CONSERVATION OF THE MUDDY BROOK VALLEY:
The Zander Tract
By Cynthia Henshaw

The Muddy Brook valley is a special place. The brook begins in the northern reaches of Hardwick, in wooded wetlands along the Barre border. Flowing southerly the brook eventually reaches the Ware River south of Ware town center, after flowing in and out of Hardwick Pond and then Snow Pond, under Route 9 (West Main Street) and Route 32 (Palmer Road). Driving on the state roads it’s understandable if you miss Muddy Brook, but further upstream where the water meanders a bit, and rich wetlands edge the hillslopes, Muddy Brook is hard to miss.

Water is essential to life. And life is teaming in Muddy Brook, at the edge of Muddy Brook, and in the woods and fields in the valley. This area was part of a larger pitch pine – scrub oak bar- ren that spanned parts of Hardwick, Ware and Palmer on the sandplains left after the last glacier receded. In prior issues of the EQLT newsletter we’ve discussed the conservation value of pitch pine, rare moths in the area, and related stewardship activities at the Frohloff Farm. Because of the significant natural resources, conservation in the Muddy Brook valley is a priority of the East Quabbin Land Trust and conservation partners, with some recent successes to highlight.

The second Zander Tract (100 acres) was recently purchased by the Commonwealth’s Dept. of Fish and Game. This land sweeps down the eastern slope to Muddy Brook from Turkey Street in Hardwick. At the water’s edge is a glacial landform called an esker, one of those wavy linear sand-ridge deposits that formed as meltwater filled giant cracks in the underside of the receding glacier. Esker’s are usually steep-sided, often host different plants than the surrounding landscape, and can block drainage forming wetlands behind them. In this case, a large shrub-swamp breaks the wooded slope from the esker. Numerous rare species are found on the Zander Tract including a rare moth, American bittern, state-list orchid and a red maple-black ash natural community that is also rare. Many common wildlife also finds food and shelter there because of the extensive floodplain shrub wetlands, marshes, and beaver ponds that provide habitat for waterfowl, wading birds, muskrats, otters, and other wetland-dependant wildlife. In addition, this new acquisition includes a 50-acre barren with remnant pitch pines, scrub oaks and other plant indicator species, that fits into the larger barren habitat currently being restored by the Commonwealth along Muddy Brook.

The first Zander Tract was conserved in 2005. The land trust and Commonwealth knew that this land was special. Originally the 200-acre property was under agreement to be sold for a gravel operation and then residential housing. When the purchase and sales agreement was presented to the Hardwick Selectboard asking for disposition of the Chapter 61 right of first refusal, the land trust asked the town to exercise its right to match the signed purchase and sales agreement, and assign it to the land trust. Towns rarely act on their right of first refusal, but this ability is an important feature allowed by state law. The Selectboard agreed, and the land trust moved quickly to see the property conserved.

Working through a Chapter 61 right of first refusal process takes fast, decisive action to meet the specific deadlines and conserve the land. That’s precisely the role that a land trust can undertake. Though things do get more complicated and take longer with an unhappy developer trying to stymie the process. In this case, the tremendous natural resources and opportunity for public use of the land countered any difficulties, leaving a biologically rich area intact in the middle of the 11-mile Muddy Brook corridor.

The East Quabbin Land Trust continues this work to accomplish important parts of its mission in the Muddy Brook corridor, including the conservation of open space and key wildlife habitats, maintaining public access, and preserving recreational opportunities such as the existing trail network. It’s with the extraordinary dedication of the region’s landowners, land trust members and agency commitment to unique areas that make conservation of the Muddy Brook valley possible.
MESSAGE FROM THE Executive Director

Cynthia Henshaw

As members of two regional partnerships in central Massachusetts, the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership and MassConn Sustainable Forest Partnership, we a part of the organizing team to expand the number of landowners sharing their stories of action and supporting others as they move further along their stewardship paths. There are many diverse opportunities, both indoor and outdoor, for landowners to attend. The scheduled programs are funded by the US Forest Service Landscape Scale Restoration program grant. More details about these and future offerings can be found at our website, www.EQLT.org.

On January 28th we are hosting a Women in the Woods session. This is an opportunity for women landowners to meet others and share an informal exchange of questions, problems, and strategies for owning, managing and planning for their land. We will take a short walk focused on wildlife habitat improvements followed by a light lunch. This is a great opportunity for women to share their unique perspective on caring for the natural world.

In February Attorney George Dresser will spend an evening with landowners thinking about long-term planning. Often the land is one’s most valuable asset. How the land is owned or transferred at death has big impacts on families. Conservation of property can be an important tool, and general strategies will be shared with attendees.

People own land for a variety of reasons. By sharing stories, we gain insight and new perspectives on how to care for our own land moving forward. In March we are hosting a story night, led by people from the East Quabbin region. We’ll also take the opportunity to contemplate the writings of influential authors, like Aldo Leopold, “When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.”

Additionally, a $7.6 million USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service grant through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program was awarded to the Southern New England Heritage Forest partnership. Starting this year, these funds will be available for landowners wanting to complete eligible forest stewardship practices and long-term conservation. The over-arching goal is to keep our forests as forests, maintaining as much unfragmented, core forest as possible. This work will unfold over the next five years.

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.

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

Visit our website at www.EQLT.org or “Like” us on Facebook!

EAST QUABBIN LAND TRUST

BOARD & STAFF

Judith Jones ..................... NEW BRAINTREE, President
Mark Mattson ..................... OAKHAM, Vice-President
Jerry Reilly ..................... HARDWICK, Treasurer
Stan White ....................... HARDWICK, Clerk
Stephen Brewer .................. BARRE
Ann Hicks ....................... NORTH BROOKFIELD
Mick Huppert ................. PEETERSHAM
Martha Klassanos ............. WARE
Ginny Rich ...................... BARRE
Rick Romano ................. HARDWICK
Harry Webb ...................... HARDWICK
Cynthia Henshaw ........... Executive Director
Richard Cavanaugh .......... Development Coordinator
Pattie Rich .................... Bookkeeper
Terry Briggs ................. Board Emeritus
Chris Buelow ................. Board Emeritus
Lucinda Childs ............... Board Emeritus
BILL ZINNI: Helping Others When I can
By Cynthia Henshaw

Within a week of Bill’s December 1996 arrival in Hardwick a winter storm dropped a foot and a half of snow. “I grew up shoveling snow, but after getting about 30 feet from the house, that was enough. I was looking in the phone book, trying to find a plowing service when the ground started to shake and rumbling noises came from the driveway.” Looking out the window Bill could see a guy in a red truck plowing with a little blond-haired boy in the passenger seat. “I’m your neighbor and thought you might need a hand”. That was Bill’s introduction to the neighborhood, where everyone looks after each other.

It’s the sense of community, “being able to help others, where I can and when I can” that makes Hardwick a special place for Bill. Even though Bill works full-time, he makes time to share his passions with others around town. Bill has served on the Conservation Commission for ten years, actively engaged in land trust committees and activities for over fifteen years, and shared his musical talents throughout.

During the day Bill is a biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). He successfully transformed his childhood passion for playing in the farm ponds near his home in Rhode Island into a full-time career working to identify and protect critical wildlife habitat across the northeast. There are times when Bill gets to check out wetlands and wildlife areas along the Chesapeake Bay (VA), or Lake Umbagog (NH), or the Ohio River (WV) as he assists in the planning and stewarding of the National Wildlife Refuge system.

Recently a new refuge was announced, the Great Thicket National Wildlife Refuge. This is a special refuge because it’s focused on building partnerships with other stakeholders to provide critical shrub and young forest habitat across six states. The targeted areas are known to support the New England cottontail, our native rabbit species that’s declining and under consideration for being listed as “Threatened or Endangered.” The goal is to support and contribute to the efforts of private landowners, state wildlife agencies, land trusts, Natural Resources Conservation Services, and others in protecting and promoting the dense woody growth where the New England Cottontail thrive.

That can mean cutting trees and making large openings, then letting the vegetation grow back for five to twenty years and cutting it again. This process is similar to the recent re-clearing at the Deer Park Preserve on Barre Road in Hardwick, only we don’t have New England Cottontail in Hardwick. But other species like the Blue-winged Warbler, Field Sparrow, Eastern Towhee and Whip-poor-wills also need the dense young woody growth. The new refuge can protect up to 15,000 acres in ten focus areas in the coming years. The first parcel was recently donated by The Nature Conservancy in Dutchess County, NY.

In his early teens, Bill’s uncle taught him how to play guitar. Those lessons and encouragement turned into a life-long gift of music, one that he passes on to others. Bill started out with guitar, but he plays lots of stringed instruments – ukulele, mandolin, banjo, fiddle, and keyboard. Playing music results in a natural network of friends and sense of community. Contributing live music with others at the Hardwick Farmer’s Market or other events, like the land trust dinner, gives Bill the opportunity to share his talent and bring joy to the listeners.

There’s no doubt that his youthful wanderings led Bill to a wildlife degree at the University of Rhode Island, where he spent lots of time looking at aerial photographs through a stereoscope. A stereoscope turns two flat images into a three-dimensional view of the earth. Bill’s main task was to identify wetlands and wildlife habitat features. All this undergraduate work led to jobs at various wildlife agencies, eventually landing at UMass working on the National Wetlands Inventory for the USFWS. After several years at UMass Bill joined USFWS as a biologist and continued focusing on wetland mapping, as the GIS (Geographic Information Systems) technology materialized.

When the USFWS built their headquarters in Amherst, it gave Bill a chance to get back into a rural setting that wasn’t too far from his roots in Rhode Island. When a realtor suggested checking out several places in the East Quabbin area, Bill quickly looked them up on the aerial maps. The land, now his property, along the eastern shores of Hardwick Pond, include special wetland areas and an esker. The fact that the house wasn’t finished didn’t matter. The land felt right. This was a chance to invite his family and friends to share the beautiful land, help with projects and make memories together. Nieces and nephews call the place ‘Uncle Bill’s Camp’ and friends say ‘Camp Zinni’. That’s just how Bill wants it... a place where people feel welcome and able to share themselves. Inviting people to Hardwick Pond is another way that Bill helps others.
Thank You for Your Financial Support in 2016!

Every gift is important to us and helps fulfill our mission together. We are only able to accomplish important conservation, stewardship and education efforts with your support. Thank you for your generosity! We apologize for any errors or omissions.
Gifts in Memory of

Rick and Leo
Richard Bachhold
Walter W. Bortnick
Ray Buelow
Ann Carey
John Jenkins
Chuck Kidd
Betty Morss
Kathleen and Danny Naff
Anne Perkins
Jeffrey Perkins
Newt Prouty
Barbara and Bill Rogers
Allen Rubin
Henry Scott
Francis Smith, Jr.
Hans Thoma
Janette Watson
Clarence E. Westall
Donald T. Williams
Robert M. Wood
Dede Zietlow
Maggi Ziff

Foundations

Cardinal Brook Trust
J. Irving and Jane L. England Charitable Trust
Fleming Family Foundation
Plourde Family Charitable Trust
The Fine Fund

Corporations

Bay Path Pomona Grange #9
Berube Real Estate
Cherie Bengo Realty - Keller Williams
COMECC
Common Grow, LLC
Country Bank For Savings
Craig Della Penna, Realtor
Dresser and McGourthy, LLP
Hannaford Supermarket
Hardwick Girl Scouts
Hardwick Farmers Coop
Hardwick Kilns div. of Cersissimo Lumber Co.

Gifts in Honor of

Judy Bothwell’s 80th birthday
Charlie Burnham
Caren Caljouw
Bill Cole
Henry’s Grove
Ann Kidd
Jerry and Liz Reilly
Wendemuth Meadow

Rod and Linda Leehy
Charles and Aline Lemaitre
Richard and Talitha Lent
Max Leroux
Suzanne and Thomas Lewandowski
Karen and Harry Lewis
Tom and Susan Libbiss
Bruce Lockhart and Gus Block
John and Joyce Lofgren
Kristen Lofgren
Stephen Lofgren
Barbara Long
Hilary and Stephen Loring
Mary Anne and David Lougee
Robert Ludwig
Forest and Diane Lyford
David Maher
Ken and Diane Mammone
Michael and Nina Marcinowski
Dr. Myron and Suri Maron
Margaret and George Marshall
Donna and Ray Matthews
Doris Matthews
Mark Mattson and Judy Lane
Teresa Mazik
Sarah McCue
Neil McManus
Bailey Metcalf
Glenn and Cynthia Mitchell
Daniel and Janet Moran
James and Denise Moran
Barrett Morgan
Michael and Karen Morrison
James Morrissey
John and Jennifer Mott
Angela Amer Moya
Margaret Munns
Brandy Murphy
James E. Nafi, Jr.
Diane Nasif
Tim and Anne-Marie Nolan
Scott and Kate Norrie
Ida and Jim Nystrom
Susan O’Brien
Debra and Jordan O’Connor
Kathleen O’Connor

Russ and Haran Phaneuf
Carl and Anne Phillips
Roger and Serra May Plourde Jr.
David and Deborah Poppel
Chris Powell
Jessica Powers
Kenneth Prestwich and Catherine Langtmim
Ari and Jeanneane Pugliese
Caroline Raisler
Laura Rankin
Megan and Joe Raskett
Claire and Richard Reavey
Virginia Reed
George and Elizabeth Reilly
Calia, Carlee and Catelyn Rich
Don and Ginny Rich
Eugene and Patricia Rich
Nancy Riener
Susan Riley
Raymond and Pamela Robinson
Meghan and Timothy Rodier
Cynthia Romanos
Richard Romano and Lisa Nash
Barbara and Dick Rossman
Ruth Rubin
Douglas and Maureen Sanderson
Michael and Mary Ellen Sanford
Evelyn Saunders
Peter Schmid
Tom and Judy Schmitz
Thomas and Donalyn Schofield
Charlene Schulman
Jessica Seem
Robert Shapiro
Fraser and Jean Sinclair
Nancy Skamarycz
Alysa Smith

Stephen and Octavia Taylor
John and Linda Tomasi
Susie Townsend
Howard and Carlin Trietsch
Philip and Josephine Trueisdell
Lynn Tupper
Barbara and Bill Turner
Matthew Tworog
Theodore and Susan Tworog
Will and Anne VanArsdell
Sylvia Varney
Diane and John Vayda
Priscilla Vincent
Catherine Walker
Randi and Joan Walker
Philip and Mary Warbase
Eric and Sarah Ward
Doug and Marion Waugh
Ray and Cassie Waugh
Harold and Michelle Webb
Kimberly Wells-Dufresne
Patricia Wendler and Winnie Nazarko
Jochen and Mary Ann Welsch
Maureen Wesolaski
Bart Wendell and Sandra Whaley
Bill Wheatley and Jane Duderstadt
Carl and Peg White
Stanley and Abbie White
Morgan Whitney
Holly Wielisma
Sandra Williams
Eric Wynn
Rodney Wirkos
Glen and Sue Wojcik
Paul and Cheryl Wolfe
Annemarie Wood
Diana and David Wood
Dorothy Wood
Paula Wood
Sargent Wood and Bonnie Chen
Henry Woodsey
Mary Woodsey and Mark Peterson
John and Ann Woolsey, III
Edward and Grace Yaglou
Paul and Sheila Youd
Linda Young
Howard Ziff
Bill Zinni

Cardinal Brook Trust
J. Irving and Jane L. England Charitable Trust
Fleming Family Foundation
Plourde Family Charitable Trust
The Fine Fund

Bay Path Pomona Grange #9
Berube Real Estate
Cherie Bengo Realty - Keller Williams
COMECC
Common Grow, LLC
Country Bank For Savings
Craig Della Penna, Realtor
Dresser and McGourthy, LLP
Hannaford Supermarket
Hardwick Girl Scouts
Hardwick Farmers Coop
Hardwick Kilns div. of Cersissimo Lumber Co.

John O’Keefe
Kathleen O’Connor

Bertyme Smith
Ellen and Bob Smith
Jeffrey and Holly Smith
Joyce Smith
Audrey and Kenneth Sny
Jim and Linda Snider
Tom and Karen Steele
John Steelmakos
Martin Stansowitz
Amy Stukuls and Eli Baricau
Jacob and Susan Stukuls
Sara Subik
Stephen Swingle and Pat Benjamin
Ann Townsend and Richard McCrae
Audrey and Kenneth Sny
Connor Sny
NONPROFIT LAND TRUSTS:
Born in Mass. over 100 years ago and still relevant

By Richard Cavanaugh

The East Quabbin Land Trust is part of a long tradition of non-profit organizations dedicated to land protection, and its mission has become more relevant with time.

Simply put, non-profit organizations allow ordinary citizens to work together for purposes that benefit the public at large. They take many forms, small or large, such as food pantries, social service providers, art museums, colleges and universities, hospitals, and land trusts. They have played an important role in this country, starting more than a century before we even became a country. The first nonprofit corporation in America was Harvard College, which in 1636 was placed under the authority of a board of twelve overseers and which in 1650 was chartered as a corporation with an administrative body consisting of a president and fellows. This division of work, between an unpaid, oversight board and an accountable executive, continues to this day in most nonprofits, including the East Quabbin Land Trust.

Massachusetts is also the birthplace of the first private nonprofit land trust. By the end of the nineteenth century, efforts were underway to protect many of the natural wonders of the American West, but there were individuals who saw the need to take private action to help protect the more densely populated regions of the East, and they formed The Trustees of Reservations over 125 years ago.

Nonprofit land trusts are flourishing here in Massachusetts. Citizens are taking interest in farmland preservation, local food, urban green spaces, community gardens, smart growth, and resilience to climate change — all priorities that can be addressed through land conservation. As Andrew Bowman, president of the Land Trust Alliance, points out, land protection addresses some of our more pressing questions:

- How do we ensure clean and abundant water supplies?
- How do we foster healthy child development, physical vitality and learning?
- How do we stem a national health crisis and provide opportunities for people to exercise and recreate?
- How do we secure local, healthy, and sustainable food?
- How do we make sure that iconic American ways of life, such as hunting, fishing and forestry don’t die out?
- How can we lessen climate change?

By supporting the East Quabbin Land Trust, you help:

- protect our pastures, wetlands, and forests, which in turn can protect our water supplies;
- provide outdoor experiential learning opportunities for our children;
- offer spaces for exercise and fresh air;
- keep agricultural land affordable;
- maintain habitats for hunting and fishing; and even collect and store carbon.

Scientific researchers at The Nature Conservancy have determined that more than 30% of the climate change goals that world leaders established at the 2015 Paris Climate Convention can be achieved through nature-based solutions. Such as stopping deforestation and restoring coastal ecosystems, can get us more than a third of the way to the emission reductions needed by 2030. If we protect nature, nature can protect us.

Land conservation also reaps economic benefits. In 2014, The Trust for Public Land conducted an economic analysis of the return on the Massachusetts’ investment in land conservation through a variety of state funding programs and found that every $1 invested in land conservation returned $4 in natural goods and services to the commonwealth’s economy. In addition, land conservation supports key industries that depend on the availability of high-quality protected land and water. According to MA Office of Travel and Tourism, investments in land and water are a major driver of Massachusetts’ $30 billion tourism industry. According to Farm Credit East’s report, “The Overlooked Economic Engine: Northeast Agriculture,” investments in protecting our prime agricultural lands support our $13 billion agriculture industry. Hunting, fishing, and wildlife associated recreation provides $1.8 billion from trip-related and equipment expenses. According to the Center for Agriculture, Research & Education at the University of Massachusetts, protection of timberlands maintains a $1.64 billion forest products industry.

The East Quabbin Land Trust, like other tax-exempt nonprofit organizations that meet strict I.R.S. requirements, depends on tax-deductible donations to conduct its work. In recent months, reports surfaced of proposals to limit the amount of tax deductions available for charitable donations. As these proposals come before the U.S. Congress, we urge you to consider them carefully to see how they may affect our communities and our work together through the East Quabbin Land Trust. At a time when land trusts contribute so much to our communities, we don’t want to see new tax policies discourage contributions to the East Quabbin Land Trust. There are few other opportunities where we can think so globally and act so locally.
CARING FOR THE LAND:
We have a Tractor! Now let’s build a garage

By Cynthia Henshaw

Long-time East Quabbin Land Trust supporter, Howard Ziff, answered EQLT’s prayers when he offered his Ford 1500 tractor with its bucket and mower. Thank you Howard for making this gift in memory of Magi Ziff!

The East Quabbin Land Trust now cares for 1,284 acres of fields and pastures, wetlands and wet meadows, streams and ponds, hardwoods and hemlock stands. These areas are part of our daily backdrop of beautiful views, special walking spots, and homes for many plants and animals. There are many benefits of keeping these acres in their “natural and open” condition (that’s standard I.R.S. language), but that doesn’t mean the East Quabbin Land Trust takes a hands-off approach to caring for the land. We’re actively engaged and host monthly work days to tackle projects like clearing trails, cutting or burning brush piles, moving rocks, or building bridges. That work will get a lot easier with a tractor. Here are a just few ways that we plan on using it:

1. The East Quabbin Land Trust has over eight miles of trails, and at least ½ of them are possible to mow with a tractor. Mowing those sections, including the three miles of Mass Central Rail Trail, will be much faster with the tractor. Up to now, we’ve mostly used a walk-behind mower. That’s a lot of steps to keep the grass down and trails open.

2. Maintaining the interior of the Coxhall Kitchen Garden means about 20 hours of weed-whacking, twice a year. The front half of the enclosure can be mowed, significantly reducing the amount of volunteer time needed to keep the Kitchen Garden looking good.

3. We live in New England where rocks are plentiful and trees reclaim fields in short order. Being able to move heavy rocks or push brush into piles is a real advantage as we work to improve the trail networks and field edges.

Help provide the foundation of our garage fundraising campaign with your gift towards the goal of $5,000 to put in the foundation! We’ve enclosed an envelope with this newsletter for your convenience. Thank you for your commitment and dedication to caring for the land.

The stewardship team, especially Harrison Achilles(!), is excited to welcome the tractor to our small stable of tools and to increase our efficiency in caring for the land. Housing the tractor and tools is also important to make sure they last a good, long time. Building a garage at our office location on Ridge Road in Hardwick is a critical next step.

The East Quabbin Land Trust is exploring the possibility of working with carpentry and electrical students from Pathfinder Technical High School to build a garage. Construction is targeted for the 2017-18 academic year, and the cost is estimated to be $40,000. We envision a 2-½ bay garage. That’s enough space to store the tractor, walk-behind mower, brush cutter, loppers and extra project lumber. Plus, there is space to build a work bench and storage shelves for miscellaneous bolts, nuts, hand tools, trail markers, property boundary signs and much more.

Bluebird Houses for Sale! $20 each

Harrison Achilles made 20 bluebird houses in support of the garage construction effort. Get yours by contacting Cynthia at (413) 477-8229 or chenshaw@EQLT.org.
WINTER 2017 | VOLUME 14 | ISSUE 1

UPCOMING EVENTS...

JANUARY...
Saturday, January 28th, 10 AM - 1 PM
Women In The Woods, Gilbertville: From managing wildlife habitat to working with your family to determine the future of the land, women face an array of weighty issues concerning land ownership. A leisurely walk in the woods will be followed by a light lunch and informal exchange of your questions, problems, and strategies for owning, managing and planning for your land. Space is limited, pre-register by contacting Cynthia at (413) 477-8229 or at chenshaw@EQLT.org.

FEBRUARY...
Thursday, February 23rd, 6:30 PM - 8 PM
Love Your Woods, But What’s Their Future?, Senior Center, North Brookfield: Come learn about how to care for your land today and protect it in the future. Join us for this free workshop and hear from attorney and land conservation professional, George Dresser, about estate planning and land protection. Light refreshments will be provided.

MARCH...
Sunday, March 19th, 2 PM - 4 PM
Finding Native American Artifacts, Town Hall on the Common, Hardwick: Evidence of human communities can be found in the fields and woods of our region. Join several neighbors as they show us items they’ve found, including arrowheads, pottery shards and much more.

SAVE THE DATE...
Saturday, April 29th, 5:30 PM - 9 PM
Sixteenth Annual Dinner and Silent Auction, at Eagle Hill School, Petersham Road, Hardwick: This is our signature fundraising event with a silent auction that benefits more land conservation and stewardship in the East Quabbin region.