



Andover Village
Improvement Society
Andover's Land Trust
Founded 1894

Spring 2011
Vol. 118, No. 1

avis update

From the AVIS President

Fred Snell



We often hear about how open space and trails make Andover a more desirable place to live and therefore these amenities help to increase our property values. But is this really true?

I recently spoke with a neighbor who moved to a nearby town in the Merrimack Valley some years ago and was very disappointed to find little in the way of opportunities for hiking and walking in that town. This couple had been life-long hikers and after several years, decided to move to Andover because of the wonderful opportunities for outdoor recreation on our many reservations. They report being very happy to be here.

Even for those who don't get out onto the land, driving along our roads provides many chances to view the many scenic vistas that Andover's open space provides. We are so fortunate that the people who came before us had the foresight and perseverance to acquire and protect the open space that we now enjoy. Getting new land today is much more difficult and expensive, but I expect future generations will look back and be glad we have done our part.

Annual Dinner

New Date: Wednesday, April 10, 2011

Location: North Andover Country Club

Native Beneficial Insects – they are everywhere!

A note from this year's speaker, *Jenna Spear-Omara*:

We often hear that the vast majority of insects in our backyard, our local woodland, or our watershed are beneficial to the ecosystem. However, as humans we tend to notice those that are somehow "bugging" us by chewing on our garden plants, defoliating our favorite tree, or biting us as we aim to have a peaceful morning hike. In this presentation, the vast number of insects that help our ecosystem thrive will be brought to the fore – from the well-known pollinators to the less famous and not-so-photogenic decomposers, we will discuss the many beneficial roles that our native insects play in the environment.

Jenna Spear holds a master's degree in forest entomology from the SUNY College of Forestry in Syracuse, where she specialized in chemical communications between insects. She has taught entomology at Keene State College, Antioch University New England, and the Harris Center and has worked for the NY Department of Conservation.

Dorset Circle Entrance to Bakers Meadow

Dave Doub

The Dorset Circle entrance to Bakers Meadow has challenged visitors by the marshy footing along the first section of trail. Mostly underwater in the spring and muddy at other times, the entrance had been planned to have bridging installed. So when LSI Corporation arranged to have a team of engineers from its local office at Brickstone spend a Community Service day at this site, the bridge was ensured. Led by Steve Lefoley and Mark Bordogna, the crew of fourteen sized up the project and had the entire 150 feet accomplished by the end of the day. It was not clear whether LSI Corporation had expected bridge construction to be a job requirement for its employees but their team sure demonstrated the spirit and satisfaction of helping their community. They are now certified AVIS bridge builders. Thank you LSI Corporation!



Deer Hunting Update

Fred Snell

In last fall's Update, I wrote about possible deer hunting on AVIS lands. In September, the AVIS Board of Trustees voted to not allow any hunting in 2010 since we needed more information. In October, the Conservation Commission and Board of Selectman decided to allow restrictive hunting on certain Conservation lands as a trial. For the 2011 fall hunting season, the AVIS board will attempt to get the information we need to make a decision about opening some of our lands to hunting before our summer break.



Where Am I?

Emily Trespas

- A. Vale Reservation
- B. Deer Jump Reservation
- C. Shawsheen River Reservation
- D. Baker's Meadow Reservation



C. The Octopus Tree earned the nickname from its exposed root system. This tree holds on to a bank along the Shawsheen River Reservation.

New Members 2010

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Nathan Combs | Marina Adly |
| Steve Brown | Monty Hitschler |
| Bruce & Lyle Baker | Richard Davis |
| Jeffrey Gillis | Mary Moran |
| John Dalton | Larry Sanford |
| Robin Higle | Keith Saxon |
| Bob & Connie Kurchian | Catherine Merritt-Hauer |
| Willow Cheeley | Kelly Jork |
| William Westaway | Mark & Maureen Wickersham |
| Susan Hegarty & | Cathy Kneeland |
| Steve Matava | Paul Dick |
| George Stevens | Keri Stella |
| Lawson Brouse | Nikki Manning |
| Doris Sheehan | |

How You Can Help

AVIS is a volunteer organization that relies on all of us to contribute what we can. If you would like to get more involved please let us know. Your donations are always welcome and we have many opportunities for people to be trail guides, to help with trail and reservation maintenance, and to help with special events. Your feedback about AVIS and our reservations is also welcome. Contact information for Trustees is available on the web site.

The AVIS Update is a biannual publication of the Andover Village Improvement Society. AVIS' mission 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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Meet John Wragg, AVIS Warden and Benefactor

By Alix Driscoll



John G. Wragg cares passionately about preserving and caring for land, a trait that was born in his early teens. As he tells it, his dad was a superintendent of a large private forest in New London during World War II, the 32-acre Alfred Mitchell Woods park. Through a series of poor decisions by the trustee who oversaw financial affairs, the foundation lost control of this parkland and it slipped out of private protection. Thus John believes it is necessary to permanently protect open space and similarly to maintain it. Enter AVIS, with its 100-year-old experience in protecting open space open to all. And now Wragg says he is looking forward to strengthening AVIS.

Investing in AVIS's future

How is he doing this? Wragg says it makes sense to set up a path for perpetually funding AVIS. He is donating a bequest to the Essex County Community Foundation for a path to spin-off funds to AVIS's Goodwin Wragg Land Stewardship Endowment Fund to help endow AVIS's Land Management Fund. "This is possible to do. I'd like to believe that when I check out that this will go on for 100s of years. AVIS exists forever."

Warden of West Parish Meadow

Wragg is paving the way with his funds just as he has paved, or more accurately, built boardwalks over lush wetlands on his neighboring West Parish Meadow.

He has served a seven-year sinecure as the warden of a jewel in AVIS's crown, the neighboring West Parish Meadow, a beloved and well visited reservation. "I do anything that is needed in West Parish, Indian Ridge and Baker's Meadow," and has recently organized the removal of a giant "widow-maker" off Reservation Road. Speaking of the help of the Andover High School cross-country team, which has been spreading bark mulch on trails, he encourages a Junior Warden Program at AHS and an Adopt a Reservation Program for teams to enlist the hearts and muscles of teen-agers to help out on AVIS reservations under the supervision of the wardens.

Long ago, Wragg set down deep roots with AVIS; he worked with now trustee emeritus Al Koch at AVCO-Textron, four decades ago, who encouraged him to look into helping AVIS to exist forever.

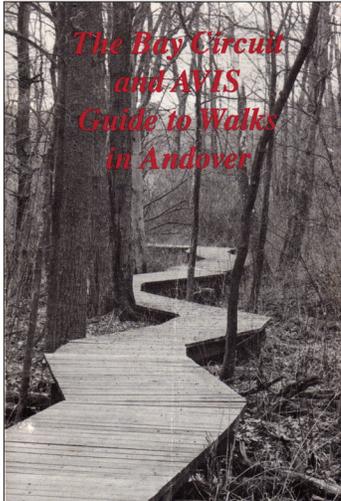


Announcing the Newest Edition of the Andover Trails Guide.

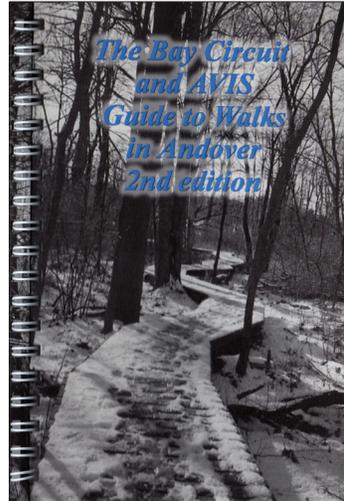
Emily Trespas

The Trail Guide is at the printers and will be available in the next month. Watch for more info about our Book Launch Party to be held at The Andover Booksore on March 19th at 2pm (date and time are subject to change).

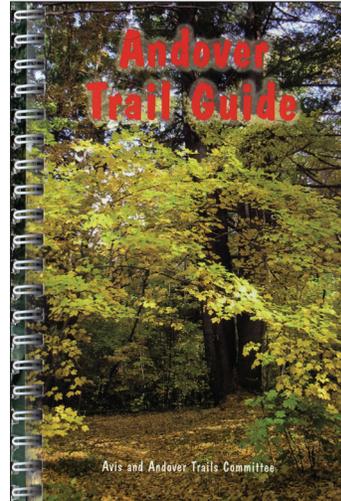
Trail Guides Throughout the Years:



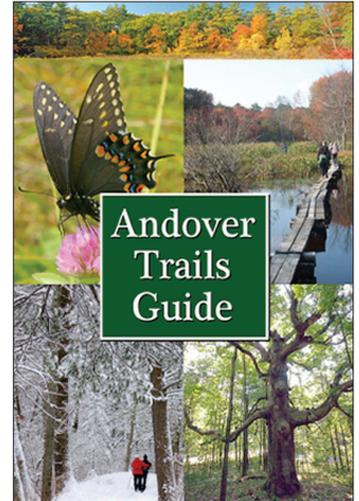
Cover, 1st edition, 1992



2nd edition, 1997



3rd edition, 2003



Cover, 4th edition, 2011

Did you know the first edition of The Bay Circuit and AVIS Guide to Walks in Andover was hand-bound? In 1992, a number of hearty volunteers gathered around a large table, compiled pages from paper stacks and joined over 30 sheets into the original pocket guide.

The addition of new reservations, trail changes and dedications were a handful of reasons to publish our updated 2011 edition. Because of its handy pull-out maps—in all of The Andover Trails Guides—the binding cannot be machine completed. According to the printer, Ray Laplume, of Laplume & Son Printing Co., approximately 65,000 pieces of paper were touched by human hands to assemble the 4th edition. May your hands find their way to one and your feet discover Andover's trails.

“Many hands make light work”

—John Heywood

Winter Walks

Fred Snell

Sixteen people enjoyed a brisk December day on a hike of the Goldsmith Woodlands on Dec. 5, 2010. On January 9, 2011, twenty four hikers explored the Taft Reservation and saw the evidence of its agricultural past in the old stone barn foundation, a small dam and pond to provide water for livestock, and many old stone walls with well defined cuts for wagon paths. The Taft is a little small for an afternoon hike, so the group took the trail to Salem Street and crossed over to the back portion of the Charles W. Ward Reservation (one of the lovely Trustees of Reservations properties) and hiked to Holt Hill for a panoramic view of the skyline from Salem to Boston.

Both hikes were sponsored by the AVIS and Andover Committee of the Appalachian Mountain Club and were led by Fred Snell.



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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Andover, MA 01810

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2011 Calendar

Sunday, February 6

Snowshoe/Hike Trustees of Reservations Ward Reservation, Andover.

Enjoy afternoon snowshoe/walk in the woods. Scenic views from the top of Holt Hill. Meet at 1:30pm in the parking lot. From I-93 Exit 41, take Route 125N. Go past the intersection with Route 28, and continue about 2.5 miles to Prospect Road. Turn right and travel 0.4 miles to the parking area. L Helen Palmer (978-657-9153, hpalmer.fournature@verizon.net), CL Ben Lovell (benlovell52@yahoo.com)

Sunday, February, 13

Moonlight Ski/Snowshoe Trek, AVIS Goldsmith Woodlands, Andover.

Park at the reservation (AVIS property), at 491 South Main Street. Meet at 6:00pm. No pets. Rain cancels. From I-93 Exit 41, head north on Route 125 to Route 28N (South Main Street). Reservation is on the left before Gould Rd. No reg. Map REF: Insert N 42.61016 W 71.12366 into <http://mapper.acme.com/>. L Burt Batcheller (978-475-3665, burt.batcheller@comcast.net), L David Dargie (978-996-4475, david@dargie.com)

Sunday, February, 20

Winter Fun Day, Friends of the Ward Reservation, Andover

AVIS members are invited to join from noon to 3pm for an afternoon of sledding, cross-country skiing or snow shoeing. The event is free and children are especially welcome. There will be tour guides, limited instruction, and light refreshments. Meet in the reservation parking lot on Prospect Road and follow the signs up to the barn.

Sunday, March 6

West Parish Meadow, Indian Ridge, AVIS Baker's Meadow Trails, Andover.

Hike 3 mi. through woods, over meadow, glacial esker and around a pond. Meet 1:30 PM in parking lot near arch across from West Parish Church. Take I-93 to Exit 43. Go NE 1.5 mi. on Rt. 133 to 2nd traffic lights. Turn hard R, park near cemetery entrance. No reg. L. Fred Snell (978 686-3647, fredsnell@g-mail.com)

Fred Snell President
Pam Eaton Membership
Lindsey Timko Designer