

# **AMP Annual Report, Nov 4, 2010**

The following is a summary of stewardship activity for the period Nov '09 to Nov '10.

## **Management Plans**

A new management plan was developed and approved for the Great Marsh. Management plans were updated for Newgate Farm and Griffin Marsh.

## **Work Parties** (LT members & neighbors)

We organized 12+ work parties. Combined with individual efforts by Stewards, over 192 volunteer hours were contributed at: Griffin Marsh/Holcomb Pond, 20 hours; Newgate Farm, 102 hours; Pond Lane, 70 hours. A major focus was to control non-native invasive plants that tend to suppress native plants and reduce biodiversity. Prevalent invasive species on our properties include oriental bittersweet, Japanese barberry, Japanese knotweed, multiflora rose, autumn olive, garlic mustard, Phragmites and winged euonymous.

## **Other On-site Management** (mostly Stewards & Directors)

- Property inspection walks & AMP reports.
- Mow Griffin Marsh/Holcomb Pond access paths.
- Located boundaries and met neighbors at Great Marsh
- Located Boundaries and met neighbors at Newgate Farms
- Located boundaries and met neighbors at Seneca Drive/Metacomet Ridge
- Located and marked boundaries at Newgate Farm
- Addressed landscaping and other encroachments at Pond Lane and Newgate Farm
- Addressed problem trees at Coppergate

## **Stewardship Education**

- Feb '10 CT Forest & Parks Winter Trails Workshop – Attended by J. Frank
- April '10 CT Forest & Parks Outdoor Trail Workshop –C & H Delasco, J. Frank
- Sep '10 CL&P Update on Mitigation Measures for Greater Springfield Reliability Project
- Oct '10 National Land Trust Alliance Rally in Hartford, CT – M.Goodhouse, J.Frank
- Oct '10 CT Invasives Plant Working Group Seminar-M.Clifford, T.Howard, I.Clark

## **Outreach**

- Stewards led two winter hikes, a spring hike and a fall hike for the public (Eastfield Farm, EG Farm (winter & spring), Farmington River to Metacomet)
- Stewardship calendar

## **Notable Wildlife Sightings**

- River Otters at Griffin Marsh and Pond Lane
- Great white egret and snowy egret at Griffin Marsh
- Large snapping turtle at Pond Lane
- Young bear, also a female with 3 cubs at Newgate Farm

## **Stewardship Results**

**Coppergate (John Erbland):** Two problem trees threatening a driveway were felled and the firewood was donated to a town resident.

**Griffin Marsh/Holcomb Pond (Cathy Delasco):** We continue to cut and treated invasive plants to improve native plant diversity and wildlife habitat, removed the deer guards, kept trails and access paths open and cleared our access right of way easement. Phragmites, asian bittersweet and multi-flora rose were tackled during the four work parties, including assistance from the East Granby Middle School students. Our thanks to Ian and Carolyn Clark for traveling to Bloomfield to collect the Gallarucella Beetles for controlling our Purple Loosestrife, allowing us to complete our WHIP grant and receive the \$225 payment. The meadow planted several years ago bloomed with a beautiful array of colorful native wildflowers this summer.

**Newgate Farm (Michelle Clifford & Bill Grabinsky):** In 2009, we signed the paperwork for a WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program) grant in the amount of \$4,698. The contract period runs from 2009-2011. As you may recall, last year we marked and cut over a hundred trees in the first of three sections of the property. A volunteer cut trees up until April of this year and will resume in the Fall and continue through the Winter.

In the earlier part of the year, we focused on locating more property corner pins. We even plotted them on the land trust's GPS unit. Work was completed on a small footbridge. We met with an abutting neighbor to address an encroachment issue.

Our main goal for this year was cutting and treating invasive plants, mostly multiflora rose, Barberry, Asian bittersweet, and Winged Euonymus. In late October, Seth Lerman of the USDA inspected our work and determined that we had satisfied our obligations for 2009. He has signed the paperwork and the land trust will likely receive a \$1595.10 check by year's end. At the meeting with Seth, we determined that we needed to extend the contract period to 2012 in order to complete the work required.

Next year, we will continue our efforts to eradicate invasive plants, but we will also begin to plant native shrub islands as part of the WHIP grant.

Although only four formal work parties were held, fifteen informal work sessions also took place as needed. In 2010, we logged 102 hours of volunteer hours at Newgate Farm.

**Pond Lane (Tom Howard & Amanda Thompson):** Four clean up clean out parties were held between April and September, with a total of thirty volunteers participating, including Land Trust Members, neighbors and East Granby Middle School Students. We continue to attack invasives, including multi-flora rose and Japanese knotweed, with major efforts led by Herb Delasco, while Steward Tom Howard is recovering from surgery.

We continued nurturing/weeding of our 2009 plantings and planted pine trees relocated from Newgate Farm on the west side of the pond to provide a clear boundary. Herb Delasco built a wonderful and safe bridge across the stream replacing a very temporary bridge and helped block the pipe from vandals who were plugging it up.

Periodic monitoring of the property by Amanda, Tom and Herb included at least 20 hours. Steward Amanda Thompson provided significant support and helped with weeding and watering plantings. She will be missed as she takes a maternity leave in 2011.

Encroachment on LT property was noticed in three locations and is being dealt with. Wildlife sightings included a blue heron, a massive turtle and two river otters who were masquerading as a beaver, giving us a temporary scare.

Respectfully submitted,  
Property Stewards and EG Board Members