



Andover Village  
Improvement Society  
Andover's Land Trust  
Founded 1894

Fall 2023  
Vol. 130, No. 2

# avis update

## Lynn Landry and the Eco Team

By Alix Driscoll

AVIS has been strongly pivoting recently from acquiring more land to stewarding what AVIS owns. Due to global warming, invasives are increasingly flourishing on many of the AVIS reservations, and, leafing out earlier and with increasing vigor. To combat this, leader Lynn Landry and her burgeoning Eco Team have been rooting out and laying waste the invasives.

### Landry's Goals for the Eco Team

Growing the team from 15 core workers up to 75 is a goal. "Everywhere we go we take out invasives and then put down the seeds of native plants."

### Background

As an artist/ designer, Lynn "thinks in pictures" reflecting her training at Tufts and the Museum of Fine Arts. "Bonier Reservation is a magical little place."

The light and reflections at the vernal pools at Sanborn highlight lady slippers. "More light gives more places of peace."

"I had no idea this is so much fun."

### Lots of successes

The best results come from the collaborations with the wardens. Landry is inviting wardens to join her when the work parties are on site to have a dialogue on stewarding their reservations. The Eco Team has been working at Lupine, Shawsheen, Bonier, Purdon, Amy Gordon Taft reservations recently.

Please see the fall work party schedule on page 6.

Check out the blog Extraordinary Endeavors of The ECO Team at [AVISAndover.org](http://AVISAndover.org)



*Eco Team members who worked in the summer on the Sanborn Reservation: left to right, Daniel Ronan, Kathy Macinnis, Lezz Giles, Tracy Sioussat, Rich Bizzozero, Bob Rauseo (Sanborn Warden), Cheryl McKeough, Tim McKeough, Dick Dillon, Lynn Landry (Eco Team, Lead).*

## Celebrating AVIS Volunteers

By Alix Driscoll and Amy Janovsky, Land Stewardship Chair



*Luke Bardetti, Andover High School student has been an excellent volunteer with the Eco Team. Luke also wrote the AVIS blog for May 4, 2023.*



*Mark Goldshein and Stefani Traina recently replaced rotting timbers in the boardwalk connecting the Goldsmith Woodlands and Foster's Pond. Courtesy photo.*

### AVIS Works Entirely with Volunteers

On June 25, several dozen Wardens, Eco Team members and other volunteers gathered to share what's going on at their AVIS reservations.

There was much discussion about bikes on trails. David Dargie, Land Manager and Goldsmith Woodlands Warden, reminded all that there are no bikes allowed on the trails except on the Vail Trail between Central Street and Dale Street. Vale Warden and Ranger Ken Doran urged AVIS to reconsider this because the trail now has deep ruts due to use and the damp ground.

Sanborn Wardens Burt Batcheller and Bob Rauseo spoke about working with Dr. Mike Jones, Massachusetts Herpetologist, to create a turtle nesting habitat under the utility right of way. Ranger Dennis Crispo directed the construction of a cut bank to allow easier winter access to Sanborn North. Butterfly expert Howard Hoople has mentioned that the Sanborn Reservation is his favorite

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## President's Letter

By John Hess

Hello and welcome to fall. This is typically a very busy time for AVIS reservations not just for volunteers but also an important time for our Eco Team doing removal of invasive plants. They were busy during the summer, too. If anyone has an interest in helping these volunteers, please let us know. You can contact the coordinator, Lynn Landry, at hamletoflynn@gmail.com. As usual, there are opportunities for a wide range of volunteer tasks so let me know if you have any special interests in trail maintenance, digital presentations, and even communications.

It has been a very busy year with lots of work by other volunteers, including our wardens and many scout projects. If you were able to walk a trail or cross a wet area on a boardwalk, please be sure to thank these workers.

Note that AVIS is once again part of Trails & Sails, the ten days of activities organized by the Essex National Heritage Area from September 15 to September 24, 2023. AVIS plans a guided hike on September 24. Please see the AVIS website for details. Other organizations in Andover will be conducting activities that week as well. In addition, please look for the AVIS table at Andover Day in downtown Andover on September 23 and at Ballardvale Day on October 14.

There is some excellent news for Andover trails. As reported elsewhere in this Update, the Town has received a grant to plan an accessible trail at Haggetts Pond. Depending on funding the trail may even extend through the AVIS-owned Lowell Lawrence Railroad trail off of Lowell Street. AVIS has been working on such a trail for the Goldsmith Woodlands. Stay tuned for more on that at a later date.

Finally, I must end on a sad note about the passing of long-time AVIS supporter Judy Lugas, who, along with her husband, John, was Warden at the Wilkinson Reservation.

Have a splendid fall and see you on the trails.



## MassTrails Grant for Accessible Trail at Haggetts Pond

By Philip Geoffroy, Town of Andover's Director of Communications



*In June, the Town of Andover received a \$500,000 MassTrails Grant from the Commonwealth for the construction of the Haggetts Pond Rail Trail to make it welcoming and Americans with Disabilities Act accessible. Courtesy photo.*

On Wednesday, June 14, Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll announced that the Town of Andover has been awarded a \$500,000 grant through the Commonwealth's MassTrails Grant Program for construction of the Haggetts Pond Rail Trail. The project will convert the railbed along the western border of Haggetts Pond to a paved multi-use path that will extend approximately 4,500 feet from Haggetts Pond Road to a new boardwalk overlooking the pond.

The goal of the project is to improve the existing trail at Haggetts Pond to make it more welcoming and usable to all town residents. The 10 to 12-foot paved trail proposed at the site will be ADA accessible, providing opportunities for persons of all abilities to enjoy Haggetts Pond and the pristine environment that surrounds it. When completed, the trail will be the first Town-sponsored accessible and ADA compliant trail in Andover, making it a cornerstone of accessible recreational opportunity in the community.

In addition to the paved path, the Haggetts Pond Rail Trail project is anticipated to include the installation of new benches and signage containing information about Haggetts Pond, the Andover Water Department, native plants and wildlife species that can be observed around the pond, and the history of the rail transport in Massachusetts. The trail will end at a boardwalk leading to an overlook offering a scenic vantage point of the pond.

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## 2022 Financial Summary

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

<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenses</b>	
Membership Dues	\$25,110	Program Services	\$69,074
Contributions/Grants	\$88,144	Management/General	\$36,826
Changes in Investment	(\$133,550)	Fundraising Expenses	\$279
Others	\$5,182		

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location to observe lepidoptera in our area. Burt enthusiastically applauded the work the Eco Team has done to remove glossy buckthorn at Sanborn, so important as chemicals secreted by buckthorn are toxic to amphibians living in and around vernal pools on the property.

Erich O'Neil, Bonier Reservation Warden, thanked the Eco Team for the impactful work they did this year and last, noting that the reservation is looking great.

Deer Jump Reservation by the Tewksbury end is looking "beautiful" shared the wardens.

In late June 20, volunteers from a local company cleared trails from tangles of invasives from the Sunset Rock Reservation.

Mark Kaluzny reported much trail work around Baker's Meadow Pond. He also recruited two new wardens at the Farmers Market at South Church in the summer.

The mountain laurel is particularly lush this year, announced Warden Mike Timko of the Nat Smith Reservation.

Carl Hayssen, Deer Jump Warden, reported significant poison ivy at a section of the Deer Jump Trail heading to Tewksbury.

Mark O'Donnell announced that he and fellow Taft Warden Ted Gent cleaned out dozens of dead and dying white pines on the reservation, settling them on the ground with good soil contact to speed decay.

At the Shawsheen Reservation, the bluebird houses on the Shawsheen meadow have been overrun by house swallows who

have evicted nesting bluebirds, reported Tim Platt, whose co-warden Cheryl McKeough provided the houses and who monitors them closely.

Lynn Landry, co-warden of Lupine and leader of the Eco Team, reported that great work was accomplished by the scouts from Troop 77, West Parish Church, including the finishing of the sturdy entry steps from Lupine Road. Lynn also gave a shout-out to Tracy Sioussat, a dedicated member of the Eco Team, who assists her in guiding the team's work. Please see the Eco Team work party schedule on page 6.

Amy Janovsky, Land Stewardship Chair, gave an overview of the land stewardship activities particularly the NRCS-sponsored Jillian Way project, which is large, complex, and will take several seasons to transform a tangle of overgrown dead ash trees and weeds into a productive meadow habitat. She mentioned the flexibility offered by having a licensed pesticide applicator available to work at numerous sites. Amy also noted that the successful partnerships the Land Stewardship Team has created with several wardens as they become familiar with plants of concern and alert Amy and Lynn when they spot issues. She urged all of us to do battle with the Japanese knotweed to cut and hand pull when small. She encouraged everyone to get friends and neighbors involved in volunteering for AVIS and thanked the experts who advise AVIS on Land Stewardship as AVIS begins to react to climate change impacts.



Members of the Milligan family including Warden Don Milligan, AVIS President John Hess, and newcomers to Town hike the Shawsheen River Reservation. Photo courtesy of Mark Kaluzny.

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## Check Out the Blogs

New blogs describing the beauty of some reservations are appearing on the AVIS website. The blogs have been created by interns from Melanie Cutler's Environmental Sustainability Class at Andover High School with their adult mentors.

Go to AVISANDOVER.ORG

Ambling the AVIS Reservations

Extraordinary Endeavors of the Eco Team

Boy Scouts Building Boardwalks

Promote Pollinators! Minimize Mosquitoes

'Tis. The Hiking Season

Best Beeches in Andover

Nature Heals; ...or Does It?

Hello Everyone!

Use of Massachusetts Native Plants as Deer Resistance

Bonier Reservation

Scouting for Mushrooms

Heads Up on Vernal Pools

Observing the Winter Woods

Winter Activities

This Year's 375th Challenge

White Squirrels of Ballardvale

The Mysterious Oak

Hello Nature Lovers

Burning Bush Invasives

Containing the Burning Bush

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## New AVIS Members June 2022-June 2023

By Jim Sutton, Membership Chair

Prudence Barker	iHospitality, LLC	Stephen Pisani
Michael Carucci	Lisa Kole	Margaret Legner Rumson
Jim Coble	John Makiej	Dennis Richards
Melissa Coco	Liz McCormick	John A. Ryan
Beth Cohen	Peter B. McKeough	Beth Sarni
Justin Coppola	Lawrence Morse	Brandon Sisson
David Duncan	Maria de le Motte	Vladyslav Syrotenko
Emily Fahey	Leigh Needleman	Clara Wander
Paul Finger	Tram Nguyen	
Stephen Flood		

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## Final Count River Herring

By Jon Honea Ph.D.

I have good news. I just heard back from John Sheppard at the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries. Based on our observations, 2,585 +/- 708 river herring passed upstream of the counting bridge to spawn. That's almost 2,000 more than last year. I've been expecting the spawning population size to increase as the offspring of the early years of the count mature to spawn and we get more than just strays from other parts of the system.

Thank you all for your continued support of the count as we monitor the recovery of these native fish. I'd also like to thank Matt and Davis Tran for helping me to take out the contrast plates, as well as the Andover Conservation Commission, The Massachusetts Chapter Native Fish Coalition, and AVIS for their support over the years, Andover High teachers Melanie Cutler and Jennifer Rodier for bringing their students to help, and Andover Trails for continuing to sponsor the count.



Attorney Dan Hayes, one of AVIS's new trustees, is a Partner at the Law Offices of Morris, Rossi and Hayes at 32 Chestnut Street, Andover, MA. He has been a lawyer for 37 years and is an old road runner, so trail use has been sporadic in Andover the last few years. He enjoys Goldsmith Woodlands and Baker's Meadow reservations.

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# Boy Scout Eagle Projects on AVIS Reservations, 2022-2023

By Buzz Stapczynski

Jason Daggett, Troop 77, Rafton Reservation several boardwalks

Andrew Warne, Troop 76—Taft Reservation boardwalks

Robert Rumson, Troop 79— Stanley Reservation boardwalk and trail improvements

Erich Rumson, Troop 79, Awards Board for Sakowich Garage and a Vale Reservation boardwalk

Young Chen, Troop 76, Taft and Collins Reservations boardwalks

Jimmy Poirier, Troop 79, Rafton Reservation, relocate Scout Camp and build two AVIS benches

Kyle Huang, Troop 76— Sunset Rock Reservation three boardwalks

Douglas Chare, Troop 75— Rafton Reservation clear new trail



*Young Chen holding paper and explaining the layout and design of the boardwalks to his work team of scouts from Troop 76 Ballardvale and adults. Photo by Buzz Stapczynski.*

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50 Family \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 Student & Senior

You can join or renew online at [www.avisandover.org/join.html](http://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](mailto:info@avisandover.org). Contributions and dues are tax deductible to the extent permitted by federal regulations. Thank you!

For additional AVIS events see  
[AVISANDOVER.ORG](http://AVISANDOVER.ORG)

To check for other hikes visit  
[ANDOVERTRAILS.ORG](http://ANDOVERTRAILS.ORG)

For AMC walks see  
[AMCBOSTON.ORG](http://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

**Andover Day**  
Sat., Sept. 23.

### Trails and Sails Hike

Sept. 24 at 2:00. Meet on Abbot Bridge Drive and hike along the Shawsheen River. The focus will be the history of the river and its preservation in Andover. The hike will be kid and dog friendly. Denise Boucher. [TrailsandSails.org](http://TrailsandSails.org)

### Eco Team work parties

Saturdays, Sept. 16 and 30; Oct. 21; and Nov. 4, 18 and 25, and Sunday Oct 8. All 8:30-11 a.m. Lynn Landry.



### Fall Family Hike

Saturday, October 14 at 10 a.m., at Goldsmith Woodlands. Led by Cheryl McKeough.

### Ballardvale Day

Saturday, October 14, 2023 at 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Once again AVIS will participate in this local event to celebrate the Ballardvale neighborhood. Please plan to visit the AVIS table.



*Ranger Dick Dillon takes a well-deserved rest on Sanborn Reservation.  
Photo by Lynn Landry*

JOHN HESS  
*President*

JIM SUTTON  
*Membership*

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*Editor*

LINDSEY CHANDLER  
*Designer*

