



Avalonia Trails

P.O. Box 49
Old Mystic, CT 06372

...preserving natural habitats in southeastern Connecticut by acquiring and protecting lands and by communicating the value of these irreplaceable resources

SPRING 2013

Babcock Ridge: Our Latest Acquisition Project

by Duncan Schweitzer



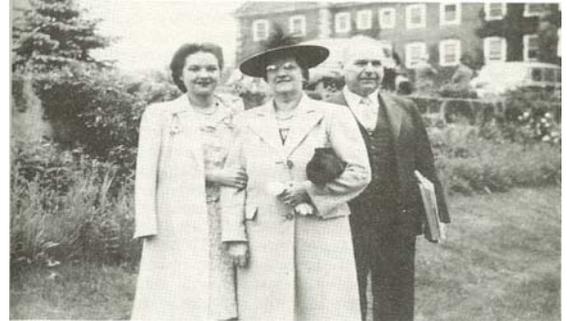
Babcock Ridge in March. Photo by Anne Roberts-Pierson

Fundraising is now underway toward the acquisition of Babcock Ridge in North Stonington, a 74-acre parcel of rugged uplands that physically connects two existing Avalonia preserves, Erisman Woodlands and the Donald R. Henne Memorial Tract of the Shunock River Preserve.

Avalonia is already a part-owner of this property, having received a one-quarter share as a bequest from the late Ruth Goldsmith. Our goal is now to purchase the remaining three-quarters from the other heirs and descendants of her father, Dr. Thurman Maine.

As we announced in our last newsletter, we have been successful in our application for a grant from the state of Connecticut

Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWLA) program, which will cover half of the appraised purchase price. Thus far we have raised another \$9,015 from designated donations to our Annual Appeal and a generous donation from the North Stonington Garden Club. This is a good start, but as you will see from the pie chart, we have a long way to go. Grant applications are in preparation and we have plans for additional fund-raising activities. You can donate online at any time: <http://www.avalonialandconservancy.org/DONORS-MEMBERSINFO.html>



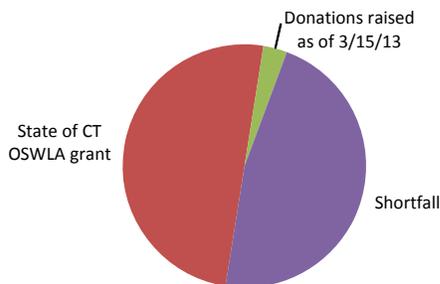
Ruth Goldsmith (left) with her parents, Mrs. Harriet Maine and Dr. Thurman Maine. Photo from "Mystic Families And More Memories of a Native" by Barbara Neff Jensen.

Babcock Ridge, which was the subject of a development proposal only a few years ago, is a habitat that is well worthy of preservation. Lying as it does between two existing preserves, its protection will establish an uninterrupted woodland block of approximately 220 acres, protecting the watershed of the Shunock River and establishing the core of a wildlife corridor. (See the Winter 2012-2013 issue of "Avalonia Trails" for a map). A mostly dry and rocky upland, at this time of year there are numerous vernal pools replete with salamander egg masses, while the trees show evidence of the activity of the pileated woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*).

Adele Erisman, who donated Erisman Woodlands, reports hearing whippoorwills (*Caprimilgus vociferus*). In addition to its inherent ecological and habitat value, Babcock Ridge has recreational potential: we plan to install hiking trails linking to the existing trails of the Henne Tract.

If you would like to visit Babcock Ridge to see for yourself, guided hikes are planned for the spring and summer (see pages 3 and 8 for details). If you are unable to participate in either of those, we would be happy to plan others; please call or send an email (our contact information is on page 2).

Fundraising progress and sources



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President.....Duncan Schweitzer
Vice-President.....Michele Fitzpatrick
Treasurer.....Rowland Stebbins III
Secretary.....Maureen Dewire

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Acquisition.....Gerry Stefon
Stewardship.....Mike Goodwin
Finance.....Bob Chapin
Development&PR.....Vacant
Personnel.....Vacant

TOWN DIRECTORS

Groton.....Michele Fitzpatrick
Ledyard.....Michael Goodwin
Preston.....Margaret Gibson
North Stonington.....Mac Turner
Stonington.....Bruce Biddle
Griswold, Sprague, Voluntown.....Vacant

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Scott Dawley
Anne Nalwalk

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Janice Parker

HONORARY DIRECTORS

Carole Clark
Anna Coit
Lois Tefft Van Deusen
Hugo Wilms

Phone: (860) 884-3500

e-mail: avalonialc@yahoo.com

www.avalonialandconservancy.org

President's Corner

This is the last newsletter of Avalonia's fiscal year 2012-2013, and my last as President. At our 45th Annual Meeting on May 15 we will elect a new Board of Directors. As I step down I would like to review some of what Avalonia as an organization and I as an officer of that organization, have achieved during my tenure.

When I started my term two years ago, I had certain goals, which at the time seemed modest, but in hindsight were wildly ambitious. I wanted to set Avalonia on the path towards accreditation with the national Land Trust Alliance (LTA), the "gold standard" for effective and sustainable land trusts, and a qualification that is becoming critically important as the IRS increases its scrutiny of land trusts. Also, I wanted to develop Avalonia's commitment to strategic conservation, the active acquisition of lands and habitats identified as especially worthy of protection, in addition to the passive acceptance of donated property that has characterized much of Avalonia's history.

I can report limited progress toward the first goal. Avalonia's Board participated in an "Assessing Your Organization" program with the LTA last year and identified areas within the organization that could benefit from improvement. *Ad hoc* committees were set up to address these areas and while some of them have provided us with improved policies and practices, others have yet to do so. I hope that the incoming Board will re-commit to this initiative and set us back on the path toward accreditation with new energy and enthusiasm.

I am a bit happier with our progress on the second goal. While I was still Vice-President I recommended and the Board voted to undertake the challenge of acquiring for conservation the Bell Cedar Swamp, a rare and endangered habitat and ecosystem. This proved to be a much larger undertaking than I, or anyone, foresaw. The survey alone required heroic efforts on the part of our Acquisition Chair, Gerry Stefon, and will probably feature conspicuously in his memoirs. The fundraising, given the economic climate, was challenging to say the least. It took a total of 12 grant applications 4 of which were funded, plus innumerable donations from individuals and organizations to close the deal. You don't want to know about the paperwork, believe me; however, I am happy to report that, three years later, finally, we have succeeded. The closing took place April 3rd and as you read this you can celebrate the fact that this extraordinary ecosystem has been saved in perpetuity.

Energized by this knowledge, I hope that you will throw your wholehearted efforts into our current strategic acquisition project, Babcock Ridge. Please call us if you would like to help.

Our Annual Meeting location this year likewise reflects both my personal vision and Avalonia's commitment to strategic conservation planning, being held as it is at the northern end of our catchment area. My view is that here, where it is still possible to conserve large blocks of relatively pristine land, is the conservation future. Join us in Lisbon May 15th to celebrate our achievements and to embrace the future.



President Duncan Schweitzer, seller Joanne Lemieux and Atty. Frank Eppinger at the Bell Cedar Swamp closing.

Executive Update

by Janice Parker

Congratulations, Avalonia members! You are doing an extraordinary job. I am happy to report that this year's Annual Appeal response was the best in our history. It is your support that makes what we do possible. Thank you.

Our volunteers are working hard not only to steward our preserves, but also to develop a more personal, interactive relationship with our membership and to share our mission with the general public. This spring we launched our new blog, Avalonia eTrails (<http://avaloniaetrails.blogspot.com>). This initiative is the result of the hard work of Beth Sullivan, Al Bach and other members of the Stonington Town Committee and will help keep all of us informed between issues of the newsletter. Also on the social media front, Avalonia's Facebook page now has 250 followers.

Your 2013 Nominating Committee (Scott Dawley, Martha Fraenkel, Gerry Stefon, Mac Turner and Chair, Maureen Dewire) has done a stellar job of recruiting in preparation for the election that will take place at the Annual Meeting in May. Expect the slate to bring some new faces, and new energy and ideas, to the Board to complement the experience and commitment of currently serving members. Mark your calendar for May 15th and plan to join us.

We still have vacancies though, so consider getting involved with your Town Committee as a way of expressing your support. Also remember that May is membership month. Don't forget to renew online (<http://www.avalonialandconservancy.org/DONORS-MEMBERSINFO.html>), by using the form on page 3 or when your reminder comes in the mail. Thank you all!



**45th Annual Meeting
Wednesday, May 15th, 7 p.m.
Lisbon Community Center
Barn
19 South Burnham Hwy, Lisbon**



Our usual business meeting and election of officers and Board will be followed by a program:

**On The Wild Side:
Exploring the Flora and Fauna of The Last Green Valley**

**Bill Reid
Chief Ranger, The Last Green Valley**

The Last Green Valley is almost 80% undeveloped land with a multitude of opportunities for exploring the outdoors. Whether hiking, paddling, pedaling, or simply observing wildlife, the region has a rich assortment of venues for enjoying the natural environment.

Babcock Ridge Walk

by Mac Turner

On April 27th we will be offering a walk on the Babcock Ridge property. This will be a great opportunity to visit this property, which we are in the process of acquiring, and to see how it connects to our Erisman and Henne Preserves to create a significant and contiguous band of habitat in the watershed for the Shunock River. We plan to gather at 1p.m. on Babcock Road just across from the Donald R. Henne Memorial Preserve and to walk in a loop up into the Babcock tract to Erisman Woodlands and back down to the Henne. Depending on weather and the mood of the participants we may extend or shorten the hike.

When we have completed our hike, we will retire to the home of Pat and Mac Turner for refreshments. Their home was for many years the residence of Dr. Thurman Maine, and it is from his heirs that Avalonia is acquiring this property. Dr. Maine was a prominent and widely respected doctor in North Stonington and it will be fun to share some of the information we have collected about him and his family. His daughter, Ruth Goldsmith, was a longtime supporter of Avalonia, and she left her share of the Babcock property to Avalonia when she passed away in 2007.

Please join us for what will be a fun and informative afternoon. It may be a perfect opportunity to celebrate Spring!

Coastal Shorelines: What to Plant and Where.

by Joellen Anderson

Join us Tuesday, April 30th at 7 p.m. at the Groton Public Library to hear Juliana Barrett, an Associate Extension Educator with the Connecticut Sea Grant program at Avery Point, present a program that will illustrate the importance of coastal vegetative corridors and their significance in reducing the impacts of waves and storm surges. Her presentation will identify which salt spray tolerant native plants are most appropriate to plant in order to reduce the impact of runoff from either our inland or coastal water bordering properties into Long Island Sound.

This program, the third in a series "Our Water: Upstream & Downstream", about our local brooks, rivers and Long Island Sound is jointly sponsored by Avalonia and the Library during the month of April.

As WE ALL LIVE DOWNSTREAM, plan to join us to learn more about how we as homeowners can positively impact water quality and how water quality impacts both marine animals and us!

May is Membership Month!

Name(s).....

Address

Town.....State.....Zip.....

Phone

E-mail.....

Renew online using your credit card: www.avalonialandconservancy.org

Click "Donors & Members info" or mail this completed form and check to: **P.O.Box49, Old Mystic CT 06372**

Choose membership level:	Individual \$25	Family \$45
Pine \$50	Cedar \$100	Maple \$200
Life membership \$1000	Mighty Oak \$500	Organization \$150

I am enclosing \$.....as a contribution in addition to my membership dues.

I want to help: outdoor work fundraising/PR membership

event planning other work (please specify).....

I would prefer to receive my newsletter by email:

Note: Dues, gifts of land, securities and other contributions are tax-deductible within the limits of the law.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!!!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the “forest” of generous donors who contributed to our **2012 Annual Appeal**.

This year for the first time, we are acknowledging your donations by level, but our gratitude toward all of our donors is equally warm. Whether your gift was large or small, whether you directed it toward our General Fund, toward our Bedrock Fund for future acquisition, toward our fundraising efforts for the acquisition of Babcock Ridge, or toward stewardship of your favorite preserve, your contribution helps us to fulfill our shared mission of conservation.

Thank you: we couldn't do it without you.



Golden Maples (\geq \$1,000)

John & Binti Ackley
Victor & Christine Baird

Shirley C. Beal
Carla & Rowland Stebbins II

Mac & Pat Turner

Silver Birches (\$500 – \$999)

Bob & Diane Chapin
Michael & Dudley DelBalso
Steven & Marion Dodd
Peter G. Letz

Henry Lord
David McKain & Margaret Gibson
Bob & Michele Millham

Janice Parker & Duncan Schweitzer
Ms. Anne T. Roberts-Pierson
Kate Robinson

Copper Beeches (\$100 - \$499)

Ben & Linda Anderson
David & Judy Anderson
Dexter & Nancy Anderson
Charlie & Sue Anderson
Stephanie & Gareth Annino
Peter Auster & Lisa Wahle
Doug & Barbara Barrett
Mrs. Paul I. Bartholet
(in memory of MP Morton)
Deborah Beal
Berwick Association
Mary T. Boatwright
Timothy Bowles
Lee Brokaw
Jeff & Lynn Callahan
Donald J Charbonnier
Charles T. Clark
Mr. & Mrs. William P. Clark
Victoria E. Connor
CT/RI Coastal Flyfishers
Ken DiGuissepe
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher P. Dixon
Paul Estes
Kevin Fagan
David & Judith Fales
Michele Fitzpatrick
Kobar Foundation
John & Erica Fox
Martha Fraenkel & Michael McGlynn
Mr. & Mrs. Howard A. Fromson
Gerstein-Weaver Family Fund
Bryan & Heather Geyer

Mr. Robert Gilberti
Andy & Barbara Gildersleeve
Michael Goodwin
Mark & Betty Guadiana
Charles Hartman
Hilary Heminway
Bruce & June Johnson
Bill & Sue Jones
Constance Kilgore & Robert Utter
Gary & Nita Kincaid
Paul & Martha Kowack
Stephen & Wendy Lash
Ledyard Lions
Archie & Diana Leslie
Warren Liepold
Bruce & Catherine Littman
Rebecca Hathaway Lynch
Rita A. Madison
Rosemary Contin & John Malmros
Brian & Heather McGregor
Mary Ann Melgey
Frank Menniti & Sandra Miller
R.L. & V.P. Montgomery
Alexandra Moore
Dorothea Moore
Gay Myers
Anne H. Nalwalk
Artie Oliveira
Thomas & Marie Olson
Ivan & Naomi Otterness
Judy & Norm Owsley
Leonard & Ingrid Parker

Jim Patton
Peter B. Perry
Brian A. Pistolesse
Glenn & Vicki Reid
Mike & Julia Roberts
Angetette Robinson
Helen Rocheleau
Bill & Sheila Sanders
Paul & Davnet Shaffer
Jack & Chris Schmidt
Jean & Robert Scialabba
Albert & Barbara Siefert
Bob & Charlotte Shepard
Doug & Joan Smith
James & Laura Smith
Joan Soons
Gerry & Linda Stefon
Karen Stone & David Schultz
Harry & Marie Tobiassen
Betty S. Tylaska
Sally & Roger VanDyke
Sandy & Sidney VanZandt
Kathy Weinberger & Jim Friedlander
(in memory of Kathy's brother,
Mark, who dedicated his career to
protecting open space)
Rich & Debra Wilner
James & Karen Witliff
Kathryn & Vincent Yevoli
Eugene & Georgia York

Anonymous (2)

Green Saplings (<\$100)

William Abt
John P. Anderson
Robert & Karen Askins
Nancy P. Avery
G. & C. Battista
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Bentz
Katrina A. Bercauw
Bruce Biddle
Douglass Bjorn
James R. & Elizabeth W. Boylan
Brenda H. Bright
Elizabeth Tobin Brown
Buddy & Linda Chapman
Anne Collier
Richard Conant
Dick Cooper
Connie Desillier
Maureen Dewire
Norman A. Dudziak
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Eckelmeyer
Mr. Frank Eppinger
George & Virginia Fagan
Mrs. George Finn
Viola Gilcher
Bruce Gillie

Ed & Susan Hart
Robyn W. Hatch
Susan Henne
Paul & Carla Henschel
Dana & Sara Hewson
Mary E. Hughes
C.H. Joss
Jane R. Keener
Mr. & Mrs. Eino Kertula
Jon & Diane Kodama
Norman S. Krasner
Mr. G.F. Lane
Saren Langmann
James & Eileen Loughlin
Dixie Lufbery
Eleanor J. Miller
Sabine Moffett
Gus & Jean Murby
Julia Nalwalk & Douglas Wildes
Rebecca Nash & Doug Thompson
Dennis & Deborah O'Brien
Linda J. Panciera
Dorothy Papp
Darbee & David Percival
Vicki Petrides

Stephen M. Reck
Colin Reville & Margaret Frisch
Mr. & Mrs. David Reynolds
Lois Rice
Frederick & Nancy Richartz
Bill & Linda Rutan
John & Shirley Sebastian
Susan m. Sewall
Gordon & Mary Pat Shearer
Steven & Liesbeth Slosberg
Michael Smyle & Rosanne Simborski
Martha Snyder
Paula & Bruce Stauffer
Marilyn R. Stillman
Frank & Barbara Sweezy
Lois Tefft VanDeusen
Robert M. Walsh & Mary McGrattan
Charles & Eleanor Wenderoth
Barb & Dave Williams

Anonymous (6)

Donations in addition to the Annual Appeal:

North Stonington Garden Club
Rotary Club of the Stoningtons

\$1,700 toward the acquisition of Babcock Ridge
\$500 for educational and directive signage

This list was complete at time of going to press. Any donations received after this date will be acknowledged in the next issue of our newsletter. Thank you all once again.

Avalonia eTrails Blog -A New Idea for a New Year

by Beth Sullivan and Al Bach

Over the last months, a number of us have been grappling with the question of how to keep our members informed of what is going on a more frequent basis than our thrice-yearly newsletter. We suspect that people would like to know more about our preserves, know what to expect when they venture out and also be kept more up to date on issues, work parties and developments on Avalonia properties.

We also wanted to find a way to inform non-members, whom we could entice to become more supportive. There are many new ways to reach a multitude of people: Social Media! So we began discussions of creating a BLOG. An experiment in communication, Avalonia eTrails has been born!

For those not up on this form of social media, a blog contains a series of short, illustrated essays which are called posts. Bloggers, people who write a blog, can post new essays daily, or monthly, or anywhere in between. We are starting out with a regular weekly post.

With Al Bach as technical guru, Beth Sullivan as initial author, and using Beth's and Rick Newton's photographs (and in time we hope, contributions from many other members) we plan to lure people into Avalonia using the beauty of our preserves. We hope this will be the successful beginning of a new way to engage more people to join in Avalonia's good works and preservation efforts in southeastern Connecticut.

Al has created the blog site URL: <http://avaloniaetrails.blogspot.com>. This URL has also been converted into QR Code (cousin to a barcode) that can be scanned with a smart phone. These QR Codes can be placed on entrance signs to our preserves, and on our publications. When scanned, they will lead the user to the blog site, which will be linked to the main web site. The blog site is interactive, with informative links and places for visitor questions, comments and suggestions. This is a work in progress, so let us know what you think.

Avalonia is helping to save the threatened New England Cottontail!

by Beth Sullivan and Binti Ackley

Over a year ago the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) approached Avalonia to suggest applying for an unusual dual grant to help create New England Cottontail (NEC) habitat. We embraced the project and dove into unexplored territory!

These are not your average lawn bunnies, the bane of every gardener, but the New England Cottontails (NEC). These are our native rabbits which prefer dense thickets, shrubs and young forests. The others, Eastern Cottontails, were introduced decades ago for sport, hunting and food. They are more prolific and adaptable and now completely out-compete our native NEC. The NEC are considered threatened and are under consideration for being listed as endangered. There are NEC near Avalonia Land Conservancy's Peck and Callahan properties which is why DEEP and USFWS came to us. They helped us apply for and win grants from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF) for habitat restoration.

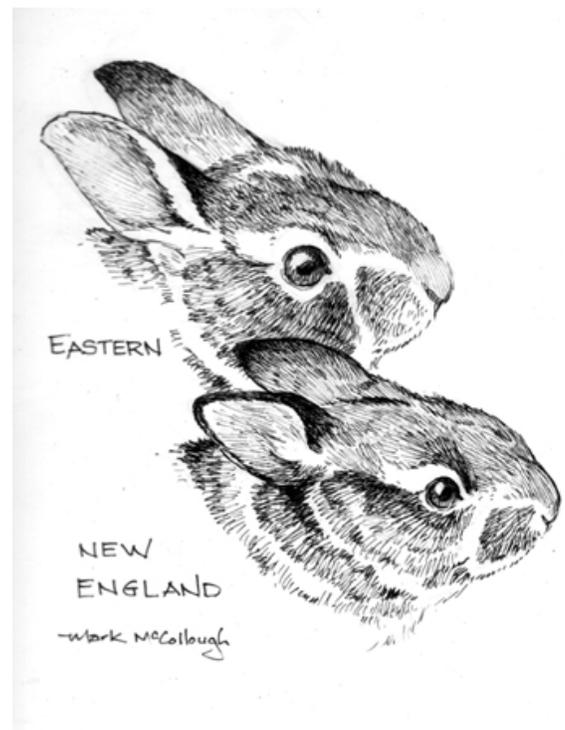
It has been quite a journey. First we had to establish and mark our boundaries which had not been fully posted. We needed the help of professional surveyor and Avalonia board member Gerry Stefon who explained the nuances of sight lines, merestones, and establishing the difference between magnetic north and geographic north. Deeds and GIS maps do not always read the same way! The property has several rocky ridges, a vernal pool, and wetlands with a brook, all of which are desirable for NEC habitat. At present, it is mature forest that shows signs of having been logged many years ago, and is deep in the core of other similar forest acres.

Early in 2012 we joined forces with Suzanne Paton from the USFWS Coastal Program, their New England Cottontail expert. As she walked the property she became more and more certain that this project would be successful. The acres needed, 25+, were prime potential habitat. There is some understory of berry bushes and briers, that when exposed to sunlight, will create excellent food sources. There are many stone walls and piles with nooks and crannies that create protective sites as well as areas for hibernation. A power line passes through the preserve which is already cut by the power company and is perfect shrub growth for NEC migration.

The next step was getting a certified forester in to determine how the project could proceed, the logistics of cutting, what plan to follow and how the products would be managed. Jack Berlanda works with the DEEP on their NEC projects. After walking the property him several times, and learning the tools and techniques of his trade, we were able to establish how trees were classified by size and quality and species. In order to turn a forest into a NEC habitat, it must be cut. That was a hard hurdle for those of us who love forests; however, as we learned more about the project, the succession of the habitat and the attraction for so many other species above and beyond the NEC, we began to appreciate the necessity. It was determined that the cutting pattern be a shelter-wood cut. Each acre would be cut of most hardwood trees with the exception of white oaks that produce the best acorns, and shagbark hickories whose bark flaps provide protection for bats and numerous insects and even small birds. Great care will be taken to preserve and buffer wetland areas. The quality lumber will be removed by the harvester and the value put toward reducing the overall cost of the project. The tops and crowns of the trees will be left on the ground and brush piles created to offer immediate shelter for any wildlife while providing an open invitation for NEC to move in. Within the first year it is expected that tree stumps will sprout and the new tender growth will be perfect forage. The understory berry bushes and vines will flourish with the increased sunlight and will have a growth spurt. The down side is that invasive species will also try to gain a foothold so vigilance will be required to prevent overgrowth.

It has been a year of intensive study and work. It is an unusual collaboration for funding using NRCS funding and a LISFF grant. The value of the combined funding will be almost \$75,000 with approximately \$30,000 matching value provided by countless hours put in by volunteers on the ground, professionals providing their services in many capacities, and value provided by access permissions. The loose ends are being tied up now. All parties involved, especially our DEEP partners and the USFWS team, not to mention those of us Avalonia volunteers who have worked diligently both on the paper work, on the phones, on the computers and on the ground, are excited to see this happen.

April 2013 will see all the planning come to fruition and work will begin. Neighbors have been notified and many are eager to see how the project works for us, and may choose to enroll their land in a similar fashion. Scientists and Avalonia volunteers will monitor the site throughout the work period and for years afterwards. As the area regrows it will be our challenge to document the species making use of the new habitat, and hope that the New England Cottontails will be among the many we are welcoming. We will keep you posted!



What's that Gray Box??

by Judy Rondeau

Visitors to the Avalonia Land Conservancy's Avery Preserve (West Tract) might notice the gray box and ruler installed at the downstream side of Billings Avery Brook on Avery Hill Road. The Eastern Connecticut Conservation District (ECCD), in partnership with the US Geological Survey (USGS) and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP), is conducting a streamflow project in southeast Connecticut. The project is funded by CT DEEP through the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) via a Clean Water Act Section 604(b) program grant.

The purpose of the project is to develop a methodology to characterize the impacts of altered stream flow on aquatic life in Connecticut's streams. In 2005 the Connecticut General Assembly passed Public Act 05-142 (CGS Section 26-141a and b) which required CT DEEP to work with the Department of Public Health and stakeholders to update standards for maintaining minimum flows in rivers and streams, while balancing human need with ecological concerns. However, quantifying degrees of impairment to aquatic life as a result of human-related altered stream flow has been a difficult task. The goal of ECCD's project is to work towards a strategy to better identify degrees of impairment associated with altered stream flow.

In order to achieve this goal, USGS and ECCD have established similar gages at two other sites in southeastern Connecticut, one at a similar-sized flow-altered stream, and the other at a reference, or free-flowing stream. Each location consists of a staff gage (the ruler) and a gray box which internally houses a water level logger that records and time-stamps water levels and temperature. ECCD will collect stream gage data at the three sites for one year, and the data will be submitted to and evaluated by DEEP to characterize and quantify the effects of altered stream flow on aquatic life.

More information about CT Stream Flow Standards and Regulations can be found at: http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2719&q=434018&depNav_GID=1654

Information about the USGS can be found at: <http://ct.water.usgs.gov/>

Information about ECCD can be found at: <http://www.conservect.org/eastern>



Judy Rondeau is Natural Resource Specialist for the ECCD

* Editors's note: The USGS's chosen spelling of the word "gage" occasioned much lively debate. Merriam-Webster lists it as an alternate to the more common variant "gauge".

A Connecticut & National Trails Day Hike

by Joellen Anderson

Join us June 1, 2013 for our 3rd annual "Hike Across Groton" from Bluff Point State Park to Beebe Cove exploring how one can link public open space trails on State, Town and Land Trust owned properties.

This hike is 5-6 miles long, of moderate difficulty and moderately paced. Bring a snack and beverage. Groton Parks and Recreation will provide return transportation to the Bluff Point State Park parking lot from the hike's end at approximately 1:00 p.m. Toilets are available at Bluff Point. Heavy rain cancels with no rain date. Sorry, no dogs.

- Date: Saturday, June 1, 2013
- Meeting Time & Place: 9:30a.m. Bluff Point State Park car park
- Pre-registration required: Contact Sidney F. Van Zandt, 860-572-5715, svanzandt3@aol.com to register or for questions.

This hike is jointly-sponsored by Avalonia, Groton Open Space Association (GOSA) and the Town of Groton Parks and Recreation Department.



Participants in the 1st Annual "Hike Across Groton" 2011

Educational Walk

by Mike Goodwin

Join us on Sunday, June 2 for a two hour loop hike on Avery Preserve's West Tract. We will discuss recommendations from the new Forest Stewardship Plan and how things have changed since 1985, when a similar study of the property was prepared.

This will be a moderate 2-mile hike passing through open woodlands. Maybe you will spot that mysterious gray box (see Judy Rondeaus's article above).

Meet leaders Mike Goodwin and Ben Anderson at 9:00 a.m. at 35 Avery Hill Road. Park at the ball field on Route 214 (just west of the cemetery at the corner of Avery Hill Road), walk the trail behind the cemetery to Avery Hill Road, and continue along the road to the left to the meeting site.

Rain cancels. Any change notices will be posted by the leader on the CFPA Facebook wall) by Sunday morning. Pre-registration is not necessary.

Questions: contact Mike Goodwin, (860) 464-2685, mike-goodwn@comcast.net.





AVALONIA LAND CONSERVANCY, INC.
 P.O. Box 49, Old Mystic, CT 06372
 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 Mystic, CT
 Permit No. 126

Upcoming Events

Saturday April 27th, 1 p.m. Guided walk on **Babcock Ridge**. Details on page 2

Tuesday, April 30th, 7 p.m. Coastal Shorelines: What to Plant and Where. Part 3 of “Our Water: Upstream & Downstream” a series of programs at Groton Public Library, jointly sponsored by Avalonia and the Library. Details on page3.

Saturday, June 1st, 9.30 a.m. Our 3rd annual Trails Day “**Hike Across Groton.**” details on page 7.

Wednesday, May 15th, 7p.m. 45th Annual Meeting at the Lisbon Community Center Barn. Details on page3.



Saturday, June 1st, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Poquetanuck Cove Paddle, An easy flat water paddle at high tide through narrow, 2-mile tidal embayment of the Thames River. Discover a significant coastal habitat and designated state bird sanctuary. Bring your own canoe/kayak, personal flotation device, beverage and snack. Meet at the public access car-top boat launch at end of Royal Oaks Drive (off Arrowhead Drive, Ledyard). Heavy rain cancels. Pre-registration is required. Questions and to register: contact Anne Roberts-Pierson, 860-464-8101.

Saturday, June 1st, 10a.m. to 12noon. Hike **Donald Henne Memorial Preserve**, a 2.5-mile journey about 1 hour each way. Meet at 113 Babcock Road. Parking area is on the north side of the road, trailhead is on the south side. Rain date June 2, 11:00 a.m. Pre-registration is recommended. Questions and to pre-register: contact Mac Turner, (860) 908-1349.

Sunday, June 2nd, 9 a.m.to 11 a.m. Avery Preserve loop hike on the West Tract.. Details on page 7.

Saturday July 20th, 10 a.m. Hike **Babcock Ridge**. Meet at the parking lot across from the North Stonington Town Hall.