



Andover Village
Improvement Society
Andover's Land Trust
Founded 1894

Fall 2013
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avis update

Ellen F. Fraser Bequest Revealed

By John Hess

In 2011, AVIS received notice that we were remembered in the will of Ellen F. Fraser. This summer, AVIS was notified that we received \$62,700 from Mrs. Fraser, the largest amount from her bequests to a total of 16 organizations. Mrs. Fraser lived on Boutwell Road in Andover for many years with her late husband, Robert Fraser, former President of the Community Savings Bank in Lawrence. As described in her obituary in the Lawrence Eagle Tribune, Mrs. Fraser was a lover of nature and "...a member of many organizations, such as the Lawrence Garden Club, the Daffodil Society, and the Horticultural Society. At age 90, she even won a ribbon for a flower arrangement at the Topsfield Fair." We are indebted to Mrs. Fraser for her generosity in remembering AVIS in her will.



AVIS collaboration with Andover Historical Society

By John Hess

AVIS has a longstanding collaborative relationship with the Andover Historical Society (AHS), and this year is no different. In addition to staffing a table at the Andover Farmers Market at AHS on several Saturdays this summer, AVIS continues its partnership by co-hosting walks with AHS volunteers as guides who offer an historical perspective on the reservation and the events that took place there. In addition, AVIS and AHS coordinated their efforts to bring people to Andover on September 22, 2013 for walks/hikes as part of Sails & Trails, the annual event sponsored by the Essex National Heritage Area, which is designed to encourage people to explore more of Essex County.

This fall, Jane Cairns, AHS President, is cooperating with AVIS on a hike along the Merrimack River in the Deer Jump Reservation. Please see the calendar for details and join us on October 19th at 1:00 to learn about Native American activity along the river, a ferry that navigated the river, and more.

Dedication of Shawsheen River Greenway

APRIL 27, 2013

By John Hess

AVIS held a very successful dedication ceremony for the Shawsheen River Greenway on 4/27/13. Over 175 people attended this event, took hikes on the trail, listened to music by Andover High School students, and heard speakers, including AVIS Trustees and volunteers, State Senator Barry Finegold, Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski, and Selectman Alex Vispoli. Many hours of volunteer effort improved and expanded the trails, boardwalks, and bridges in the Shawsheen River Reservation and the Vale Reservation to create this first section of the Greenway. As a result of this volunteer effort, a continuous path stretches 1.8 miles from the Ballardvale train station to Central Street. The larger vision of planners is to have a Greenway run the entire length of the Shawsheen River in Andover.



Vale Trail gathering - Some of the 175 people who attended the dedication of the Shawsheen River Greenway.



Vale Trail speakers - As part of the dedication of the Shawsheen River Greenway State Senator Barry Finegold offers congratulations to AVIS and the volunteers who made the Greenway possible. State Representative Jim Lyons and State Representative Frank Moran listen as Senator Finegold reads from a Citation from the State Senate.



Vale Trail hikers - A group of people who attended the dedication of the Shawsheen River Greenway listen to Amy Janovsky discuss the plant life along the trail. Photos by Fred Snell.

Hikes and Maintenance

AVIS relies on countless hours of volunteer labor to maintain trails on its Reservations. This summer was no exception. Several excellent projects were completed, including:

- Rebecca Savord, student at Philips Academy, organized two separate Saturday projects in July and August to remove invasive species from the Stott Trail, an important link from the end of Hidden Field Road on the campus of Philips Academy to the Stanley Reservation and Spring Grove Cemetery. She has worked with the Academy Grounds Department and Outing Club to begin what promises to be a multi-year project.



Two volunteers clear invasives on the Stott Trail. Photo by Niin Kularni.

- Boy Scouts are extremely important volunteers for AVIS. Two Scouts, working on their Eagle Scout badges organized family and friends on two separate projects in the Goldsmith Reservation. This is AVIS's busiest reservation and we were happy to have the help of Leo Wu and Yen Wu in improving trails and amenities for hikers.

- One of AVIS's long standing collaborations is with the Andover Youth Services (AYS). AYS organized two separate projects this summer to remove invasive species from trails - one with 15 youth and the other with 13 youth. Under the summer program title of *True Grit* the AYS worked with AVIS volunteer Dick Dillon to, as AYS Assistant Director Glenn Wilson says, "get down and gritty".



- Fred Snell, Trustee, led a hike on 9/23/13 in the Goldsmith Woodlands as part of the annual Trails & Sails event in Essex County.

- Faith Lutheran Church scheduled a work party for October 5, 2013 – volunteers will remove invasive species from the Stanley Reservation.

Ken Doran's commitment to the Vale Reservation and to the Shawsheen River

By Alix Driscoll

"The only way to save a river is to get people interested; to get out and paddle on it," says Ken Doran, of his beloved Shawsheen River. He works mighty hard with his coworkers in the Shawsheen River Watershed Association to keep it clean, "keeping the waterway open for the casual boater to use it." And the land too. It seems that Doran's passion about the historic waterway dovetails exactly with his AVIS commitment as warden of the Vale Reservation along that very same river from Horn Bridge to the Ballardvale Train Station.

Doran speaks with great pride about preparing "his" reservation, all 45 acres for the grand opening in April 2013. He made the trails wider for easy walking and then led an information-filled hike for the dozens of hikers who appeared over the rise from the north to join the official opening ceremonies.

With his hardworking friends, Chris Oppenberg and Pete Vachon, he cut four score trees flush, eliminated lots of widow-makers, rerouted trails due to power lines and he made sure debris just disappeared into the woods.



Photos by Floyd Greenwood

Doran proudly shares he is a project man; "I am a doer; people ask me for help because I can do it." Improving the Vale Reservation has become his decade-long project. At the same time, Dave Doub and his building crew erected the well-lauded truss bridge and Boy Scouts constructed the serpentine boardwalk and five other projects. He enjoyed the work immensely; "The last three or four weeks was a really hard push," but the completion yielded pride and much satisfaction.

Doran's roots go deep into the Shawsheen River and its banks. The local Native Americans called the river, Shawsheen, "Beauty's Pathway." As a teen-ager he rented canoes from Frank Serio, in the late 1960's and meandered far and wide on the Shawsheen. He shares that Serio, then an older man, built his own kayaks. The 19-acre town-owned Serio's Grove, off Lowell Junction Road, a popular camping area, celebrates Serio's memory.

Growing up in town, Doran learned reverence for the land and the waterways, so when David Dargie asked him to be co-warden of the Vale about seven years ago, he was ready. On a camping trip to the Allagash, "I got drafted."

Doran's favorite site on the Vale is the rise of land on the river trail near the abandoned beaver dam by the tree marked by lightning. There between Foster's Island and the Girl Scout camp he can look a quarter mile to the opening to Poms Pond.

Look for Ken Doran to co-lead the annual Harold R. Rafton Reservation ski/snowshoe event on Sunday, January 26, 10 a.m. and the Goldsmith Woodlands ski/snowshoe event on Sunday, February 9, 5:45 p.m.

From the AVIS President

Mike Timko

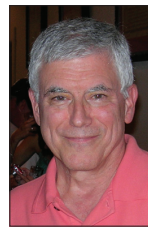
It is always gratifying when the people in whose interest you are working give you a vote of confidence, by entrusting to you their land or their money or by investing their time and effort to help you toward your goals. The summer of 2013 has been a good example, though not unique, where we can feel proud of public appreciation of our efforts.

On the heels of last year's donation of the Sakowich land, this year we received notice of a sizable bequest to AVIS by the late Ellen Fraser. She and her late husband, Bob, had lived near Deer Jump Reservation in West Andover and often used and enjoyed AVIS reservations. She was a strong supporter of conservation groups and enjoyed volunteering for AVIS. The bequest will be added to the Nat Smith and Peggy Keck Land Acquisition Fund.

We also continue to be the beneficiaries of a great deal of volunteer effort. The Boy Scouts continue to look to us for Eagle Scout projects, six of which were completed this summer, with two more actively in the works. Eagle projects must demonstrate leadership in planning, organization and execution of a significant project of benefit to the community. Our 1100+ acres of woodlands offer many opportunities for the Scouts and we benefit tremendously from their work. If you would like to see recent examples of the Scouts work visit Vale, West Parish Meadow or Goldsmith Woodlands.

Other organizations and individuals have helped with our goal of reducing the amount of invasive species on our reservations. Andover Youth Services spent two days removing glossy buckthorn and bittersweet. Rebecca Savord, a student at Phillips Academy, with guidance from Trustee Amy Janovsky, organized two days of invasive species removal at the Stanley Reservation and the Stott Trail.

All-in-all it has been a very productive summer and we are really grateful for all of the volunteer support.



Reichhold Property to be Purchased by Town of Andover

By John Hess

Articles 53 and 54 of the 2013 Andover Town Meeting approved the appropriation of \$550,000.00 to complete one of the most important land protection and reuse projects in Andover's history. This vote enabled the purchase of the last of three parcels totaling 46.6 acres of land owned by Reichhold, Inc. for open space, active and passive recreation, and municipal storage. Initially authorized in 2001, parcels two and three were purchased in January 2006. Parcel one, the location of the manufacturing facility, required additional environmental cleanup and is now ready to be acquired by the Town of Andover. This acquisition provides the opportunity to lock up open space forever along the Riverway and to provide land for future needed playing fields before it becomes much more expensive with the development of a new Rt. 93 interchange. Thank you to all Andover voters who supported this effort.

AVIS Joins Trails Committee and Conservation Committee for Andover Day

By John Hess

AVIS and two other advocate organizations for open space and recreation collaborated to provide maps, *Trail Guides*, and other information to visitors to downtown Andover during the annual Andover Day celebration on 9/7/13. Volunteers from each of these groups took turns at staffing the booth and talking to those who stopped by about efforts to conserve land and maintain access for all to enjoy those properties.

Andover Trails Committee is a citizens' committee including members of the Conservation Commission, the Appalachian Mountain Club, Andover Village Improvement Society, the Bay Circuit Alliance, The Trustees of Reservations, and just plain folk who appreciate the outdoor recreational opportunities of Andover.

Town of Andover Conservation Commission controls over 2000 acres of Town land, protecting those properties from development.



Trustee Alix Driscoll discusses AVIS with a visitor on Andover Day. Photo by Rob Ciampa.

Financial Report for CY 2012

Financial Report for CY2012

Income

Membership Dues	\$27,911
Contributions/Grants	83,860
Other	7,364
Total	\$ 119,135

Expense

Fundraising	\$729
Improvements to Reservations*	30,278
Program Services	12,446
Management & General	27,016
Other	4,613
Total	\$ 75,082

*Principally Vale Reservation bridges and boardwalks

The figures above do not include the tens of thousands of dollars-worth of time contributed by volunteers, including Wardens, work parties, and Trustees, who do the work to keep AVIS running and its reservations available for the public.

For additional AVIS events, see avisandover.org. For AMC walks, see amcboston.org/andover. To check for other hikes, visit andovertrails.org.

Mike Timko	President
Rob Ciampa	Membership
John Hess	Editor
Lindsey Timko	Designer

978-494-6089

facebook.com/avisandover

Avis Membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town, State, Zip: _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Dues: _____ \$25 Individual _____ \$100 Sustaining

_____ \$40 Family _____ \$10 Student & Senior

You can join or renew online at www.avisandover.org/join.html or make check payable to "AVIS" and mail to :

AVIS
PO Box 5097
Andover, MA 01810.

For information about planned giving or stock donations contact info@avisandover.org. Contributions and dues are tax deductible to the extent permitted by federal regulations. Thank you!

AVIS

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Fall 2013 Calendar

October 5, 2013
Faith Lutheran Church
Work Party
Stanley Rsvation

October 19, 2013
History Along the
Merrimack
Deer Jump Reservation

Please join AVIS and Jane Cairns, President of the Andover Historical Society, for a hike along the Merrimack River at 1:00. Learn about Native Americans along the river, a former ferry that navigated the river, and more. Take Exit 45 off I-93 and go west on River Road about 1.2 miles to Launching Road. Turn right and go approximately 0.2 miles to the entrance to Deer Jump Reservation near 17 Launching Road. Park along the street or on side streets. Wear sturdy shoes for hiking. Heavy rain cancels. Ls Jane Cairns and John Hess (978) 470-0806, hess.john@att.net.

November 16, 2013
Wardens Party
12-2 at Phillips Academy Log Cabin, by Invitation Only

January 26, 2014
Annual Rafton
Reservation Hike/Ski/
Snowshoe
Harold R. Rafton Reservation.

Meet at 10 AM for AVIS' 45th annual snowshoe and X-C ski trek. From I-93, go E on Rt. 133 for 0.5 mi. to the first set of traffic lights, take L on Greenwood Rd. for about 1 mi., take 2nd L onto High Plain Rd. Travel about 1 mi. (cross I-93 & I-495). Park near leaf composting area. No reg. No pets. Hike if no snow, rain cancels. Ls David Dargie, (978-996-4475), (david@dargie.com) and Ken Doran.

February 9, 2014
Annual Goldsmith Woodlands Moonlight Hike/Ski/Snowshoe
Goldsmith Woodlands

Meet at 5:45 for a 6:00 PM family moonlight snowshoe and cross country ski trek for all ages and abilities. Bring a headlamp or flashlight. From Rte. 125, travel N on Rte. 28 (S. Main St.) for about 0.4 mi. Park in front of #491 S. Main St. at Goldsmith entrance. No pets. Hike if no snow, rain cancels. Ls David Dargie (978-996-4475); (david@dargie.com) and Ken Doran.

Some AMC Hikes for your walking pleasure
Please refer to AMC website (AMCboston.org/andover) for details
10/06/13 Appleton Farm - Ipswich
10/13/13 Cleveland Farm State Forest, Boxford/Rowley/Ipswich
10/20/13 Bradley Palmer State Park, Topsfield
10/27/13 Ward Reservation Hike, Andover
12/08/13 Bay Circuit Trail (BCT): Abbot Bridge Rd to Rafton Reservation, Andover

March 11, 2014
Annual Meeting
Phillips Academy

Back by popular demand, we will again have dinner at the Phillips Academy Log Cabin as part of the AVIS Annual Meeting. Please check our website for time and details.

Some AMC Hikes for your walking pleasure. Please refer to AMC website: AMCboston.org/andover, for details.

The AVIS Update is a biannual publication of the Andover Village Improvement Society. The mission of AVIS is to acquire and preserve Andover land in its natural state. More than 1,000 acres of land are managed by AVIS and are open to all for passive recreation.

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