opposite selded of a branch start we discussed many more of our local trees, same point along the branch, starting a "node") or alternate where only a signal has where only a signal heaf in duding maples; bit cries, hop homeom, is attached at a node, with leaves alternately which has preded to be boson different sides of the branch Trees with somenja, and how to distinguish the various opposite leaf arrangement are in the minori-species, observing bask, leaves, flower, and by, Michele povoled a mnemoric ("AMDE"), MADE point and alon ording how the maturity of the HORE; to remind us that the predominant fees in our away with opposite leaves are the species which be opposite leaves are the species (which be opposite leaves are the species (which be opposited leaves, a great or duding in the top of the hill, where we number of shruls have them. The trail on Bates Land is quite diverse, including field, we than, and a hill. Durwalk to concluded at the top of the hill, where we collectively enjoyed a lovely view and took de. photographs, Weed already planning our first the solo Tree ID walk to test our new knowledge!

Michel explained how coldinguish bidory formats in which both here are analyty compound these thinds with deal the select and the select and

Our Members

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J Curtis

Habber
am and Karen Harte
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and Geraldine Harter
neth Hartlage
rew Hawes
lam and Roberta Hayden
nyk Stephen Henderson
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s Hill

Hoffman and Blase Provitola Hughes and Geegg Baker Jennings Jennings dams Johns on Charitable Fi d Elizabeth Keddy

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GROTON CONSERVATION TRUST









Our Mission:

gctrust.org

note to the metass in the Steemeckus no Streemeckus nefeus Sulman nifer Sweeney Gas Symont & Edwin Shap n and Glend à Babaczyn śś. in Tuibault in Tuibault e & Sandra Tobies cy Todd d and Bobbie Spiegelman tine and Gerard Steizer Stevens on*and Hugh Stoddart



Rescue Training at Shepley Hills

Rescue and Recovery (9 Unit (MARR9) volunteres on the Shepley His popetry. The
becoming certified, each dog must also par
MARR9 group uses Shepley in partnership tickpake in a least 16 house of fraining each
with the GCT, as training for their search and
month to maintain their skills. On a late October Sunday, I spent a few hours as a lost hiker in the woods with a group of volunteers from Massachusetts

Milke It with Pigas and the fumant Yiper

Milke Signiup assists we enforcement again—were here Whilke Typer works law venture.
Gries and fine and rescue against six finding ment and also is. Milke Signium assist law venture—and most offers certified on wayward hillers—and most offers certified on wayward hillers—ment to solumeter. This allows me to comwardering dielses, or persons who because—been tryp lone for days and the cultifiers and on this days offers and under his Most Milke Signium and and also lake offer correct to be with Froduciand Yile Brease of Auburn—short nordice, which is provided to the control of the control

MAR9 President Paul Morits who has been at Paul and I headed into the woods for me doing this size to 1838, says witherness train to "gest lost," the explained how training works: mg is key for dogs to ean mit or certification. When he as a busy che the allow the dogs to and prinned tank truss of then offer ideal search based on norm. Palice K95 are often pacefic areas that must be mastered in or finding human remains. Our dogs (doing page 1852) and the search pacefic areas that must be mastered in or finding human remains. Our dogs (doing page 1852) are the search pacefic areas that must be mastered in or finding human remains.















on 40 acres, a problem on 40 acres at night, and a 160-acre search. So these protected properties enable us to secure permission so they foliase their noise to any human. They are monitored in flipps's case with regions of a grant political in flipps's case with a grant political in the control of the monitoring of the control of the monitoring of the control depends on what is exclined to the close seeks on that is and all pulmp? I have a copal and that half of all searches take a loan, and day, and day,

Once I was placed deep in the woods. Paul wasked in the opposite direction and radioal file to start Pippa. Her first described the was classes. The was rewarded with mest balls, then sent convaint Tyler later spalling of this key in line rescues. This type of training is particularly useful without proposed from get separated and last. Pippa can find the does at report back, get the reward, and does at report back, get the reward, and continue to the next cent." White lost I hard Rippa's Geben Indi-cating also had supped. Soon the basis of microal part was on to such texture or microal part was on to such texture or published to supper the supper texture of the supper the supper texture of the supper the resulted her. Supper the supper the resulted her. Supply, this process took less than 20 minutes.

The MARISO teams tain twice a week all year long. They are on Shepley every other week from 1000 am to 1500 pm, and leys visitors are welcome, both human and canine. You can ever show up to be a volumer. You do not have to have a dog to be helpful, hiding suljects are important if you are up for it. For more information



Finding a Rare Salamander

Those who attended our **Annual Vernal Pool Walk** in April witnessed the discovery of a Marbied Shammoder. The Marbied Shammoder The

nscientists at work! Join us along with other Groton fami-nen we explore our vernal pools again next April.



with iNaturalist Creating Citizen Scientists

What's blooming on these chilly autumn days? Take a stroll into your neighborhood forest and book in the understory for the spirityly self-low flowers of the American which hazel (Homanne's viginizaro) tree. Are your identification skills rusy? Well, we have the perfect tool to help you identify that witch hazel: Naturalist:

Enfer this year we were introduced to a new app called librariast and we think it's a sedid tool for the identification of both plant and animal species. It is simple to use. Once you have an account, use the app to upload a photo from your plane the librariast supp will list its top suggestions for the identification of the species

Over the course of the year, we incorporated Naturalistin many course with such activations to the DNA course was to the first per DNA clocking for spring black during the General Fled party, finding signs of fall as Generalists or aurities open challenge free features, Kember Unde Loren wen out price for submitting the most predator photos during that August challenge flee on this beakeuff or our future Naturalist challenges. Next up: The Savenger Hunt.

Not sure how to use iNaturalist? Here are some video tutorials found at inaturalist.org/pages/video+tutorials, that can help you get started. Practice makes it second nature!

notes

Trustees
Ted Lagres, Perisdent
Mark Gerath, Vize President
Mark Gerath, Vize President
John Libdia, Treasurer
Scott Wilson, Clerk
David Black
Holly Estes
Wendy Good
Wendy Good
Strain Hughers
Ed McNerney
Richard Alwehilke
Bod Pine.

2017 Funding Where it came from, how we spent it

Revenue: \$32,339





Thanks to You

Your membership heligs our all-dolunteer board protest exhalled important as east and provide pablic access to over forry pritine conservation properties comparing pritine conservation properties comparing a house of continuation in the paracele are impart to a variety man of continuation that benefits wildlife as well as hiters and bisers with or eight in the continuation of the citi and diverse towards teal microsoft.

Your support not only protects special places, it ensures that you will receive invitations to all our events like the notes mentioned hee. If you are already a member, now is the time to renew your commitment for the coming year. If you are not yet a member, now is the inner to renew your commitment for the coming year. If you are not yet an ember, now is the time to the common of use the endosed deply card and except to send a check, or go to our training on the common of the common of

We are grateful to all our generous supporters. Thanks to people like you, conservation is working in Groton!

gctrust.org.



Stickers Now Get Your Window

are not yet a member, now is a great time to join and get your own sticker in the bargain. Please use the enclosed reply card and envelope to send a check or go to gctrustorg. Or Show your GCT pride with one of these stickers on your car and let the world ki





Annual Meeting Honored at May and Taplin Family June Johnson

At our annual meeting in May we paid special tribute to veteran conservationists who have made exceptional lifetime contributions to the GCT.

President Ted Lapres led a commemoration of former Trustee June Johnson who died on April 18. June served the GCT trelessly form 1980 until 2014, and was named an

The Taplin recognition horioned John and Virginal Jajain for their many generous gifts of land to the town of Goston over the years. Forn and Carl Taplin, along with their friend Notesen, were only and to hard the many ributes and appreciations. Trustee Bod Pien protect that fully 15% of protected Bod Pien protect that fully 15% of protected GCT land has come from Taplin gifts. He called them the quieties yet most influen-tal conservations in town.



Planned Giving

The GCT was fortunate this year to receive two denations from two different planned giving the equests. Planned giving has long been as as glein in the philambroic took let and thad us wordering how many people know of this in-your many and the productions of the production of the trustee, June Johnson, at the time of her death in the spring. Steve Lieman, June's husband, agreed to talk more about June's planned giving. We will explore different planned giving

As Steve: The beauty of naming your favorite is charitable organization as a beneficiary of min-your IRA is that there is no need to make see any changes to your will or any other estate the documents that you have.

GCT: How does this differ from naming an organization in your will?

