



Fall 2008

Vol. 115, No. 2

www.avisandover.org

AVIS Update

Land purchase expands the Peggy Keck Reservation and links to Goldsmith

- Susan Stott

After more than two years of discussions, AVIS is excited to announce the purchase of a beautiful 8.57-acre parcel of open space from the Cavallaro family to add to the existing 40-acre Peggy Keck reservation. The new land includes a wonderful meadow, some wetlands and an upland knoll.

The AVIS Land Management team, eagerly anticipating this purchase for months, has already mentally laid out a trail network to link this parcel to the existing trails in the Keck Reservation on one side and – with a careful crossing of S. Main St. – to the Goldsmith Woodlands on the other side.

The purchase of this important parcel of open space is possible due to the generosity of the many Andover residents who have donated to the Land Acquisition Fund during the AVIS Annual Appeal and also to a grant from the Stevens Foundation. The purchase price is \$750,000; of this, \$500,000 was paid at closing and the additional \$250,000 is to be raised over the next three years. AVIS will reach out to our supporters during the next three Annual Appeals for assistance in completing payment for this purchase.

This purchase is consistent with AVIS's goal to enlarge existing AVIS reservations as opportunities arise. Although the Cavallaro family was approached by a local developer, the family chose to preserve much of the land it had held since early in the 20th century. Andover is fortunate to have land owners willing to respond in this manner.

AVIS anticipates the new trails being completed shortly and invites the public to enjoy the enhanced hiking opportunities offered by the new parcel.

Help wanted: Webmaster

AVIS is looking for help with occasional updates to the AVIS website, www.avisandover.org. Please contact Fred Snell at 978-686-3647.



Susan Stott and her grandchildren, Mouhammed and Aïssatou Thiam, explore the new Keck Reservation parcel.

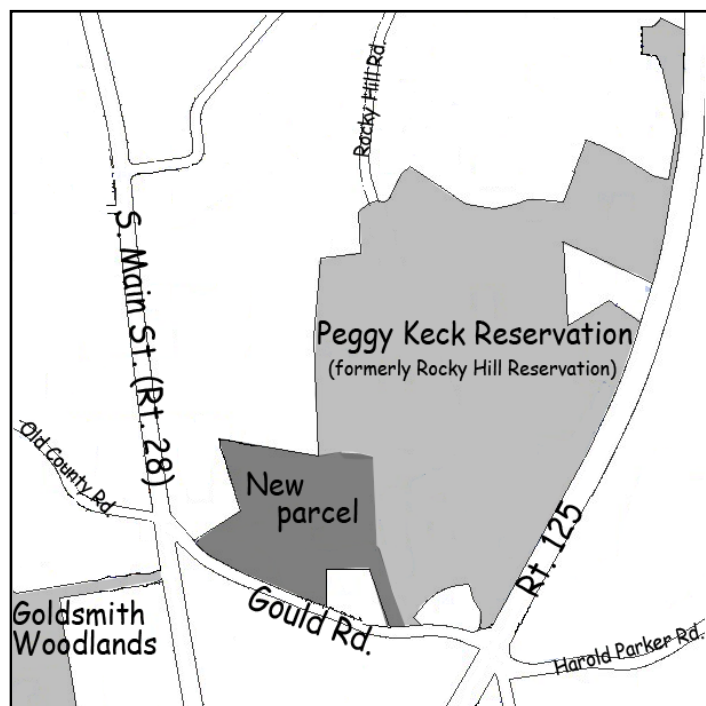


Photo and graphic by Peggy Kruse

The new 8.57 acre addition to the Peggy Keck Reservation is located on Gould Road.

From the president



- Fred Snell

Bad news seems to be dominating the headlines lately. The economy, stock market, and property values are all down, and fuel prices are up. But what does any of this have to do with AVIS?

While the sub-prime mortgage troubles and poor economy have driven down property values, it also means that some of the recent development pressure has been relieved. This means that land owners are more willing to consider selling to land trusts such as AVIS.

AVIS has kept busy pursuing a couple of exciting new parcels of land. We recently closed on the 8.57-acre Cavallaro parcel, and a purchase-and-sales agreement has been signed for our other prospect, the Sellers parcel of 10.5 acres off of Highland road; we hope to close on this land in the fall.

These land purchases mean that most of our land acquisition funds will be used up. We will be ramping up our fundraising efforts to secure grants as well as donations. This spring we formed a Development Committee to focus on fundraising, to increase awareness of AVIS, and to plan special events. We invite any members who wish to advise or serve on this

committee to contact trustee Dave Doub, 978-470-3703.

The high cost of gasoline means more people will think twice about jumping into the car for an long trip. Many more people may visit AVIS reservations instead of traveling out of town. Most residents of Andover have an AVIS property within walking distance of their home or a very short drive away. Hopefully more usage will translate into more support for AVIS.

AVIS has had an active spring and summer. A few trustees and wardens helped lead two trips for elementary and middle school students, and another group of middle school volunteers did trail work at Rafton Reservation. A few trustees are putting together a television show to be aired periodically on Andover Community Cable that will provide more publicity and outreach for AVIS. In May, I did a slide presentation at the Lowell Junction Tri-Town meeting to provide input from AVIS and other environmental groups as to what we'd like to see in terms of walking trails, river protection, and access for walkers, bicyclists and wildlife as this area is developed.

If you belong to an organization that would like a presentation about AVIS, I'd be happy to give one; please contact me at 978-686-3647.

The AVIS reservations: a resource for the whole community



Photo by Kristen Hunt

In June, Ms. Stefanelli's 4th grade class from West Elementary took a nature walk around Baker's Meadow, Indian Ridge and West Parish Meadow, followed by a picnic lunch.



Photo by Peggy Kruse

Al Retelle discusses bird habits and habitats on a birdwatching trip at West Parish Meadow sponsored by the Senior Center.

Pettingill Reservation report

- Fred Snell

AVIS has been monitoring the town's investigations into the elevated levels of arsenic downgradient of Andover's closed landfill by Ledge Road. Among the affected properties are AVIS's Pettingill Reservation and a small section of the Rafton Reservation. Per an order from the MA Dept. of En-

vironmental Protection, warning signs have been posted at the affected sites. The bright side of this is that the wetlands help remove the arsenic from the groundwater and so act to prevent it from reaching the town's drinking water. AVIS is currently engaged in discussions with the Town as to what the future of the Pettingill Reservation will be.

Birding at Baker's Meadow

- Evelyn Retelle

Al and I have the privilege of living beside and being the wardens of one of our favorite birding spots. Baker's Meadow is an AVIS property favored by migrating ducks, geese and nesting warblers.

Beginning in late February, the winter stillness is broken by the return of the male Red-winged Blackbirds giving their trilling calls from the marsh. They are early arrivals to stake out nesting sites in the marsh and to await the arrival in late April of their brown-striped mates. (Who says females aren't the brighter of the two!)

March and April bring in flocks of migrating ducks – Goldeneye, Buffleheads, Wood Ducks, Ring-necked Ducks and Mergansers, Common and Hooded. An Osprey usually spends a day with us fishing in the pond. Tree Swallows are soon seen in flocks picking off the first insects. This display of birdlife is with us only a few days as Baker's is only a stop-over on their migration to the northern nesting grounds.

This is not true of the Canada Geese who come to call as soon as the ice leaves the pond. Usually there are two or three geese nests in the reeds. However, many of the babies succumb to the Snapping Turtle population. It is sad to hear the adults lament the loss of their babies.

Three years ago, life changed on Baker's as two stately Mute Swans appeared, taking over the nesting rights to the entire

pond. This meant that Father Swan, puffed up like a white battleship, would clear the area of those pesky geese by wild chases resounding with powerful wing beats. Some of the harassed geese moved up to West Parish Meadow where seventeen young were seen protected by six adults. So it seems that swans are not a sure way to control the Canada Goose population!

Meanwhile the swan female was incubating three eggs on a raised nest in the marsh that was visible from our win-

dows. Each year three cygnets were hatched and nurtured. For the first time this year we observed the mother taking the little ones on her back under her wings away from danger where they peeked out enjoying their Swan Boat Ride. On

June 9th, we observed only two young. It is a mystery who could be predators of the young of such powerful, attentive parents. In past years only one cygnet was brought to maturity and flew away in November not to be seen again on Baker's.

Great Blue Herons are daily visitors to the pond, fishing for food for their young in rookeries perhaps in the Harold Raf-ton Reservation.

My husband Al and I, and the many birding groups we have shown the wonders of Baker's Meadow, would like to thank the AVIS members for the protection your land gives to the birds and wildlife of Andover as sanctuary so they will have a place for rest during migration and for nesting sites for raising of their young.



Photo by Mary Ann Alwan

Male swan defending its territory against a perceived threat from a Canada Goose.



Photo by Mary Ann Alwan

The swan parents are never far from their babies. The babies' greatest danger is from Snapping Turtles from below.



Photo by Mary Ann Alwan

A Great Blue Heron dries out its wings on the Baker's Meadow Reservation.

New trail honoring Fred and Susan Stott

- Mark Cutler

This spring, the Stott Trail was dedicated in honor of the late Fred Stott and current AVIS trustee Susan Stott. The trail links the AVIS Stanley Reservation with Phillips Academy land at the end of Hiddenfield Road. Stanley warden Emily Trespas and students from PA cleared the new trail.



AVIS trustees Mark Cutler and Susan Stott and AVIS warden Emily Trespas at the dedication of the Stott Trail. Photo by Fred Snell

AVIS thanks ...

- Jim Wilkinson for designing and maintaining the AVIS website and for his able service as co-warden of the Skug River Reservation. We wish you happy trails in your new home in NH.
- Mary Ann Alwan for offering her library of captivating wildlife photographs for use in the cable TV program about AVIS.
- David Dargie for his tireless work maintaining AVIS land. John Zielin, who oversaw Phillip Sweeney's trail clearing project, wishes to thank David especially for his careful guidance on this task including detailed information about tools and deer flies.

Mark your calendar!

AVIS Annual Dinner and Meeting

Tuesday, March 10, 2009, 6 pm

Social hour with cash bar followed by dinner, then a short presentation on a timely environmental topic and a brief business meeting. Come meet and mingle with your fellow AVIS supporters. Location to be announced. All AVIS members are welcome!

Land Management



Photo by Peggy Kruse
Wardens Dick Eldridge and Don Mulligan help with trash cleanup at the Lupine Reservation. The wooden steps were built by volunteers from South Church.



Photo by John Zielin
Philip Sweeney, 14 years old, cleared trail at the Goldsmith Woodlands near Bessie's Point, Boy Scout Hollow and Journey's End as part of a high school biology project.



Photo by David Dargie
David Dargie and Dick Dillon (above) spent many hours installing new AVIS signs at the reservations. Former AVIS president Nat Smith carved and painted the signs at his new home in Vermont.

2007 ANNUAL APPEAL

One of Andover's finest attributes is its abundance of open space. This land, much of which is AVIS land, provides the pastoral-like settings in many parts of town for us to enjoy either in passing its meadows and woodlands or by walking its miles of trails. We recognize here those who have contributed to AVIS over the past year. It is through your contributions that AVIS is able to continue the preservation of its land and its quest to acquire more land.

Donations of \$1000 & over

Joan Canterbury
Rich Cloutier & Peggy Kruse
Matthew Dallett & Mary Pritchard
Lee Doherty
David & Kate Doub
Alix & John Driscoll
Lynn & David Eikenberry
Kay Berthold Frishman *in memory of Ruth Berthold*
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*
Mike & Judy Timko
Norman Viehmann
Waldo Trust
John Wragg
Hayward & Gail Zwerling

Donations of \$250 to \$999

Anonymous
Alexander Asch
David Dargie
Patrick & Pam Denny
Paul & Jane Doucette
Rusty & Doug Dunbar
Patricia & George Edmonds
Carolyn & George Fantini
Alan French *in memory of Mary French*
Carol Tanski & Steve Golden
Wendy & Chris Grobicki
Timothy Horne
Alfred Koch
Debbie Martin
Hank Powell
Jane E. Risch
Marcia & Larry Sharp
Tim & Lucy Vaill
John Woolsey

Donations of \$100 to \$249

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David & Louise Abbot
Max & Denise Arai
Chris & Eleanor Armstrong
Joyce Barden
Kevin & Colleen Bendix
Andrew & Elise Caffrey

Frank & Hanne Castle
Carole & Alex Chanler
Frederick M. Childs *in memory of Richard Hornidge*
Maureen & Billy Collins
Jim & Sue Conway
Charles E. & Margaret B. Crockett
Cathryn & David Delude
Ruth Doyle *in memory of Cricket*
David Dreyfus
Leslie & Joseph Dzialo
Richard & Shirley Eldred
Beverly O. Everett
Stephen & Frances Fink
Gary Fischer
Sheila & Bill Galvin
Kathy & Ted Gilmore *in memory of Mary French*
Mark Goldshein & Stefani Traina
James A. Greer & Kathleen Gilligan-Greer
Ellen Guthrie & John Mankovich
Amy & Joel Janovsky
Ted & Holly Jenkins
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Frank & Sherrie Kimball
John & Margaret Kimball
Philip Kurinsky
Phil LeBlanc *in honor of John Kimball*
Elizabeth Lewis
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James & Mary Lyman
Philip & Susan Malloy
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Robert & Ann Michaels
Barbara & Dick Moody
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Noel & Debbie Nightingale
Elinor Olney *in memory of Richard Hornidge*
James & Julia O'Neil
Rod & Martha Owen
David Palmer
Vincent Paolino
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Michael Roberts
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Stephanie & Franklin Segall
Debbie Silberstein
Audrey & Mark Spencer
David & Dorothy Starkweather
William Steffancin

Tim & Karen Sullivan
Valerie Swett
Carter Tallman
William & Christine Tebbetts
David & Beverly Therkelsen
Geoffrey & Gloria Wager

Donations under \$100

Robert & Susannah Abbot
Jeff Perrone & Cynthia Ade
Liz Anderson
John & Deanna Atchison
Burt B. Batcheller
Grace & Jerry Bird
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Linda Kupka & Sara Brooks
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Susan Feindt & Michael DeLaus
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John Dugan & Carol Baffi-Dugan
Cabot & Ruby Easton
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Arnold Hanawalt
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Art & Kathy Iworsley
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Loki Moccaldi
Robert Morrison
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Joanne Nowak
Mary O'Donohue
Deb Olander & Joe Ferguson
O'Leary Family
Ethel A. Olsen *in memory of Richard Hornidge*
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John Poelker
Ruth & Ed Quattlebaum *in memory of Fred Stott*
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Lance & Donna Shaw
Myrna & Gerry Silverman
Keith Wollman & Claudia Simon *in memory of Kenneth Mansfield*
Barbara C. Somers
Greg & Andrea Stidsen
Liz Tentarelli *in memory of Dick Hornidge*
Joy & Bob Tuman
Marc Tumas
Dave Waller
Peter Walsh
Barbara & David Wrightson
Sarah B. Young
Alan & Jessica Zucchini



Photo by Peggy Kruse

Mike Hellmann and his children, Sean and Elise, play with big bubbles at the AVIS picnic on the Shawsheen River Reservation.

AVIS Calendar

Sun, Sep 14, noon-2 pm. **Wardens Picnic.** For all AVIS wardens. A chance to socialize and discuss land maintenance issues. Held at PA log cabin, rain or shine.

Sun, Sep 14, 1:30 pm. **AMC hike Goldsmith Reservation.** Meet at Goldsmith trailhead, 491 S. Main St. Led by Helen Palmer, 978-657-9153, hpalmer.fournature@verizon.net.

Sat, Oct 18, 10 am-noon. **Hike and history: Baker's Meadow, Indian Ridge & West Parish Meadow Reservations.** Led by Jim Batchelder. Meet at arch at West Parish Cemetery, corner of Lowell St. & Reservation Rd. Rain cancels.

Tue, Mar 10, 6 pm. **AVIS Annual Dinner and Meeting.** All AVIS members welcome. Location to be determined.

For **additional hikes and work parties**, see www.avisandover.org. For **AMC walks**, see amcboston.org/andover.

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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info@avisandover.org

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

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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