

# **East Granby Land Trust 2011 AMP Annual Report**

## **(Assessment and Monitoring of Property)**

The following is a summary of stewardship activity for the period Dec 2010 to Dec 2011.

### **Management Plans**

An updated management plan was developed and approved for Pond Lane.

### **Stewardship Results**

#### **Griffin Marsh/Holcomb Pond (Cathy Delasco):**

We held six work parties at Griffin Marsh this year, three to thin the phragmites in the marsh, and three to eradicate large patches of bittersweet on the western edge of the property. Ian Clarke mowed the access paths and kept the bench area open, and we worked a total of 38 hours at the property.

Activities planned for 2012 include mowing the meadow after August 1st and repairing the outlet pipe from the marsh to the overflow area.

#### **Newgate Farm (Michelle Clifford & Bill Grabinsky):**

As in the prior year, our work at Newgate Farm in 2011 centered on trying to meet our Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) Grant obligations. Six work parties were dedicated towards this effort. Activities included cutting, treating and removing woody invasives and marking trees for removal. Additional work sessions were required from time to time to manage fallen trees. Although we made good progress in 2011, weather dampened our efforts cutting trees and therefore, we will need to revise the grant with the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA/NRCS) to allow for more time to get this work done. This grant revision has already been raised with the requisite personnel at the USDA/NRCS.

We also worked to further locate or approximate our missing property markers.

#### **Pond Lane (Tom Howard & Amanda Thompson):**

Encroachment issues, trees, domestic ducks and water level of the pond were on-going concerns of the steward Tom Howard. Contact with neighbors cleared up materials dumped on our land and the issue of boundaries. Signs were mounted near property lines. Pipe clearing of stones and debris in the spring kept the outlet flowing. One dead tree has fallen into the pond and three others need to be cut down. Two dead fallen trees near neighbors had to be cut up and removed from their property. The Oct storm wrecked havoc with trees and caused one large oak to fall across our trail and damaged three of our 2009 deer guards around our plantings. The tree was cut up. No special work parties were held this year. Our Co Steward, Amanda Thompson has taken a maternity leave but continues to actively monitor the property. The recent Fairy House project was successfully held on the property in 2011. We appreciate Ian Clark and Herb Delasco's contributions in 2011. Several AMP reports were filed and photographs archived.

## **Miscellaneous**

Fallen trees were cut and cleared or removed by a combination of Board Members, volunteers and professional tree cutters adjacent to and on Newgate Farm, Pond Lane and Peak Mountain.

Pricing was received for professional surveying to positively identify the locations of some key property boundaries. A grant was sought, to help defray the costs, but was not received. Surveying was undertaken at Newgate Farm and Peak Mountain. Work parties to locate boundary markers were held at Newgate Farm and Pond Lane.

Concerned neighbors contacted the EGLT regarding trail damage at the Newgate Wildlife Management area (not an EGLT property) following the late October snowstorm. We met with CL&P, and they made significant repairs to the trails. The neighbors assisted the trail flooding situation by clearing an overflow structure of several years of beaver debris, allowing Newgate Pond to return to a more normal, lower level.