

Newsletter

East Quabbin
LAND TRUST



FALL 2013 | VOLUME 10 | ISSUE 4

Conserving the land, Preserving our heritage

Serving the Central Massachusetts towns of Barre, Hardwick, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham, Petersham, Ware, and West Brookfield

| P.O. Box 5, 120 Ridge Road, Hardwick, MA 01037 | 413.477.8229 | www.EQLT.org |

ARE WE MAKING A GOOD INVESTMENT?

If you were able to save a dollar for every \$0.25 you invested, would you consider that a good investment?

That's what the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is doing with its land conservation dollars, states a new report, The Return on Investment in Parks and Open Space in Massachusetts from The Trust for Public Land. "Every \$1 invested in land conservation returned \$4 in natural goods and services to the Massachusetts economy," states the report. These goods and services include water and air quality enhancements, defraying costs of erosion and flood related damage, providing habitat for native pollinators, fisheries and other game species, and augmenting recreational trail opportunities.

From 1998 to 2011 there were 129,000 acres protected through state funding mechanisms using \$412 million. The protected land was broken into thirteen categories of ecosystems, such as mixed forest, cultivated crops or grassland. Woodland, whether deciduous, evergreen or mixed, made up 73% of the land protected – reflecting the wooded nature of the Commonwealth. The per-acre economic value of each of the thirteen categories was estimated from an extensive literature review. Wetlands have the highest annual value of \$2,570 per-acre of return and provide a diverse grouping of services like stormwater moderation, carbon storage, wildlife habitat, pollution control and soil retention. Grassland and pasture have the lowest per acre returns at \$31 and \$58 respectively, but they also provide services such as water and pollution control, carbon storage and animal production.

Land conservation supports the economy through a variety of ways that aren't counted in the 4:1 ratio of this study. Tourism supports nearly 125,000 jobs, providing \$3.63 billion in wages. Outdoor recreation generates \$10 billion in annual consumer spending, of which \$2 billion was spent on wildlife watching or hunting and fishing, all of which rely on quality wildlife habitats and a sufficient land base to support these activities. Combined agriculture,

forestry, commercial fishing and related processing activity are responsible for \$13 billion in output and 147,000 jobs in Massachusetts. That's a lot of jobs, including those of our neighbors!

This report also cites sources reporting the importance of a high quality of life in economic development of the Commonwealth. One study of recent college graduates showed that the availability of outdoor activities was ranked second highest in importance after job availability in determining whether or not to stay in Massachusetts.

A different study looking at high-tech workers showed that job attractiveness increased 33% in communities with a high quality of life. Also, the cultural and recreational opportunities in Massachusetts were cited in Forbes Magazine when the Commonwealth was given the top rank for quality of life in the Best

States for Business and Careers rankings. Clearly having an abundance and diversity of outdoor recreational opportunities increases the chances to retain skilled workers that are critical to the Massachusetts economy.

Most land conserved with funding from the Commonwealth includes public access, often in the form of passive recreational trails. Providing access to places for physical activity combined with informational outreach increases the frequency of physical activity by 48%. Studies also show that as the percentage of park area within a child's neighborhood increases, so does their physical activity level. As access to trails and parks increases physical activity, the result is better health with fewer missed days of work, higher productivity at work and fewer doctor visits.

In conclusion, this study states that "conservation lands contribute to the economic well-being of the state by attracting visitors who spend money in local communities; supporting local farmers, forest product workers, and fisherman acting as a catalyst for rural and urban economic development; and leading to major savings in health care costs." ■



A visitor to Mandell Hill enjoying the trails through the fields.

MESSAGE FROM THE Executive Director

Cynthia Henshaw



Dear Friends,

As our lead article highlights, making an investment in land conservation does pay off for our economy. The report shows the numbers most easily quantified. There are other benefits that come along with having open space in our communities, more intangible benefits that we often aren't even aware of. Things like having a place nearby to take your children or grandchildren for a walk to see the fall foliage or migrating warblers along the riverbank. There is an increasing understanding that spending time outdoors in nature has real health, mental and spiritual benefits. We just don't know how to quantify them yet. If we did, the benefit investment ratio would be much higher.

As members and supporters of the East Quabbin Land Trust, you know that your contributions make a direct impact on the communities that you care about through more land conservation and stewardship. The East Quabbin Land Trust maximizes those investments and encourages your participation. We work in partnership with other organizations, landowners and volunteers to keep moving forward.

For instance, through the MassConn Sustainable Forest Partnership, a Forest Legacy land conservation application was submitted to the US Forest Service for funding to conserve an additional 1,000 acres in the region. This application involves seven landowners in Monson, Palmer, Belchertown and Ludlow. These properties are largely wooded and are sustainably managed for wood products and wildlife habitat. Several properties provide trails for passive recreation. We worked in collaboration with Opacum Land Trust, Kestrel Land Trust and the Monson Conservation Commission to combine our resources, making it possible to apply for funding that would otherwise be inaccessible to any one organization.

Many of our volunteers are also collaborating with one another. A current focus is the Coxhall Kitchen Garden, the one-acre area surrounded by beautifully constructed stone walls dating from 1775. Over thirty trees and invasive Japanese barberry, multiflora rose and honeysuckle occupied the interior. In recent weeks the trees were removed and the remaining vegetation was cleared. The largest stumps will be cut down to ground level. Next season we expect to run pigs, and maybe goats, in the area to help root up the invasive plants and make it possible to open the Kitchen Garden for picnics and general enjoyment of this historic feature. We are deeply grateful to Harrison Achilles, Linda Leehy, Jeff Smith, John Freeman, Jane Freeman, Rod Leehy, and Caren Caljouw for putting in extra volunteer hours and money to make this possible.

Your investment in the East Quabbin Land Trust, both financially and with your time, reaps great rewards for you, your family and community. Thank you! ■

THE EAST QUABBIN LAND TRUST

works to foster the sustainable use of our natural and historic resources for the benefit of all generations through the conservation and stewardship of the farmlands, woodlands and waters in our region of Massachusetts.

As a non-profit organization the East Quabbin Land Trust envisions a regional community that continues to care for its natural environment and supports a sustainable local economy, ensuring a high quality of life for generations to come.

We welcome your thoughts, articles, and photographs on events in our area. For more information about the land trust, to become a member, or request a change of address, please contact us at:

East Quabbin Land Trust

120 Ridge Road, P.O. Box 5
Hardwick, MA 01037-0005
413-477-8229 (tel & fax)
email: EQLT@comcast.net

Visit our website at www.EQLT.org

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Pattie Rich	Bookkeeper
Nate Grady	Service Learning Coord.

ELLEN ENDTER: THIS IS WHAT I BELIEVE

By Judith Jones

Ellen Endter is the newest member of the EQLT Board of Directors. She and I, and Cynthia spent a day together running the Land Trust booth at the New Braintree Fair. Part of the day, Ellen and I worked on this interview for the newsletter.

Each of these interviews tries to introduce you to someone new and illustrate why our members, our volunteers, and our staff are committed to our organization. We also aim to provide some education, which is a part of our mission. Importantly, we try to make you, our supporters, think about why what we do is necessary and help you understand why we are always asking you for more.

In sitting down to write up the interview, I found Ellen's words compelling. I set forth here, her perspective, in her own voice, from the quotes I took down in my notes.

This is what I believe about my life: The best way to use my talents is through education. Most of my career has been focused on education. I have been a classroom teacher, and a museum educator.

Once when I was between jobs, I tried to define what I was good at and what I wanted to do. My conclusion was 'Finding out interesting or important things and learning how to share it.' Well that is teaching and that is what I am good at.

A job opened up at Bates College, a development job. Fundraising. I didn't know I wanted to do that. My boss said, "It's just like teaching. You learn about an organization and you share that with people." I worked on the Bates reunion giving, and then on their capital campaign. It was the first capital campaign for them, in a long time.

I found I really loved it. Just as my mentor said, you care about what an organization does, and you prepare, and you go out and share that with people who can help. The good fundraisers really care about the organization they are working for, and they can share their enthusiasm and passion.

After Bates, I became the Director of Development for an independent school in Pennsylvania, but in time I wanted to come back to New England. I came to Amherst College to work on a campaign for them. In a job like that you travel a lot. It's a cycle. The more expertise you have, the more you travel. I enjoy travel, but I don't enjoy being away from my home, family and my animals.

Eventually, we bought our farm in Ware and started an equestrian business. Having grown up on a farm in Pennsylvania and having horses, I have always had some place in the country. There two things that are clear to me:

1. I feel it is incredibly important to have access to

the land. It's vital for my son to have a place he can come home to and connect to the land.

2. I realize how quickly the land is being gobbled up in not very thoughtful ways.

I feel the land in the East Quabbin region is a really special place. The farms are beautiful. The vistas are those that you can't see anymore elsewhere, because the Quabbin shelters us. There is a way of life here that is intimately tied to the land. I believe passionately in preserving the land.

I became more involved with the Land Trust after Cynthia and Judith came to my house for fundraising advice. I realized then, that to act on my passion, I should be doing more to help. Any way I can help preserve this area that gives me so much and sustains me, is a really good investment. I'd like to convince as many people as I can to participate in this preservation effort as well.

If all you can do at any given moment is to talk to someone and convince them to conserve and steward the land and the water resources, then it will have been worth it. The benefits will support it. If, in 50 years, this is still preserved, then all we have done will be a success. It's a long-term kind of thing.

The Land Trust has done an amazing job this year raising money for its Capital Campaign: Farms of the Future Fund, The Sustainability Fund for stewardship and The Conservation Restriction Fund. These are the exciting, visionary programs that donors are motivated to give to. These gifts, though, are restricted for use only as designated. So even though we have had this success, we still need financial support for the operational side of the organization.

As a donor, you have to be willing to understand that being asked for your help to save a special property goes beyond the purchase price. Your help is needed on the unexciting aspects of the work. It takes hard work on someone's part and hard work takes money.

The land is dynamic. It changes and it needs attention. To launch a conservation effort—the unsexy part—it takes time and energy. There is bureaucracy and legal work. You have to pay for light, heat, computer, and telephone, for starters. One of the hardest things to raise money for is paper and pencils. And for people's time.

If everyone who believes in the importance of the Land Trust chips in, there will be enough money here to realize our wider vision and still fund our day-to-day needs. Participation, even on a tiny level, makes the Land Trust's success possible. If you tell a good story, who wouldn't want to get in on that? ■





It is utterly amazing how fast the leaves change from green to the full panoply of red, yellow and gold. Happens every year, but have you noticed how much attention is paid by people in New England? You can hear conversations about those leaves wherever you go in the East Quabbin region. A casual remark at the Big Y or a more analytical discussion at Rose 32. The view across the pastures at Mandell Hill, the sunlight filtering through a gilded canopy along the trails at Moose Brook. We all have our favorite spots.

And we all anticipate the influx of visitors to our neighborhoods; visitors from nearby Boston or from farther afield. We trust that people will be drawn to our forests and fields. We recognize that those gilded canopies translate into real dollars, spent by tourists to view and experience what we enjoy every day. Elsewhere in this newsletter you can read about how preserving land yields positive economic benefits. Tourists come. Jobs are created. Employers know that a locale with plenty of outdoor recreation is a lure for

great employees. For us the picturesque and dramatic setting is simply where we live. For the hoards who flock to our community, this stretch of valleys and hills, farmland and town greens are incredibly beautiful. So beautiful, in fact, that the trip is worth taking—worth the gas used, the hotel room rented, the delicious meals consumed and paid for.

Let's decide as individuals and as a community that we won't let those leaves ever stop presenting their multi-hued vista. Don't ever let those farm fields vanish. And let's acknowledge that preserving the glorious landscape around us is a cost we are willing to pay. Contribute to EQLT and help pay for the hard work that goes on quietly in the background, to document, secure, protect and maintain our home base. Make your donation now, online, or send a check with the form below, or call us at 413-477-8229. And then grab a rake and make a big leaf pile for your favorite kids to jump on. ■

East Quabbin LAND TRUST



Conserving the land, Preserving our heritage

<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Friend	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Patron
<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Supporter	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Benefactor
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Guardian	<input type="checkbox"/> Other \$_____

I'd like to keep my donation anonymous.
 My gift will be matched by my company

I'd like to volunteer (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Trail Clearing	<input type="checkbox"/> Property Stewardship	<input type="checkbox"/> Leading Events
<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Writing	<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising	<input type="checkbox"/> Grant Writing
<input type="checkbox"/> Gardening	<input type="checkbox"/> Mailing Parties	<input type="checkbox"/> Office Work
<input type="checkbox"/> I have other ways to contribute. Please call me! _____		

Please make checks payable to: East Quabbin Land Trust. **THANK YOU!**
 Contributions to the East Quabbin Land Trust are tax deductible under federal regulations.
 Contributions of stock are acceptable. We do not share our mailing list.
 Please print clearly.

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Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

STATION LOOP RAMBLE 5-MILER

Sunday, October 13, 2032, 10:00am

Depot Road, at the intersection of West and Hardwick Roads, New Braintree

A hilly road and trail race with a flat fast finish on the Mass Central Rail Trail

Race begins and ends at the site of the former New Braintree Train Station, travels past scenic farmland, and through deep woods, and skirts the Ware River. Adults must accompany children running this course. Each mile is marked and mid-run water stop provided. Post race refreshments and free raffles to all entrants.

Entry fee: \$20.00 per adult -- \$10.00 for children age 13 and under
All fees are none refundable.

Registration: Begins at 8:30am and ends at 9:30am on October 14th.

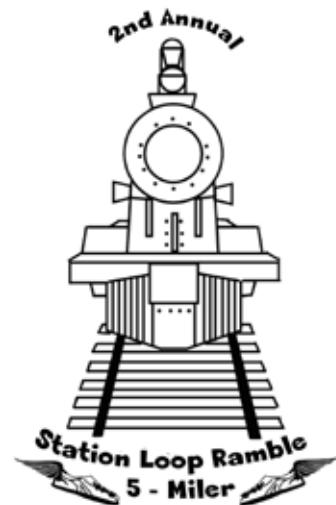
Make checks payable to: East Quabbin Land Trust, Inc.

Mail to: East Quabbin Land Trust
P.O. Box 5, Hardwick, MA 01037-0005

Age Groups: 18 & under, 19-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70+

Prizes will be awarded to the overall first place male and female finishers, and the top finishers in each category... plus a prize for the youngest participant!

For more information, contact Cynthia Henshaw, 413-477-8229, chenshaw@EQLT.org



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Name: _____

Age on race date: _____

Address: _____

Sex: M _____ F _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

T-shirt size: S____ M____ L____ XL____

Email: _____

Waiver of Responsibility must be signed for registration to be considered valid.

I agree to assume all responsibility for all risk of damage or injury to me as a participant in this event. In consideration of being accepted as an entrant in the East Quabbin Land Trust's Station Loop Ramble 5-miler, I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, release and discharge all organization and individuals associated with the race from all claims, damages, rights of action, present or future, whether the same be known, anticipated, or unanticipated, resulting from or arising out of, or in incident to, my participation in this event. I hereby certify that I will not participate in the run unless I am physically fit and sufficiently trained for completion of the event. I also give permission for the use of my name and/or picture in any broadcast, photograph or other account of this event.

Signature (required) _____

Parent Signature (if under age 18) _____

INTRODUCING NATE GRADY

EQLT's new Americorps Service Learning Coordinator

The East Quabbin Land Trust welcomes Nate Grady this month as our new Service Learning Coordinator. Nate grew up in Littleton, MA, and spent much of his childhood roaming the forests and wetlands around his home, through which he developed an early appreciation for the natural world. After four cold years in Wisconsin, where he earned a bachelor's degree in environmental policy from Lawrence University in 2011, Nate was drawn back to New England to serve as an environmental educator and land steward for Glen Brook, an outdoor education facility in southern NH. While there he developed a passion for education and a keen interest in inspiring love for the outdoors in young people. Nate worked primarily with students from New York City, most of whom had limited experience in nature. Though it was a challenge, he grew to love the process of enabling these students to feel comfortable and safe in the 'wilds' of New Hampshire, and to instill in them a little bit of ownership for this world that sustains us.

Most recently Nate worked at the Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA), where he ran analyses and built GIS maps of major street renovation sites in the Boston area. Through this work, CRWA was able to advise the city of Boston and other municipalities to better manage their storm water drainage systems, and limit pollutant runoff into the Charles River. Having worked along this major Boston waterway, Nate was interested and eager to work in the Quabbin region, another important, if controversial, Boston water source.

Nate is excited to draw from his environmental education and GIS experience in his work at the East Quabbin Land Trust, and is looking forward to connecting with local schools and youth groups and coordinating service learning opportunities. These will range from leading trail clean-up days on preservation land, to working with local artists and writers to create children's literature focused on conservation, to using GIS to craft a long-term strategic conservation plan for the East Quabbin region. Nate is particularly excited to apply his background in

service education and watershed management to the land conservation movement, and to gain experience with the legal and financial aspects of running a regional land trust. Additionally, Nate is looking forward to incorporating his artistic side into his work at EQLT through the children's literature project. Having spent years drawing and painting as a hobby, Nate is thrilled about the opportunity to collaborate with local artists, while also producing a much needed product.

In his free time, Nate enjoys woodworking, drawing, painting and cooking, not to mention spending ample time outdoors. He is in the process of completing his second canoe, which he is building in New Hampshire out of thin strips of cedar that he bends around a central skeleton. As an avid canoeist, he can't wait for the day he can actually launch and paddle his own boat! As a result of this hobby, Nate has fostered a deep appreciation for craftsmanship and skill-based lifestyles, and enjoys the freedom and empowerment his woodworking expertise affords him.

Nate comes to EQLT as part of the 2013-14 class of Americorps members associated with the Massachusetts Land Initiative for Tomorrow (MassLIFT) program, which is based at the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust. MassLIFT is dedicated to increasing the capacity of regional land conservation initiatives in Massachusetts,

and is composed of 13 member organizations, all of which focus on conserving land throughout the state. The MassLIFT service members expand the capacity of their host organizations through a wide range of projects, including training volunteers to monitor local wildlife species, garnering community interest in conserving historic lands, and empowering students to become caretakers of the natural world.

If you are the leader of a community group or are generally interested volunteering to help conserve local landscapes, and want to explore the possibility of a service learning project, please contact Nate at servicelearning@EQLT.org. ■



Nate Grady getting to know the new trail segment at Mandell Hill while marking it for future explorers.

INVADERS OF THE WOODS

Starting with the first organism, migration to new areas is the norm for all living creatures on Earth. So what's the big deal about invasive plants? Why should we care? A forester can give a practical perspective about the issue.

Jim DiMaio's professional life focused on promoting healthy forests across the country, and most recently in Massachusetts. "Diversity is the key to healthy woods. One problem with invasive plants is that they choke out native tree seedlings making it difficult to plan for the future" commented Jim. If left unchecked plants such as Japanese barberry, burning bush and honeysuckle can take over vast swatches of woods. The only way for a landowner to sustainably harvest timber from their property is to ensure that new individuals will have the space, sunlight and water to survive. "Removing the invasive plants is an integral part of any long-term sustainable forest operation" said Jim.

Since retiring as Chief Forester for the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Jim serves as Tree Warden for the Town of West Brookfield. As tree warden, one of his goals is to host workshops relevant to community members. With over thirty people in attendance on a beautiful August evening, Jim hit the target.

Workshop participants were focused on how to control invasive plants. Before we got there some of the biggest culprits of invading our woods were identified and samples passed around the circle. Here's a sampling of the information shared:

- Glossy buckthorn and Common buckthorn grow to be small trees and form dense thickets. The berries from both plants are enjoyed by a variety of birds and thus spread quickly. The seeds can remain viable for a decade or more, making it really important to remove the tree before seed set. Buckthorn can be removed manually, but be sure to get the roots out completely so they can dry and not re-root.
- Oriental bittersweet is a vine that grows into the tree canopy and shades the host tree leaves eventually starving the tree. This is the vine that produces beautiful red berries with a yellow case that is often used in home decorations. Use of bittersweet is discouraged because the spent vine and seeds are often thrown out the window or in the compost pile, allowing the plant to get established and spread.
- Japanese barberry is a short spiny bush that forms thickets, often initially along waterways. The plant



Jim DiMaio

produces chemicals that act like herbicides on other species, making it easier to spread and dominate the forest floor.

Check on-line for details about these and other invasive species and how to control their spread.

The group continued to the next station where Calvin Layton from Northeast Utilities started with a few take home messages. First, read the label. Herbicides can be bought at farm supply or box stores, but their use is only legal if you follow the directions and use it on your own land. Secondly, he encouraged each landowner to choose the right invasive plant control method for them and their situation. Herbicides are one possible option because those chemicals kill the plant roots. Some invasives respond effectively to mechanical removal, especially if you get going as the invasion is starting. Third, each herbicide works in different ways. Some are amino acid inhibitors and others are cell disrupters. Some work on grasses, others not. Some are permitted near water, others not. It can be complicated. Calling in a professional should always be an option.

If you are going to use an herbicide, then you want to apply it where and when you'll have the most impact. To apply herbicide to the leaves, it is best done when it's dry outside and the stomates are open, either early in the day or later in the afternoon. Representatives from Northern Tree Service had a backpack sprayer and a mist blower to show landowners what they look like. In general, the mist blower will be more effective and use less herbicide than a backpack sprayer. Mist blowers work by blowing the leaves over, which means that the herbicide gets applied where the stomates are located. When mist blowers are used the herbicide concentration can be reduced. Applying herbicide to the stump is effective, but takes more time if you're trying to cover a large area.

The evening ended in Jim's garage with an assortment of food, drinks and neighborly talking! This walk was sponsored by the MassConn Sustainable Forest Partnership, the Southern New England Heritage Forest Partnership, and the Town of West Brookfield. SNEHF is a 3-state working group of public and private partners combining efforts to ensure the future of our woods. This project is funded by a U.S. Forest Service grant through the North East State Foresters Association. The East Quabbin Land Trust is a member of the MassConn Sustainable Forest Partnership. ■



Caren Caljouw introducing invasive plants

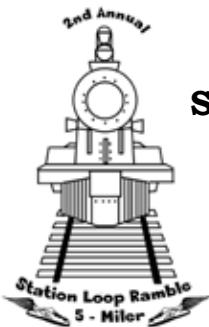
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EQLT News | INSIDE...



Second Annual Station Loop Ramble 5-miler

**Sunday, October 13
Starting gun at 10 am**

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UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER...

Sunday, October 13, starting gun at 10:00 AM

Second Annual Station Loop Ramble 5-miler - A hilly road and trail race with a flat fast finish on the Mass Central Rail Trail. Entry fee: \$20 for adults and \$10 for children age 13 and under. For full details and to register go to www.EQLT.org under the Events tab or contact Cynthia at chenshaw@EQLT.org or 413-477-8229.

LATE OCTOBER OR EARLY NOVEMBER...

On a date to be determined and weather dependent

Prescribed burn at Deer Park Preserve, Barre Road, Hardwick – Two years ago a 10 acre section of the property was cleared to make way for shrubby wildlife habitat. To keep the woods from returning a portion of the area will be burned. If you are interested in helping prepare or participate in the prescribed burn, please RSVP to Caren at ccaljouw@EQLT.org.

NOVEMBER...

Saturday, November 9, starting at 9:00 AM

Clearing of the Bob Marshall Trail, meet at the Petersham Common to carpool – The Bob Marshall Trail runs through the woods from North Main Street to Tom Swamp, nearly two miles of hiking across various parcels of conservation land. Come help finish off this beautiful trail that leads to a unique wetland complex. RSVP to Nate at servicelearning@EQLT.org.

DECEMBER...

Friday, December 6

Holiday Open House, EQLT Offices, 120 Ridge Road, Hardwick – Bring your family and friends for an open house at the offices of the East Quabbin Land Trust. We'll have hearty hors d'oeuvres and sweets, plus beer, wine and cider. If you want to bring something to share please do, but bringing something is not required! Come celebrate another successful year of land conservation and stewardship with old friends and meet new neighbors. Contact Cynthia at 413-477-8229 or chenshaw@EQLT.org with any questions.