



Andover Village
Improvement Society
Andover's Land Trust
Founded 1894

Fall 2022
Vol. 129, No. 2

avis update

“It’s a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood!” (Isn’t this what Mr. Rogers always said?)

By Kay Frishman AVIS Trustee

So, how do we make it a beautiful day in our neighborhood?

Here is a check list of questions for you to consider in respecting and protecting the beautiful open spaces created by AVIS for the past 128 years. These questions are for you who use the AVIS lands, and you who are neighbors and abutters to the AVIS lands.

Do I respect the land that I have? Do I respect the land of my neighbor, AVIS? Do I know what are the property boundaries so I can respect and be a good steward of the land?

Do I respect the paths and trails of the AVIS Reservations, by walking (not biking) on the paths, by not throwing trash, and by contacting AVIS if I see a problem?

Do I throw gardening waste into the AVIS property? Do I encroach upon my neighbor’s land?

Do I consider the flora and fauna on my land and how it complements the abutting and natural reservation?

When I walk my dog, do I take a bag to pick up and remove my dog’s poop?

Do I plant native plant species to encourage bees, butterflies, and other insects? Do I not use pesticides and herbicides that could damage the flora and fauna?

Do I respect the natural beauty and not make inordinate noises (like that of gas leaf blowers) that upset the ecosystem of people, flora and fauna?

As you may know, AVIS is a non-profit organization without any paid staff. Therefore, we look to all our users and neighbors and abutters to be the stewards of this valuable and beautiful resource in Andover. Thank you!



These three AVIS trustees, Annie Gilbert, Susan Stott and Kay Frishman, are shown walking one of the AVIS trails during the 125th Challenge in 2019. Courtesy photo.

Interview with Bob Rauseo, Warden of Sanborn Reservation

By Alix Driscoll

Bob Rauseo took the handle *Bob_Otter* years ago when he began working on many AVIS reservations helping the Wardens. A volunteer from neighboring Tewksbury, just across the Shawsheen River, he has been making important modifications to his Sanborn Reservation as climate changes are quickly dictating and there has been a lot going on.

The Sanborn wardens, including Joe Carey, a Tewksbury resident whose property abuts the reservation, have undertaken extensive habitat restoration with guidance from Dr. Mike Jones, state herpetologist, and other professionals. Butterfly expert, Howard Hoople, has visited to document the numerous members of the butterfly community.

Teen-age scientists from the Destination Imagination project in Andover have studied an endangered species on the Sanborn Reservations, thus earning state accolades from the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions this spring.

Rauseo’s connection to AVIS goes way back. “I started skiing at the Rafton Reservation in 1970 and met volunteers who could use some help, so I got involved in helping.”

Policy changes to the Sanborn Reservation

As he explains it, with major trail clearing complete, he and his colleagues have pivoted now to the very necessary work of protecting native species and removing invasives throughout the reservation. They support burgeoning native plants, including the high bush blueberry, wild indigo, and New Jersey tea bushes. Rauseo makes sure the extensive wildlife is protected, especially newly discovered members of an endangered species group. The AVIS Board strongly supports these changes.

With extensive and generous cooperation from the Conservation Commission Overseers of the Town’s neighboring Lightning Tree Reservation, Rauseo has lightened high cover to let in more sunlight



Sanborn Reservation Warden Bob Rauseo especially admires this landing on the Shawsheen River where he often sees otter, beaver, deer and coyote. Photo by Bob Rauseo.

to preserve restoration areas that were overgrown.

As do many Wardens, Rauseo singles out three areas for his special admiration: an old kettle pond now inhabited by beavers and two attractive landings along the river. That’s where he often tracks the endearing playful otter, beaver, deer, and coyote.



Indigenous Andover

By Ryan Wheeler, Director of the Robert S. Peabody Institute of Archaeology, Phillips Academy

Editor's note: Dr. Wheeler gave this talk at the AVIS Annual Meeting, April 12, 2022.

Staff members at the Robert S. Peabody Institute of Archaeology are frequently asked, “What Native Americans lived in the Andover area?” The answer to this question, however, is far from simple and reveals the complex Indigenous relationships that have persisted for millennia, as well as the legacy of settler colonialism.

Despite the colonial roots of archaeology and museums, they have produced a lot of evidence that affirms a long Native presence on the landscape. Archaeological surveys in the Shawsheen River area have documented more than 100 sites with artifacts ranging from thousands of years ago well into the time of European contact and conquest. Around 12,000 years ago, not long after the retreat of the glaciers, Indigenous hunters tracked and hunted caribou at the Bull Brook site in Ipswich, MA. Fluted points, like those from Bull Brook, also have been found in Andover. All of this establishes a long tenure for Indigenous people on the landscape.

The English arrive in the early seventeenth century and work to disrupt Indigenous land tenure. Prior to the English, the pressures of the French fur trade to the north displaced Indigenous people and brought conflict and disease to what we now call Massachusetts. Epidemics wiped out close to 90 percent of the Indigenous population of the region. When the English arrived, it was not to a pristine natural and cultural paradise, but one that had already experienced considerable disruption. The English left historical records of Native people, but these reflect historical biases and the legacies of colonialism.

Native Americans have been here in Andover for a very long time. But who were these people? The easy answer is the Pen-

nacook and their ancestors. Anthropologist Frank Speck included the Pennacook on his 1928 map showing Indigenous territories in the area. Clues to the more complicated answer are in the account of Cutshamache’s sale of Andover to the English in the early 1640s. Cutshamache was not Pennacook, but rather a leader of the Massachusett people who lived in what is now Dorchester. This seems perplexing, but as historian Kathleen Bragdon points out, there were far-flung connections between Indigenous communities across the region, with people of the Merrimac River area linked to people in Natick and Charlestown, with even more distant connections to people in present-day Connecticut and Rhode Island.

Archaeologist Eric Johnson explains some of the complexities in Indigenous social groups in Massachusetts and adjacent areas, cautioning us about maps showing tribal borders, because these maps imply “stasis and homogeneity, both within and among political units.” He attributes this to the desire of colonial Euro-

pean observers to describe unfamiliar people and places in a familiar way—through the lens of political organization in seventeenth century Europe. He explains that groups in the region consisted of autonomous communities that regularly underwent expansion, contraction, and internal upheaval, depending on a variety of socio-political strategies at play among leaders and group members.

What all of this means is that those maps of tribal nations are the legacy of colonial transfer of Indigenous lands into European control. One rare map made by Indigenous people in the early eighteenth century—the so-called Catawba Deer-

skin Map—depicts the network of relationships between Indigenous nations and the English in what is now the American Southeast through a system of circles connected by parallel lines. If we had Indigenous maps of the Northeast, they might look more like this—emphasizing the relationships between people, and how they were connected, rather than geographic details.

The most important answer to the question, “what Native Americans lived in the Andover area?” is that there are still Indigenous people in Massachusetts and Andover. There are many ways to learn more about Indigenous people in Massachusetts today. Cape Cod and Martha’s Vineyard are home to the Mashpee and Aquinnah Wampanoag tribes, and there are also Wampanoag bands, the Massachusett, and the Nipmuc. In neighboring New Hampshire and Maine there are vibrant Abenaki and Wabanaki nations. There also are a number of organizations engaged in public education and activism, including the Massachusetts Center for Native American Awareness, the North American Indian Center of Boston, and the United Native Americans of New England. Learning more about the educational and legislative efforts of the nations and groups is a great way to unpack some of our colonial baggage and to support tribal sovereignty.



A Pawtucket Village on the Merrimack River, 500 years ago. Courtesy of the Robert S. Peabody Institute of Archaeology, Phillips Academy, Andover, MA. All Rights Reserved.

AVIS Land Acknowledgement

Approved by the AVIS Board of Trustees, Spring 2022

We acknowledge that AVIS reservations are located on the ancestral land of the Pennacook, Pawtucket and other Indigenous people, which was their home for more than 10,000 years. We honor the land we manage and all the Indigenous people who were here before, are here now, and will be here in the future. We recognize that we are all guests on this land and are mindful of our impact. With this acknowledgement, we commit to continuously care for this land, using sustainable practices to protect the environment and to provide stewardship for the ecology and habitat of AVIS reservations.

President's Letter

By John Hess

As I mentioned in the Spring Update, volunteers continue to excel in support of AVIS, whether it is the work of the Weed Warriors to attack invasive plants or regular trail maintenance by Wardens and Rangers; we owe a great THANK YOU to our volunteers. There was a very well attended training and social gathering for volunteers this past summer where we were able to thank them in person. AVIS continues to see high usage of our trails and we get many accolades for the condition of our reservations.



While on the subject of "thanks" I need to give a shout out to Ranger Dennis Crispo for the excellent work he has been doing in the Hammond Reservation to improve trails, particularly the dike trail. If you haven't been there lately, please do check it out.

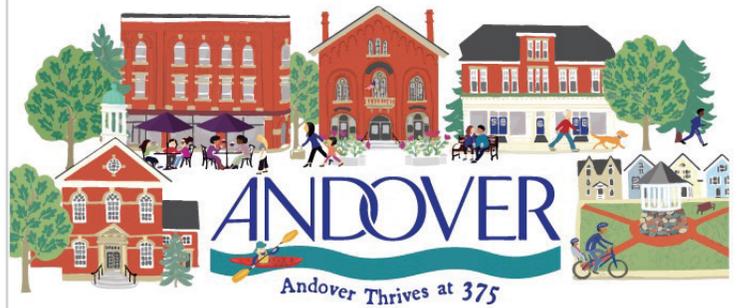
I have noticed an increase in information available through public media sources about "forest bathing" and the benefits of living near and using protected lands. Andover certainly has plenty of those lands and we are proud of the work done by our predecessors in preserving this land for us and future generations. Working collaboratively with the Conservation Commission, Scout groups, high school students, and many others, AVIS has been able to preserve and protect the land and the plant and animal species that live there.

Collaboration is important in many ways. For example, with help from Dr. Ryan Wheeler of the Peabody Institute, AVIS now has a Land Acknowledgment Statement reflecting the heritage of the land we now manage. If you haven't seen it, please check our website and also page 2 of this publication.

When driving down South Main Street, please note the work that is being done at the entrance to the Goldsmith Reservation with the help of Willow Cheeley, Amy Janovsky, David Dargie, the Weed Warriors, and others. AVIS is restoring the wetlands next to the entrance. We hope to improve the parking lot and perhaps install an all-persons trail along the first portion of that area. We are currently seeking funding for design and construction efforts. It will be a major enhancement and a step in the right direction to improved access for all users.

Another project in the works is in collaboration with the Town, the Merrimack River Watershed Council, Groundworks Lawrence, and others to expand efforts to remove debris from the Merrimack River, particularly along the Deer Jump Reservation.

Thank you for your continued support. You may donate to AVIS through our website or by sending a check. There are also many opportunities to volunteer, not just on work parties but on social media or other activities. If you have some free time, please let me know. We welcome your input.



Finishers in the Andover 375th Challenge AVIS – Con Com Hikes

By Annie Gilbert, AVIS Trustee

Here are the 51 finishers in the Andover 375th Challenge during this celebratory year. The participants hiked 10 designated AVIS reservations and 10 designated Conservation Commission reservations during the year from May 2021-May 2022. They received a backpack with the logos of these two protectors of their land.

Ruth Alfasso
Ed Anson
Gerry Smeets Anson
Tony Bielecki
Betsy Black
Bill Cogswell
Rachel Combs
Dennis Crispo
Holly Cronin
John Cronin
Anita Crowley
Melanie Cutler
Mark Cutler
Frank DeBonis
Jacqui DeBonis
Jamie Doucett
Lisa Doucett
Bruce Dunbar
Joe Ferguson
Kay Frishman
Allen Hairston
John Hess
Ron Hilbink
Kin Ho
Nitaya Ho
Elise Hoskins

Debbie Garone
Peter Garone
Cate Kaluzny
Mark Kaluzny
Cliff Lawrence
Michele Lawrence
Mary Eileen Lohan
Ben Meade
Mike Montiero
Mary Jane Moorehouse
Shari Noble
Alice Pincus
Rose Redmond
Nancy Ritz
Gavin Schnitzler
Chris Simmonds
Catherine Giles Stecher
Susan Stott
Jim Sutton
Vicky Sutton
Ankadi Syrotenko
Janina Syrotenko
Vlad Syrotenko
Joanne Tremblay
May Wallace

2021 Financial Summary

Based on AVIS Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets. First draft from outside CPA

		Expenses	
Membership Dues	\$37,935.00	Program Services	\$52,418.63
Contributions/Grants	\$165,332.30	Management/General	\$33,132.47
Changes in Investment	\$97,671.78	Fundraising Expenses	\$ 5,011.46
Others	\$ 2,746.60		

Here's a Way to Give Money to AVIS

By Mark Kaluzny, AVIS Trustee

AmazonSmile! Remember, always start at smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.

Summer and Fall Eagle Scout Projects

By Buzz Stapczynski, Eagle Scout Projects Coordinator

There are six Boy Scouts working on trail improvement projects as part of their Eagle Scout requirements. Joe Rizzo, Troop 73, built three boardwalks at the Hammond Reservation. Hussain Mahesri, Troop 77, built one long boardwalk at the beginning of the Rafton Reservation on Helen's Trail.



Joe Rizzo, Troop 73, and two helpers worked on three boardwalks on the Hammond Reservation as part of his Eagle Scout requirements.

Theo Trant, Troop 77, is building the second half of the Lupine Reservation steps project. Floyd Greenwood IV created the first half several years ago. This will complete the steps project, which is needed to make it easier to get from Lupine Road down the steep hill to the reservation and the Shawsheen River. It is in conjunction with Lynn Landry, Warden and Weed Warriors Coordinator,

Amy Janovsky, AVIS Land Stewardship Chair, and Professor Walter Kittredge's restoration project.

Three boardwalks at the Smith Reservation are being built by Dylan Hilse, Troop 76, and Brody Candela, Troop 79, is doing a much-needed boardwalk replacement project along the Merrimack River in the Deer Jump Reservation near Nollet Drive.

Young Chen, Troop 76, is building boardwalks at the Collins and Taft Reservations in the fall.

Andover Animal Advocates Created Primary Research on Town and AVIS Land

By Stefanie Maze-Hsu, Team Manager of The Andover Animal Advocates

Andover Animal Advocates research plan

The Andover Animal Advocates DI team decided that they wanted to do some sort of project about endangered or threatened species and learned that there were actually 29 endangered or threatened species of plants, animals and insects in Andover, and many were struggling. Bob Douglas, Director of Conservation and Ben Meade, Conservation Agent, arranged for them a hike to Conservation land and neighboring AVIS properties with the State Herpetologist Dr. Mike Jones, an Andover High graduate, from Massachusetts Wildlife and Fisheries, AVIS volunteer Warden Bob Rauso and Overseer Burt Batcheller and others, where they did primary science investigations on endangered species.

Winning Accolades

The Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions gave the Andover Animal Advocates their Youth Environmental Service Award at their convention in March, providing them with a scholarship that enabled them to travel to Kansas City for the DI Finals, where they placed sixth in the country.



Andover Animal Advocates, of the Destination Imagination Team at Andover High School, did primary research on AVIS and Town lands on endangered species. The team placed sixth in the country. Left to right, first row: Mahathi Veluri, Diya Ganesh, Julia Strong and Shreya Godhani; back row: Abhi Babanapalli, Sriniketh Velapagudi and Randy Tran. Photo by Team Manager Stefanie Maze-Hsu.



Amber Ferris, mentored by AVIS trustees Annie Gilbert and Amy Janovsky, for the Environmental Sustainability Course led by Melanie Cutler at Andover High School, created a series of blogs for the AVIS website. She is shown here speaking with a visitor to Poster Night in the spring. Photo by Amy Janovsky.

AVIS's Weed Warriors and You

By Amy Janovsky, Trustee, Land Stewardship Chair

What a beautiful time of year this is. As I walk through Andover on the AVIS trails, I see lovely vistas and glimpses of the water, feel how much cooler I am beneath the sheltering trees, and delight in the movement of birds, critters and my fellow hikers. When I'm lucky, I spot wildflowers, varied ferns, mosses and liverworts.

As I traverse my neighborhood, I am struck by the effort put into creating green deserts, that is expanses of unbroken turf grass, maintained daily by sprinklers despite the current drought (Andover's water use doubles in the summer, despite the number of residents who summer elsewhere).

In turn, the lawns are often visually separated by borders of several hardy plants (burning bush, Russian olive trees, barberry) that are among the most common plants invading our conserved open spaces. Sometimes, these plants were planted by developers; sometimes they were planted by birds.

At ground level, vines such as vinca, pachysandra, and English ivy are welcomed by homeowners as they require no care, but dreaded by our volunteers who see the same plants forming wide swaths that stifle the growth of native wildflowers, tree seedlings and other important components of the forest floor. All of these ground covers spread easily through fragments caught up in leaves and yard waste.

What would AVIS's Weed Warriors do?

The Weed Warriors are an energetic group of volunteers who donate their time to help remove invasive plants from AVIS reservations. We are asking for help from our neighbors: if you hire landscapers, or mowing contractors, please inform them that yard waste (leaves, clippings, brush, branches, tree trunks, etc.) can not be placed on AVIS property. It must be composted in your yard or removed for proper disposal.

Neighbors must observe property boundaries, and may not expand their backyards into our reservations. All AVIS properties are marked by metal corner posts; if you are uncertain of their location, please contact David Dargie, AVIS Land Manager, for assistance. AVIS has a legal responsibility to protect its lands in perpetuity.

Check out lists and photos of invasive plants

Invasive plants spread rapidly and are beginning to limit access to many conservation properties in Andover and causing these properties to lose value as ecological refuges from development. What can you do to help? Learn about the plants on your property. Are any of them on the MA list of prohibited (invasive) species? mass.gov/massachusetts-prohibited-plant-list

Think twice and check the list before purchasing any plant advertised as easy-care (meaning local critters do not eat the plant, and that it is likely to spread).

What to plant next?

NativePlantTrust.org (Garden in the Woods, Framingham) and GrowNativeMass.org are two local resources to learn about the importance of native plants. Wildflower.org (Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center) has a terrific search engine for finding native plants by region and growing conditions. And if you want a hands-on experience, find out about upcoming Weed Warriors sessions by contacting HamletofLynn@gmail.com.

Join the Weed Warriors and learn by joining a work party on the reservations. And if you see a group of people working on a reservation near you, come talk to us. We'd love to show you what we're up to.



Habitat restoration work continues at the Lupine Reservation. Volunteer Weed Warriors were excited to find that the Japanese knotweed infestation has been largely eliminated through a combination of hand-cutting, chemical treatment and vigilant removal and careful disposal of a small number of new plants. Now that some of the most aggressive invasive plants have been removed, plant diversity is increasing on the property. Last year, the bench on the property was often submerged; this year the river is so dry the shoreline is far more accessible.

New Members from Sept. '21 - June '22

Rob Alexander	Louis Fantozzi	Ryan Phennicie
Greger Andersson	John Finkenaur	Amanda Philip
Mike Angell	Mary Foley	JAD Photo
Nicole Angelos	Brian M. Foley	Joanne Pisapia
Cynthia J. Aziz-Russo	Jameson S. French	Tim Pitta
Zsolt Badics	David Friedman	Lenore Price
Peter Barmettler	Dawn Gillette	Paul Quirnbach
Michelle M. Barron	Timothy Goldsmith	Karen Reilly
Robert Birenbaum	D. Hanscom	Michael Rottman
Michael A. Bodnaruk	James R. Hanson	Walter W. Salvi
Susan E. Bond	Matthew Hart	Anita Santos
Wendy Bossons	Diane Haynes	Constantine Sarantos
Jilla Boulas	Eleanor Hovel	Michael Sassin
James Buonopane	Calvin F. Jayne	Patrick J. Scanlon
Mitchell Burte	John Johnson	Steven Schwartz
Robert Carroll	Emily Kathan	Paul Shay
Eileen Carroll	Ben Kellman	Sydney Spiegel
Jeffrey Cary	Marcia Kent	Keri L. Stella
Miranda Chave	Albert Kyle	Erin Sullivan
Jason Clark	Lynn Landry	Carmellia Sullivan
James Clark	Frederick S. Lauten	Stephen Torrice
Elizabeth Clough	Alison Lex	Paula Trespas
William Cogswell	Jean Licciardi	Mark Troxel
Lauren Conoscenti	Mr. & Mrs. Lillette	Martha Tubinis
Stephen Cortner	Prima Lisuwandi	Kodee VanNort
Mark E. Courtney	David Martin	Barbara S. Voss
Michael Cox	H. Stafford	Gregory Waddoups
Robin Crane	McCoart	Matt Walsh
Kristopher Cul	Susan McCready	Nick Warne
Beth Davidson	Patricia Meade	Taisha Weber
Larry Day	Phil Meagher	Wendi M. Williams
Scott Dianis	Michael Miller Jr.	Yuegang Zhao
Brendan Dohety	Barbara Mohrman	Ernesto Zilberberg
Lisa Edelson	Deepa Naik	David Zisskind
Greg Emmerth	Richard O'Connell	
	Lawrence J. Partyka	
	Lynda Percy	

AVIS Has Received a Grant

By Amy Janovsky

Invasive plants are not just an aesthetic issue; the USDA estimates their annual impact at \$137 billion per year, and costs are rising steeply. AVIS is fortunate to have just received its second Natural Resources Conservation Service grant to begin work restoring a six-acre former white ash stand that has become a tangle of invasive plants at the Deer Jump Reservation. The project will have funding for three years (roughly half the cost of restoration will be provided by NRCS), but the site will need ongoing care and attention by AVIS.

AVIS Membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Dues: _____ \$30 Individual _____ \$100 Sustaining

_____ \$50 Family _____ \$15 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
PO Box 5097
Andover, MA 01810

Non-Profit Og.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 344
Andover, MA
01810

For additional AVIS events see
AVISANDOVER.ORG

To check for other hikes visit
ANDOVERTRAILS.ORG

For AMC walks see
AMCBOSTON.ORG

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 1,200 acres of land are managed by AVIS and are open to all for passive recreation.



AVIS EVENTS

Trails and Sails

September 16-25, 2022
Hike with Mark Kaluzny, AVIS Trustee, on September 17, 2022. Meet at the West Parish Garden Cemetery arch at 9:00am. See website for more details.

Andover Day

September 24, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., 2022
Look for the AVIS table

Ballardvale Day

Saturday, October 15, 2022. Look for the AVIS table.



South Church Summer of Service team helped at Purdon Reservation

South Church Summer of Service team helps native plants flourish at the AVIS Purdon Reservation in July. With weed wrenches, loppers, saws and determination, the group helped AVIS remove burning bush, glossy buckthorn, bittersweet and other invasive plants that were beginning to displace native flora on this beautiful reservation.

Photo by Amy Janovsky

JOHN HESS
President

JIM SUTTON
Membership

ALIX DRISCOLL
Editor

LINDSEY CHANDLER
Designer

