



Andover Village  
Improvement Society:  
Andover's Land Trust  
Founded 1894

Fall 2009  
Vol 116, No. 2

# avis update

## Art in the Woodlands



*Photos by Peggy Kruse*

The Goldsmith Woodlands is the temporary home to three pieces of metal artwork. These sculptures, on loan from artist Pete Sweeney, are primarily made of recycled steel. On your next walk in Goldsmith, try your hand at making music with the hanging wrench.

## AVIS trivia at Annual Meeting

Following dinner and a brief business meeting, the 2008 Annual Meeting featured an AVIS-trivia game, organized by Libby Poland. The winning table was the proud recipient of a stuffed (fake!) beaver.

Test your AVIS trivia IQ (answers on pg. 3):

- 1) Who gave a speech in the Purdon Reservation's natural amphitheater in 1843?
- 2) Which AVIS reservation is only accessible by water?
- 3) How many miles of trails are there on AVIS reservations?
- 4) What is the largest AVIS reservation?
- 5) In which AVIS reservation did William Jenkins quarry sand stone?

## Help wanted: Graphic designer and editor

AVIS is looking for one or more volunteers to help with graphic design, layout and editing. If interested, please contact [info@avisandover.org](mailto:info@avisandover.org).

## Beetles combat Purple Loosestrife invasion at Bakers Meadow

- Dave Doub

The shoreline of Bakers Meadow, once dotted with groves of cattails and other aquatic plants, has been taken over in recent years by Purple Loosestrife. Intent on eliminating this invasive species from the reservation, Wardens Al and Evelyn Retelle worked with Suzanne Robert of SRWA to introduce the *Galerucella* beetle to the area. Approved in 1992 by the US Dept. of Agriculture, introduction of this beetle serves as an effective biocontrol measure in reducing Loosestrife coverage with no long term negative impact on native species. As the plant population diminishes, so does the beetle presence, eventually reaching equilibrium at a much reduced coverage, although beetle migration to other Loosestrife-invaded areas usually occurs within a mile of the initial site.

This summer, Al and Evelyn prepared five host plants to receive a batch of adult beetles. Using netting to contain the beetles on the host plants, they cultivated the beetles through one reproductive cycle in time for a mid-July release. Evidence of the beetles is unmistakable. Look for bullet holes in the loosestrife leaves. On such affected plants one will likely see a beetle, about the size of a gnat, perched on a leaf or hovering nearby.

And, of course, wish the beetle Bon Appetite!



*Photo by Evelyn Retelle*

*Al Retelle inspects his beetle nursery at Baker's Meadow.*



## Land management news

**Salem St. and Harold Parker beavers** have been keeping wardens Dennis Crispo and David Bunting on their toes for the past couple of years. The dams, including a 5-ft high, 20-ft long engineering marvel just off Salem St., are responsible for flooding acres of trees, killing most of those caught in the deluge.

New trails on higher ground have been cut on the Hammond and Skug River Reservations with new bridging where needed. Bill and Cathy Henderson delivered wood chips which Dennis Crispo and David Bunting are hauling in to improve trail surfaces.

AVIS received permission from the Conservation Commission and the MA DEP to install a beaver deceiver at the Salem St. dam to control the flooding, however installation was blocked by MA Fish and Wildlife, whose mandate includes providing opportunities for hunting and fishing. As AVIS trustees

**New bench construction method:** For his Eagle Scout project, Jim Tornatore constructed ten benches for AVIS reservations. Using the standard AVIS bench design, Jim created a new construction method that enables the bench to be transported more easily and assembled on location.

**Trailhead signs at Deer Jump:** Maria Tornatore put her wood-burning skills to work to make ten signs at trail junctions on Deer Jump.

**Warden changes:** AVIS extends warm thanks to Jeff and Nancy LaFountain, who are stepping down after many years of dedicated service as Lupine wardens.

**AVIS thanks Andover Small Engine** for the donation of a lawnmower for use on trails on the Vale Reservation.

**Opening up the new Keck parcel:** For his Eagle Scout project, Tom Huntley oversaw in excess of 20 fellow scouts and friends as they removed thousands of feet of rusting wire fencing from the newly acquired Keck parcel and completed a trail linking the new and old sections of the Keck Reservation.



### From the president

- Fred Snell

We all think about the benefits of AVIS lands in different ways. Some think of access to trails and land for recreation and a way to enjoy a simpler, quieter life. Others think about maintaining the rural feel of the Town, or the benefits of our extensive wetlands to clean and filter water, aid in flood control, and replenish the ground water table, or to provide habitat for many plants and animals. From a financial standpoint, open space has been shown to save the Town tax dollars compared to development.

How about the carbon cycle: What

effect does our mostly forested land contribute to the sequestering or storage of carbon dioxide? The US Forest Service says that each acre of forested land takes in about 2 tons of carbon which is equivalent to 7 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> each year. Since about 1000 acres of AVIS land is forested, that makes 7000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> that is removed from the atmosphere yearly by AVIS land.

In addition, each acre of forest land holds between 100 to 300 tons of carbon. When deforestation takes place, much of this carbon is released into the atmosphere quickly, and the valuable CO<sub>2</sub> to oxygen conversion is lost. Yet another important reason to keep our land forested and preserved for future generations.

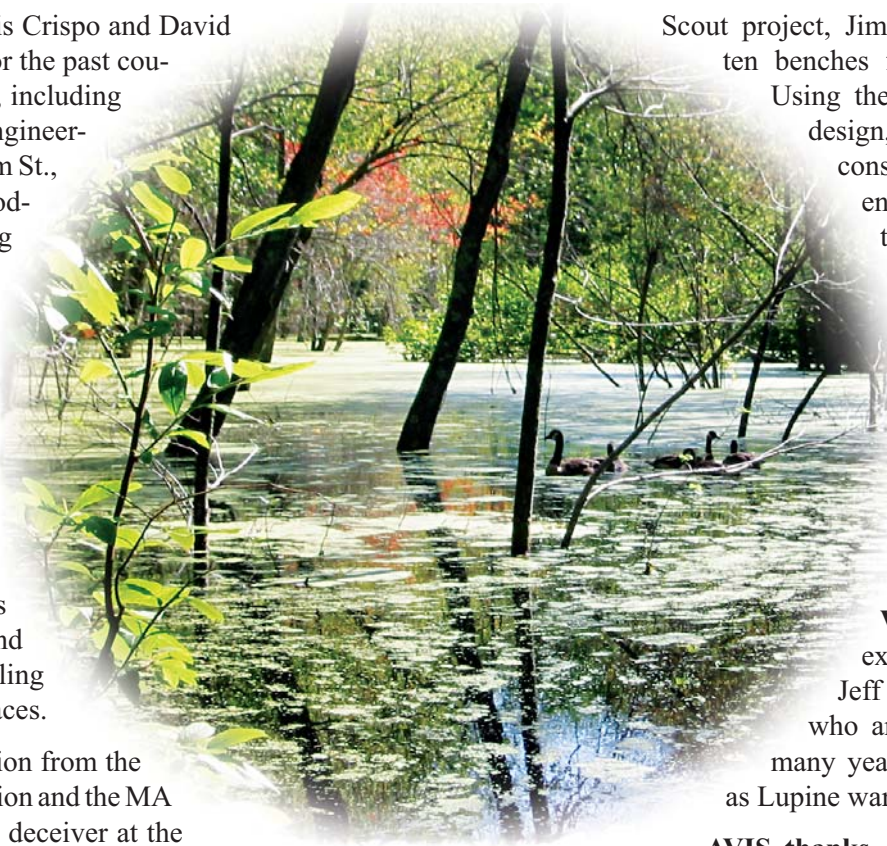


Photo by Peggy Kruse  
*Canada Geese enjoying the Hammond Reservation.*

continue the negotiations, AVIS wardens continue the trail rescue efforts.



Photo by Peggy Kruse  
*Eric Heath, Max Tonks, Emily Zinsmiester and Tom Huntley help clear the new addition to the Keck Reservation.*



# AVIS's Annual Appeal

## Foundation Grants

Foundation M  
Highland Street Foundation  
Stevens Foundation

## Leadership Donations \$1000 & over

Anonymous  
Joan Canterbury *in memory of Dick Canterbury*  
Frank & Hanne Castle *in memory of Eleanor Castle Young*  
Rich Cloutier & Peggy Kruse  
Matthew Dallett & Mary Pritchard  
David & Kate Doub  
Alix & John Driscoll  
Andy & Tina Girdwood  
Jim & Peggy Keck  
George MacNaughton & Deborah Warren  
John J. McArdle III & Joan C. McArdle Foundation  
John Murphy  
Michael & Judy Rich  
Marjorie & Frederick Snell  
Susan Stott *in memory of Fred Stott*  
Anne Symchych  
John Wragg  
Hayward & Gail Zwerling

## Donations of \$500-999

Rhonda & Alexander Asch  
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Patricia & George Edmonds  
Lynn & David Eikenberry  
Jerome & Emily Farnsworth *in memory of Lorna Young*  
Alan French  
Timothy Horne  
Alfred Koch *in honor of Harold Rafton*  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Lyman  
Mike & Judy Timko  
Ledlie L. Woolsey *in memory of John M. Woolsey, Jr.*

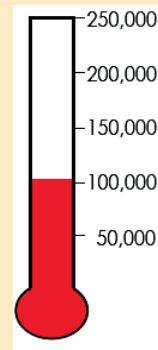
## Donations of \$100-499

Anthony & Caroline Adams  
Debbie Martin & Chris Andrews  
Breck & Lani Arnzen  
Joyce Barden  
Linda Kupka & Sara Brooks *in honor of Delia Kupka*  
Andrew & Elise Caffrey

AVIS's goal for the 2008, 2009 & 2010 Annual Appeal is to raise funds to pay off a \$250,000 loan from the Cavallaro family to complete the purchase of the 8.5 acre addition to the Peggy Keck Reservation, as well as to build the Land Acquisition fund and Land Stewardship Endowment.

The 2008 Appeal raised a total of \$113,404; of this, \$105,000 is available for the Keck purchase, and almost \$8000 was raised for the Land Stewardship Endowment.

The AVIS Trustees thank all donors for their generous support. Your contributions are essential to AVIS's work to acquire, preserve and maintain more than 1000 acres of reservations and trails in Andover, open to the public for quiet enjoyment without charge.



- Susan Stott

Carole & Alex Chanler *in memory of Art Spencer*  
Frederick M. Childs  
Daniel Cote  
David Gargie  
Ruth Doyle *in memory of Cricket and Rocky*  
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Valerie Swett & Frank Nigh  
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## Donations under \$100

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Thomas & Kathleen Timmons  
Sen. Susan Tucker *in honor of Fred Stott*  
Peter & Susan Walsh  
John S. Wessler & Fredi Anne Hurwitz  
John M. Schulz & Therese Zemlin

## Wilson steps off board

AVIS extends warm thanks to Glenn Wilson for his service as an AVIS trustee and as a member of the Land Management Committee.

*Nick Delegas walks Ziggy on the new Keck Meadow. The Keck addition creates an off-road link between Harold Parker State Forest on the east and Goldsmith Woodlands on the west.*

Photo by Peggy Kruse



## Answers to AVIS Trivia

- 1) Daniel Webster
- 2) Sanborn Reservation
- 3) Over 30 miles of trail
- 4) Rafton Reservation
- 5) Skug River Reservation

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.

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

P.O. Box 5097  
Andover, MA 01810  
[www.avisandover.org](http://www.avisandover.org)  
[update@avisandover.org](mailto:update@avisandover.org)

**AVIS**  
PO Box 5097  
Andover, MA 01810

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## AVIS Membership

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Dues: \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Individual \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Sustaining  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$40 Family \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 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.

*Thanks!*

## AVIS calendar

Fri, Sep 18, 5 pm. **Hike at Deer Jump Reservation.** Park past #15 Launching Rd. Led by Fred Snell, 978-686-3647.

Sat, Sep 26, 9 am. **Hike at West Parish Meadow and Baker's Meadow.** Meet at West Parish Church, Reservation Rd. & Rt. 133. Led by Al Retelle, 978-475-4412.

Fri, Sep 11, 18, 25 & Oct 2, 9, 16: 8 am **Nature walks.** Meet at Andover Senior Center. Led by Evelyn & Al Retelle, 978-475-4412.

Sat, Oct 3, 9 am. **Nordic walking at Goldsmith Woodlands.** Park at #491 S. Main St. Beginners welcome. Bring your own Nordic poles or reserve a pair by calling Denise Boucher, 978-470-0243.

Sun Oct 4, 1:30 pm. **Hike at the Hammond & Skug River Reservations.** Meet on Korinthian Way off of Gray Rd. Led by Dennis Crispo, 978-858-0394, [highpt@cliffhanger.com](mailto:highpt@cliffhanger.com).

Sun, Oct 11, 1:30 pm. **Hike & History - Skug River Reservation** co-sponsored by AVIS and the Andover Historical Society. Park at Skug entrance on Salem St. Led by Fred Snell, 978-686-3647.

Sat, Oct 17, 9 am. **Hike at Peggy Keck Reservation.** Meet at Goldsmith, 491 S. Main St. Led by David Dargie, 978-996-4475.

Sat, Nov 7, 9 am-noon. **Work party along Merrimack River at Deer Jump.** Park past #15 Launching Rd. All AVIS trail enthusiasts welcome! David Dargie, 978-996-4475.

*Meet some neighbors!  
Make new friends!  
Join us for a hike!*



Photo by Fred Snell

*Goldsmith Woodlands offers nice views of Foster's Pond.*

Sun, Jan 31, 10 am. The **41st annual Rafton x-country ski/hike.** Park on High Plain Rd. near leaf composting area. Beginners welcome. No pets, rain cancels. Burt Batcheller, 978-475-3665, and David Dargie, 978-996-4475.

Sun, Feb 14, 6 pm. **Moonlight ski/hike** at Goldsmith Woodlands. Park at #491 S. Main St. No pets, rain cancels. Burt Batcheller, 978-475-3665, and David Dargie, 978-996-4475.

Tue, Mar 9, 6 pm. **Annual Dinner.** Location TBD.

For additional AVIS events, see [avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org). For AMC walks, see [amcboston.org/andover](http://amcboston.org/andover).