



Spring 2007

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www.avisandover.org

AVIS Update

Global warming at the AVIS Annual Meeting

If temperatures continue to increase at their current pace, in one hundred years the environment in eastern Massachusetts will resemble today's environment in Richmond, VA. This was the take-home message from the after-dinner talk at the AVIS Annual Meeting given by former AVIS trustee Tom Cone and his colleague Marc Koolen, members of Phillips Academy's Biology Department.

Global warming appears on graphs as an upward trend in recent average global temperatures based on records going back a thousand years. The increase in carbon emissions in recent years is resulting in an atmospheric carbon dioxide blanket around the earth that traps heat.

Changes that we can expect over the next 100 years include a northward shift of trees and plants. For example, eastern Massachusetts could expect a decrease in tourism as leaf-peepers head to Canada to see the beautiful fall colors of the sugar maples. Massachusetts' maples, hemlocks, white pines, beech and oak would be replaced by the less colorful oak and pine forests that are typical of Virginia now.

The biologist's dictum that "flora determines fauna" means that as warming temperatures change the identity of the resident plants, so too can we expect to see changes in which animals call eastern Massachusetts home. For example, we could see fewer beavers and more opossum, and we may notice more ticks and mosquitoes due to the longer summers. Also, our state bird, the Black-Capped Chickadee, may not be a Massachusetts resident in a hundred years; perhaps it will be replaced by the Carolina Chickadee.

In addition to long-term changes in the make-up of the "native" plants and animals, we are already seeing changes in the timing of biological events. Lilacs, apples and grapes are blooming earlier than they did 50 years ago, and migratory birds are arriving earlier than they did 100 years ago.

As another enjoyable Annual Meeting ended, snippets of overheard conversation ranged from sharing tips on the best tick repellent to musings on whether the prospect of fewer beavers was all bad.

- Peggy Kruse



Photo by Mary Ann Alwan

Margaret Pustell and Alix Driscoll lead the pack from Recreation Park to the new trails on the AVIS Stanley Reservation. The hike was co-sponsored by AVIS and DCS and led by Mark Cutler.

Welcome to our new wardens

- Kevin Reid - Bakers Meadow Reservation
- Ken Doran - Vale Reservation (with George Blaxter)
- Burt Batcheller - Sanborn Reservation
- David Bunting and Jim Wilkinson - Skug River Reservation

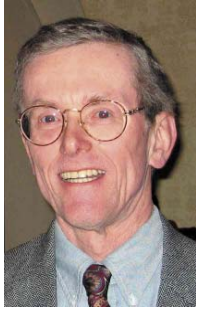
Thanks to our retiring wardens

With grateful thanks for many years of service to AVIS!

- Bill Henderson - Vale Reservation
- Paul Guerard - Goldsmith Woodlands

From the President

- Fred Snell, AVIS President



Retiring Trustee Marcia Sharp wrote in our AVIS membership renewal insert "AVIS is about connections – of people to land, of one generation of preservationists to the next, of all of us to nature." How wonderfully stated! I'd like to talk about connections.

Last fall I wrote about the possibilities of connecting trails and lands along the Shawsheen to form a greenway. This idea is beginning to take on some shape. Town Planning Director Paul Materazzo is working with AVIS, the Andover Trails Committee, the Shawsheen Watershed Association, and the Andover Community Paths group to explore the next steps toward making this a reality. More interestingly from a connections point of view, Paul has invited groups in adjoining communities to work with us. I plan on attending the first inter-community meeting in a few weeks.

Another example of connections: The Interstate 93 Interchange project is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create a positive outcome for traffic, wetlands, wildlife, recreation and the health of the Shawsheen River. If AVIS and others can insure that critical wetlands are preserved and trails for both wildlife and pedestrians are set aside, this project can give generations an improved quality of life. Trustees Alex Chanler and Alix Driscoll have been part of the planning meetings since the beginning and we are most grateful for their efforts to represent AVIS at this critical time.

On a more personal note of connections to the land, I have recently retired after 40 years of working. This has enabled me to get out on our reservations on nearly a daily basis, not just on weekends. I'm more able to appreciate what a wonderful asset these lands are. On a sunny cold day in Goldsmith in February, it reminded me of Maine or upper New Hampshire with the trees reflecting from the pond and the birds flying overhead. Nearly every neighborhood in Andover has a reservation within easy walking distance. As gasoline prices climb, it's a real benefit to not have to drive to a place to get exercise and relaxation.

Spring is here with milder days and a greener landscape. Hopefully you can get outside and make your own connections to the land.

Trustee changes

AVIS welcomes our newest trustee, Pam Eaton, who is our new Membership chair. Pam has two sons in high school and a black dog named Indy. Pam enjoys the outdoors and regularly hikes the AVIS trails. She also loves canoeing, kayaking, sailing, skiing and snowshoeing. She loves to travel and explore new places, but rarely gets a chance to do that these days.



We thank our retiring trustees Grace Bird and Marcia Sharp for their many contributions to AVIS. In addition to directing our fundraising efforts, Grace was instrumental in coordinating the work party that built the new trail from Dorset Circle through the new Harris property into Bakers Meadow. Marcia's vast experience with non-profit boards brought a wealth of new ideas to AVIS. We look forward to seeing both of you on the trails!

In Memorium

Miles (Bud) O'Donnell, long-time warden of Taft Reservation, passed away in the fall. AVIS extends condolences to the O'Donnell family and especially to Bud's wife, Marsha. Marsha is continuing on as a Taft warden.

AVIS thanks ...

- Libby Poland for organizing another enjoyable Annual Meeting.
- Pat Cavanaugh for many hours of pro bono title work on a proposed AVIS acquisition.
- The Boston Foundation for an annual grant of \$5,000 from the Bessie P. Goldsmith Fund to support our stewardship of the Goldsmith Woodlands. This helped us take erosion control measures at Bessie's Point, build a boardwalk along Foster's Pond, purchase equipment, and undertake routine maintenance.

The Andover Village Improvement Society (AVIS) is a non-profit land trust. Founded in 1894, AVIS is one of the oldest land trusts in the United States. 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.

Fred Snell, President
Pam Eaton, Membership
Peggy Kruse, Editor

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The *AVIS Update* is a biannual publication of the Andover Village Improvement Society. Email comments to update@avisandover.org.

Wardens Party Fall 2006



Dave Doub flips burgers at the wardens party coached by Sarah and Anna Vrontas, Marta Hornidge and Andy Girdwood.



Photos by Peggy Kruse

Wardens Lyssa Petter, Emily Trespas, Tim Petter and others at the AVIS wardens party in September.

Eagle Scout Projects

Deer Jump: Stephen Chan of Troop 79 and twenty fellow scouts hauled out 50 bags of trash from the Deer Jump Reservation following the record flood that we had last May. The high water scoured trash from sources miles upstream and scattered it along the reservation. The scouts combed over a mile of riverbank, some by water using a skiff to pull out trash along the water's edge. Stephen also constructed a bench and secured it alongside the trail near the riverbank. Wardens Rich Bizzozero and Dick Dillon helped Stephen with his project.

Vale Reservation: Rob Tornatore, also of St. Roberts Church Troop 79, started one of AVIS' largest boardwalk undertakings. The intent is to cross the expanse of marsh just north of the Ballardvale Train Station at the foot of the railroad embankment. Using a three beam boardwalk design supported at twenty foot intervals, his team built the first 100 feet of what will eventually become a four hundred foot long crossing.

Continuing where Rob left off, Will Rauseau, with another crew of scouts from South Church Troop 76, added another 100 feet of boardwalk. Further into the marsh now, the boardwalk provides a secluded vista for watching the activity of a local beaver family.

- Dave Doub

Membership Dues

The AVIS trustees recently approved a new category of membership for students and seniors, increased the membership dues for individual and family members, and eliminated the category of life members.

Smith Reservation: For his Eagle Scout project, Charles Wang created a path through the recent addition to the Nat Smith Reservation off of Hay Bales Lane. In addition, he replaced an iffy stream crossing in the original part of the reservation with something that would be usable any time of the year. The picture shows the tops of some mostly-buried, large, heavy rocks. We dug a trench through the accumulated silt down to something more solid so that the rocks wouldn't just sink. It took a lot of work to make it look as inconspicuous as it does. It should last a long time.

- Mike Timko



Photo by Mike Timko

John Wang, Michael Chan, John Conley, Charles Wang build a stream crossing on the Smith Reservation.

Work Parties

Skug River Reservation: A multitude of volunteers helped rescue a boardwalk from beaver flooding at work parties organized by David Bunting, Jim Wilkinson and Dave Doub.

West Parish Meadow: Thanks to the volunteers from the Free Christian Church who trimmed the trails on Indian Ridge and West Parish Meadow and trimmed the edges of the meadow as well. John Wragg, Dick Dillon and David Dargie organized this venture.

Sunset Rock Reservation: In November, friends and neighbors of the Sunset Rock Reservation, including South Church Day of Service volunteers, reclaimed the reservation and reestablished some trails that had been lost to overgrowth and disuse. The most important part of the project may have been clearing the new entrance to the reservation from McKenzie Court. This entailed cutting limbs, clearing brush and removing trash from the site to open up a pathway into the woods. It was great to see the neighborhood get involved, and we invite everyone to take a stroll through Sunset Rock.

- Mark Cutler



Photo by David Bunting

Skug River Reservation: Dennis Crispo doesn't let a little water stop him from getting the job done.

Bammer Brainstorming

The Fall 2006 AVIS Update (online at www.avisandover.org/news.html) described how to use the AVIS bammer to build boardwalks. Briefly, lifting and dropping the 70-

pound weight of the bammer drives the 4-by-4 support posts into the muck. The problem posed to readers was how to bam a 16 ft. long support post into deep muck.

Elevate the volunteers

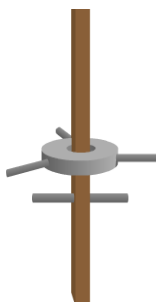
- Dana Hayward



I enjoyed your description of the bammer and the brave fellows who operate it. As far as solving the problem of driving tall posts: perhaps attaching (welding) wide "skis" or sleds to the legs of a couple sections of staging would provide a platform for the volunteers to work above ground level. Something 18" or even 24" wide and the length of a staging frame might keep it on top of the muck and mean that it could be slid to the site.

Lower the bamming point

- Carl and Kevin Jackson



Always keep your bamming point at 4 feet or lower along the 16-ft support post. First drill holes through the 4x4 support post at 4 foot intervals. Then slip an iron rod through the lowest hole. Place a 70-lb donut-shaped weight, a "bammer-donut," over the top of the post. Lift up the bammer-donut by the handles and let it drop onto the iron rod. Repeat this until the iron rod is just above ground. Reinsert the iron rod in the next higher hole, again about 4 feet above ground.

Elongate the bammer

- Joseph Cloutier and Ted Kruse



Graphics by Joseph Cloutier

Separate the cap of the bammer from the body of the bammer about three inches from the top. Attach three 10-foot chains to the cap. Add three hooks to the top of the bammer body. Place the body of the bammer around the post and the cap of the bammer on top of the post, then stand the post upright. Hook the body of the bammer to the cap's chains at a comfortable bamming height. Lift the body and drop it to pull down on the top of the post. Reattach the bammer to the chains at a higher position as needed.

New AVIS members (since 2005)

Linn Anderson	Kevin & Cynthia Conley	The Kellman Family	S. Berman & R. Minton	David & Leslie Silverstein
Andover Historical Society	Cynthia Cook	The Kelloway Family	Robert & Lori Moccaldi	Kathleen Smith
Carol & Robert Andre	Dwight Cooper	Jack Keohane	Paul Monticciolo	Roger & Susan Smith
Mary Angelos	Chris Corbett	Jeanne Kesapradist	The Moore Family	Richard SooHoo
Ed Anson	Dan & Sherrard Cote	Roman Kichorowsky	Donald Morin	Michele Speidell
Jeannie Antonioni	Russell Cox	Frank & Sherrie Kimball	Bob & Debbie Morrison	Paul & Elene Spieler
Elizabeth Hopkins & Tom Appleton	Timothy Cremin	Jane Kish	Debbie & Bill Mounts	Eileen Standerwick
Steve & Alyce Arsenault	Sandy Culver	Marc Koolen	Ernestine Murphy	Pete Stelzner
Michael Arthur	Br. John J. Del Casale	Betsy Korn	Heidi & Stewart Nash	Krista & Jay Stevens
Claudia & Caleb Bach	Betsy & Jack Dempsey	Amber Kovach	Marie Normoyle	George & Charrie Stevens
Becci Backman	Roger Desjardins	Jacqueline Kovacs	David & Sonia Novick	Andrea & Gregory Stidsen
Carroll & Elaine Bailey	The DeVito Family	Megan & Mark Kristiansen	Judith Nowinski	Eleanor Storch
Maureen Bailey	Barbara DiAdamo	S. Brooks & L. Kupka	Kevin O'Brien	Larry Streb
Rachel Baime	Bruce Dias	Lawrence Kushner	The O'Brien Family	Matthew & Amanda Strong
Ralph & Cathy Bakkensen	M. Farley & M. Droof	Ann Lange	Danielle & David O'Brien	Eric & Barbara Stubenhaus
Fred Banzi	Mary & Paul Durant	Leah LaPointe	Lisa O'Connell	Cheryl & Ross Sullivan
Joyce Barden	Joseph Dzialo	William D. Layne	M/M Peter Oliver	John Sullivan
John & Betty Barrett	Pamela Eaton	Andrew Lazar	James E. O'Neill	Bill & Nadine Sutliff
Don & Roxy Barry	Sheila Eckoff	Phil LeBlanc	Jeremiah O'Sullivan	Alexander Svirsky
Maria Bartlett	Earl Efinger	Judy LeClere	Catherine Ousignant	Kate Sumberg & Walden Swanson
Ian Barwick	Charles Enman	Joel Leider	Gail Page	Valerie Swett
Colleen Bayard	Jeff Erion	John & Barbara Lenihan	M/M David Palmer	Elwin & Becky Sykes
Terrie & Wesley Beamer	Mariano Ezpeleta	Richard Lennon	Panos Papageorgiou	Melinda Taranto-Garnis
Clyfe Beckwith	Len & Laurie Farris	M/M Akex Levay	Ralph Pass	The Sparrow Tauscher Family
The Bellistri Family	Dan & Molly Feeley	Patrick & Laurie Leyne	Brad Pearson	James & Joan Taylor
Colleen & Kevin Benedix	Richard Fink	Jyrki Liedes	John Pearson	Suetta & Robert Tenney
Audrey & Diz Bensley	Gary Fischer	Bruce A. Littlefield	David & Rachel Penner	Karl & Helen Thiele
Mary Ann Bernhard	Eva Flaherty	Annette Logan	Alanna McKee and John Peolker	Kathleen & Thomas Timmins
Firdaus & Jasmin Bhathena	Bonnie & Paul Floyd	Vincent & Robin Loporchio	Monique & Don Peters	Evelyn Shen & Jason Tong
Daniel Biles	Sheila Foley	Deborah Loscutoff	Roger Pinkham	Hugues Tremblay
Gay & Jerry Bird	Michael Franzese	John Lucas	Adam Poirier	Cristina Trott
Joanne Bishop	Lewis Gack	Jodi & Kenneth MacDonald	Dan & Jennifer Pond	Elizabeth & Dean Tully
Robert Blanchette	Albert Galaburda	William & Beverly MacLeod	Caroline Pooler	Marc Tumas
John Boese	Charles & Sandra Galley	Village Garden Club	Kenneth Poublon	Alice & Stephen Tung
Joan Bolton	Paul & Marilyn Gigliotti	Brian & Margaret Major	H. Powell Family	Ian & Rachel Turner
Lori Buseck & Clive Bolton	Dawn & Daniel Gillette	Philip & Susan Malloy	Dana Hayward & Amanda Preston	Dr.s Ian & Rachel Turner
Paul Boucher	Carolyn Goldberg	Kristen Maloney	John Proakis	Luminita Velicanu
Jack Brady	Robert Graham	Catherine Mannix	Ruth & Ed Quattlebaum	Miguel & Cristina Verdaguer
Patty Brayden	Nancy Granoff	Temba Maqubela	Marty Rabinowitz	Susan & Peter Walsh
Margaret & Nancy Bresnahan	Leo & Kelly Greene	Aileen Mason	Girish Rao	Joseph & Diane Watson
Brenda & David Bryan	The Griswold Family	Larry & Marcy Mazonson	Maureen & Tom Ricchenbacher	Roger Wiehe
Theodore Buchholz	Frank Groosman	Barrett & Marilyn McCarthy	Don Robb	Gretchen Wilson
Bill Buck	Zhengyu Gu	Siena & Charles McCauley	Jane & Michael Roberts	Jerry Witt
Derek Burdon	Nancy Gump	Greg McClellan	Keith & Sarah Robinson	Allan & Karen Wood
Dr. Frances Burger	Eliot & Barbara Hacker	M/M James McConaughy	D. Drake & B. Rogers	Michael Woodring
William Burger	Arnold Hanawalt	Judy McCoy	Stephen Root	Annie Woolsey
Robert & Susan Burke	Arnold Hanawalt	Patricia McGovern	Joe Rousseau	Henry Wrigley
Karen Byers	Dave & Joan Handstad	Mike McHugh	Mark & Peggy Rumson	Emily Trespas & Paul Young
Erin Cammann	Joseph & Lynn Harrington	Geraldine McKenna	Falcon Crest Home Assoc.	Joseph & Deborah Zahka
Gary & Emma Campbell	William Hart	Kristen McLaren	Diane Sandberg	Theresa Zemlin
Rob Candela	Jay Hartigan	Matthew & Margaret McLaughlin	Bruce & Sara Sands	The Zimmerman Family
Stephen Carriuolo	Christine Hayward	Thomas & Nancy McMillan	Robert & Pauline Scheinfein	Ellen & John Zipeto
Gene Carter	Edward Hines	Jack & Cindy McNamee	Peggy Scott	M/M Alan Zucchini
P. Craig and B. Caruso	Heather Moody Holman	Mary Jane McNeil	Lauren Seydewitz	
Wallace Cataldo	Erica Holthausen	Lisa & Ivan Menschel	Etta Shapiro	
Gina Chaves	Frank Hopkins	Mary-Elaine Merrill	Lance & Donna Shaw	
Irina Chekanov	Amy & Joel Janovsky	Elizabeth Meyer	Wayne Shaw	
Peter & Rene Clark	Cynthia Jeffery	M/M Adair Miller	William Shimer	
Joe & Thelma Clementi	Deborah Johnson	M/M Matt Mills	Debbie Silberstein	
Vicki Coderre	E. Koontz & S. Johnson	The Minigell Family		
Michael Collins	Barbara Kamer	Sandra & Arno Minkinen		
Robert & Mary Columbo	Vineeta Kapoor	Patrice & Stephen Minton		
	Marybeth Keane			
	Kristine Kelley			

Welcome!



Photo by Peggy Kruse

Burt Batcheller and David Dargie co-led the 37th Annual Rafton Breakfast Hike in January 2007.

Bluebird Update

Marta Hornidge and David Schmidt report that the bluebird nests are ready for occupancy on the Shawsheen River Reservation and that a pair has already been sighted checking out the accommodations. Marta reports that last season was a banner year for bluebirds on the Shawsheen with 14-15 fledglings; she attributes this success to the fact that "the nasty English sparrows were not evident."

AVIS Calendar

Sat, April 14, 9 am - noon: **Lupine Reservation work party.** Park on Lupine St. near Central St. Led by Dave Doub, 978-470-3703.

Sun, April 15, 1:30 pm: **Deer Jump Reservation hike** along the Merrimack River. Approx. 5 mi. Meet on Launching Rd. entrance (past house #15 at top of hill). Led by Helen Palmer, 978-657-9153, hpalmer:fournature@verizon.net and Gary Adams.

Sat, April 21, 9 am - 2 pm: **Deer Jump work party.** Park at the end of Raven's Bluff. The work site is 1/4 mile to the SW (upstream) of the Raven's Bluff entrance. Led by Mike Timko, 978-681-0424.

Sat, April 28, 9 am - noon: **Keck Reservation work party:** Meet at the parking lot at Rt. 125 and Gould Rd. (This is the former Rocky Hill Reservation). Led by Andy Girdwood, 978-475-5253.

Thursdays in May, 8 am: **AVIS hikes for seniors.** Sign up thru Senior Center, 978-623-8321. Led by Evelyn and Al Retelle.

Sat, May 5, 9 am - 3 pm: **Sunset Rock Reservation work party:** Park at the end of Hammond Way. Led by Mark Cutler, 978-749-4896.

For **additional hikes and work parties**, check the AVIS website, www.avisandover.org, as the season progresses.

AMC walks, see www.amcboston.org/andover.

AVIS New Member Signup

(Current members will receive dues notice)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

- _____ \$25 Individual Membership
- _____ \$40 Family Membership
- _____ \$10 Student and Senior Membership
- _____ \$100 Sustaining Membership
- _____ Additional Donation: \$ _____
- _____ To Land Acquisition Fund
- _____ To Land Stewardship Fund
- _____ Unrestricted

Make check payable to "AVIS" and mail to:
AVIS, PO Box 5097, Andover MA 01810.

Contributions and dues are tax deductible to the extent permitted by federal regulations.

Thanks!

AVIS

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