



## Preserve Size Nearly Doubled

By Cynthia Henshaw

The land rises to the south, with small hills and valleys, left over from the last glacier and rainstorms over the last 10,000 years. Occasionally there is a small mound and pit, caused by a tree tipping over from a wind storm leaving a pile of soil where the root ball used to be. Recent storms have tipped over more trees, continuing the natural process of regenerating the woods, allowing lots of sunlight to hit the forest floor for seedlings to catch and convert the solar energy to sugars, helping them grow.

Birds, insects, and small and large mammals like these woods. Some portions are better habitat than others. Places where insects can eat and breed are the best for species like the Chestnut-sided warbler and White-throated sparrow.

Thirty-three acres of woods in West Brookfield were recently purchased and added to the Pyncheon's Grist Mill Preserve, off Wickaboag Valley Road. This conservation success was possible because of donations from local supporters, West Brookfield Historical Commission, EQLT membership and the landowner's commitment to the process. Ms. Confar began planning her transi-

tion out of West Brookfield a year ago and approached us to see if we wanted to purchase some land to expand the Preserve. With a resounding 'Yes!' together we worked out an agreement that met her financial goals that we could afford. Her commitment to land conservation is a critical part of the story.

Ms. Confar's Hamlet Grove Farm was a proposed, but failed subdivision several decades ago. Ms. Confar bought the larger parcel to conserve it and farm the land. She raised chickens and her own horses. Most recently Blue Star Equiculture had 22 horses at the farm. When the remaining property is sold a new farm family will have their chance to raise livestock and know that the land to the north will always be woods.

Our consulting forester, Roger Plourde, recently finished a bird habitat management plan for the 75-acre preserve. Not surprisingly, a key item on the 'to-do' list is control invasive plant species. The land includes a half-dozen of note, but bittersweet, burning bush and multiflora rose are the main enemies for natural regeneration of our native plants. That's going to be a combination of her-

bicide use and hand pulling for many years to get the threat of invasive plants under control.

Improving the vehicular access is also part of the plan. The woods road crosses Sucker Brook at the western edge of the land and nearly every spring the culverts prove inadequate to the job. Installing an open-bottom culvert is better than what's there now. Wildlife of all sizes can move up and down stream through an open-bottom culvert and flooding risk is minimized with the larger opening size. We also expect to expand the walking trail network, linking the new acreage in with the existing trail system.

Cutting some of the existing trees will improve bird habitat conditions too. The management recommendations include creating a multi-acre opening near the pond to start increasing sunlight to the forest floor. Any cutting can only be successful if the invasive plant populations are significantly reduced. We do know that more can be done to improve habitat for our native birds. We encourage you to be part of making these beneficial practices at Pyncheon's Grist Mill Preserve in the future. ■



*"I loved this property from the first day I saw it in May 2008, and the more time I spent there the more I loved it. There are so many legacies if you know where to look, from the huge old tree I call "crazy pine" to the stone-lined wells and walls of the original farmstead, to the sprouts of the American chestnut stumps that refuse to give up, to fragments of the old Bay Path trail.*

*Selling this acreage to the EQLT is placing it into hands that can manage it better than mine alone, starting with reducing invasive species. It will remain accessible to the public and a haven for wildlife and I couldn't be happier to have the EQLT stewarding this land into the future."*

*-Darcie Confar*

## MESSAGE FROM THE Executive Director

*Cynthia Henshaw*



In addition to all the information otherwise noted in this newsletter, there is more to share!

Our first online auction was a great success, raising over \$7,000 through purchases and direct donations. A huge thank you to our Events planning team, including Nancy, Judith, Edie, Ginny, and Rebecca. Having missed our annual dinner back in April, it was great to offer the many donated auction items to you. The bidding was fierce, especially for adventures, experiences and consumable items like the wagon ride in Barre hosted by Senator Stephen Brewer and the lamb meat packages donated by Abbie and Stan White at Whitesfield Farm in Hardwick. We raised money and had fun! Keep your eye out for an auction in spring 2021.

New trails for walking, birdwatching and biking are in the works this fall. As the leaves drop for winter, the terrain and unique features of land are more visible. We'd love your help creating a loop trail in the woods at E-Pete Farm in Oakham, off Ware Corner Road. Also, a trail to the Old Reservoir in Barre, once holding back the water

that powered mills all along the Prince River, will wind through the mixed oaks and dense hemlock woods of the Prince River Preserve. We'll announce the volunteer work events through email, social media sites and the newspapers. Join us, there are ways that volunteers of all ages and abilities can help make these recreational trails a reality.

Measuring progress and making adjustments is essential to meeting the needs of our communities. Our board of directors is gathering soon for a fall retreat. The agenda includes discussion of how we're doing halfway through our five-year strategic plan, especially in light of challenges raised in 2020. Two questions we will consider: What opportunities are there to reach new audiences with our mission to conserve and care for the land? Are there other programs to spearhead that will benefit the residents and visitors to the East Quabbin region? If you have ideas or suggestions, please share them with me so that together we have the most impactful organization possible. ■

## 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 farms, woods and waters in our region of Massachusetts.

**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  
Email: [EQLT@comcast.net](mailto:EQLT@comcast.net)

**Visit our website at [www.EQLT.org](http://www.EQLT.org)  
or "Like" us on Facebook!**

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Mark Mattson.....	OAKHAM, <i>Vice-President</i>
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# Transformative Gifts: A Legacy of Loren & Elaine Gould

By Cynthia Henshaw

Loren and Elaine Gould took Sunday afternoon drives out into the countryside in the early 70s. On one fateful day, they drove into Hardwick, crested the hill and found their way to Old Petersham Road. They fell in love with the land. That was that. They bought 10 acres and began five decades of gardening in Hardwick.

The Goulds had a passion for all things living. You can tell they practiced treating the earth kindly by how they stewarded their land, spending whole days outdoors in the gardens and building paths that invited exploration. The Goulds also enjoyed caring for the generation before them. Loren and Elaine wrote two books on handicrafts for the elderly, participated in a retired citizen volunteer program, and cared for both their mothers. After their parents passed away, that's when the Goulds moved from Worcester to settle in Hardwick.

Loren and Elaine didn't have children of their own, but reveled in nieces, nephews, cousins and extended family. Family reunions tended to happen on Hardwick Community Fair weekends, as is common around here. The older generation got to sleep in the house, but the kids stayed in tents. Part of the fun was following the paths, exploring what each turn had to offer. More than likely there would be a bench strategically placed letting you know that it was okay to slow down and enjoy being outdoors in the garden.

The East Quabbin Land Trust recently received a significant financial gift in memory

of Elaine and Loren to support our projects and programs. Our intention is to strategically target these funds towards efforts that they cared about – gardening, education and community connections.

Native pollinators – insects, birds, and mammals – are all on the decline; insects especially because of pesticide use. Our efforts to promote plants for pollinators will accelerate with this financial support from the Goulds. We intend to triple the number of pollinator gardens on our preserves or town-owned parcels, and each year continue expanding, making our region a mecca for pollinator insects.

Loren Gould was a geologist and taught at Worcester State University. To honor this, plans to enhance our educational efforts around caring for the environment are underway. Interpretive signage at preserves, video programs and more family-sized gatherings will be part of the offerings.

Connecting communities together through trails, particularly the Mass Central Rail Trail, is another focal point for funding. Our experience with the three miles in Hardwick and New Braintree, with the added ½ mile at the Frohloff Farm in Ware, has driven home the importance of connecting these segments together. Later this fall as you explore the rail trail keep an eye out for a granite bench honoring Loren and Elaine. Through their generosity and foresight, their legacy can transform the future as we practice treating the earth kindly. ■



*Loren & Elaine.*



*Loren playing croquet.*



*Loren & his award-winning cookies.*

## Loren's Gingersnap Cookies

3/4 cup canola oil  
 ½ cup cane sugar  
 ½ cup brown sugar  
 2 eggs  
 1/3 cup molasses  
 2½ cups (gluten free) flour  
 1½ tsp baking soda  
 2 tsp ground ginger  
 2 tsp cinnamon  
 ¼ tsp cloves  
 Additional sugar

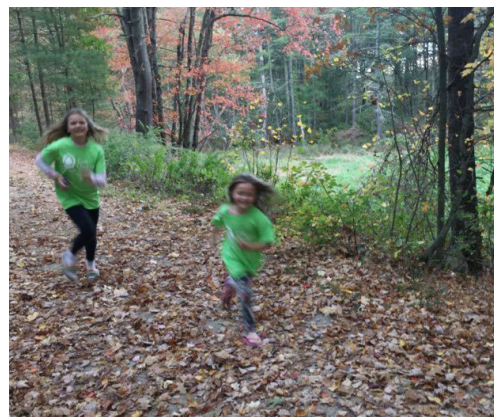
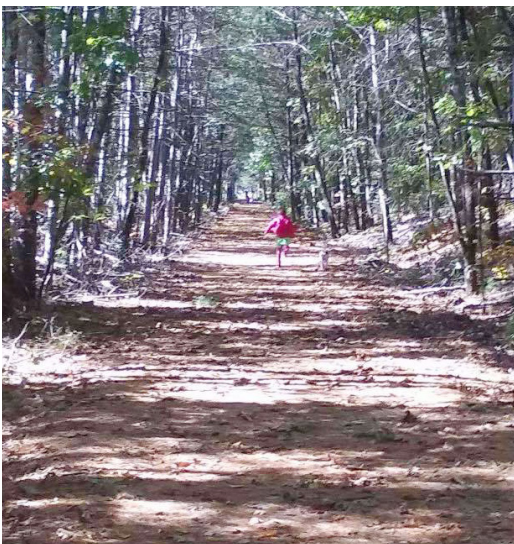
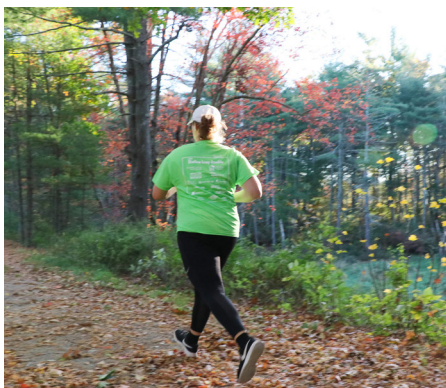
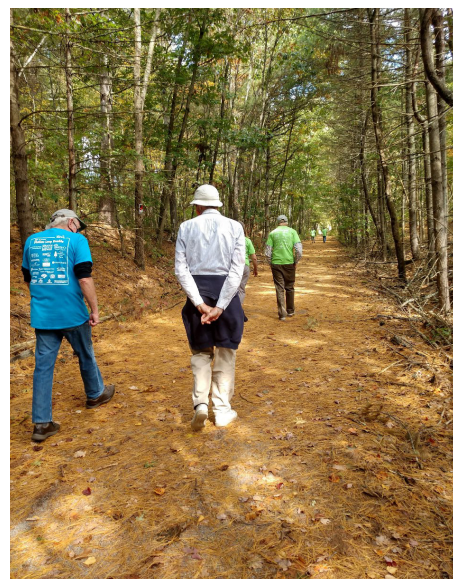
1. In a large bowl, cream oil and sugars until light and fluffy. Add the eggs and molasses and mix well.
2. Combine the flour, baking soda, and spices. Add to the creamed mixture.
3. Chill dough for 1-2 hours.
4. Roll into 1-inch balls. Place 2 inches apart on baking sheets. Flatten cookies with the bottom of a glass dipped in the extra sugar.
5. Bake at 350° for 13-15 minutes or until edges are set. Remove to wire racks to cool.

Makes 5 dozen cookies.



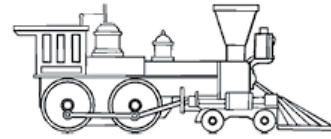
# 2020 Virtual Station Loop Ramble

**With so much pent-up energy from the last six months, it was more important than ever to get out and run/walk (safely!) This year's Station Loop Ramble was a virtual race, and families and individuals rambled on their own schedules throughout the first week of October. Check out some of the photos!**





# Thank You to our Race Sponsors!



2020

## Station Loop Ramble

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# Time to Get Cray with the EQLT

By Pat Allison

Do you remember when you were a kid playing in your local stream? Maybe you were searching for critters, perhaps to bring home with you as a pet, annoying your family members in the process! One of these animals may have been a crayfish, a small crustacean that looks like a little lobster. Such moments in our young lives are fond memories for many, including myself. Now, as I start my AmeriCorps service year as the Youth Education Coordinator with the East Quabbin Land Trust, I am excited to create moments like these for local families and communities!

I grew up in southeastern Pennsylvania, where I attended Delaware Valley University to obtain my B.S. in Conservation and Wildlife Management. In order to graduate, I needed to work 500 hours in my field. I accrued some of my hours by volunteering at Valley Forge National Historical Park, where I assisted with the removal of an invasive crayfish species from the park's main stream. I enjoyed it so much and fell in love with the thought of working with crayfish. Since then, I've continued to work with these charming arthropods. I graduated with my M.S. in Biology from West Liberty University, and wrote my thesis on the crayfish of western Pennsylvania. Just like that, I had gone from a fresh volunteer to one of Pennsylvania's three crayfish experts!

I want others to experience the discovery of their own passions in nature! Becoming an educator allows me the opportunity to teach others about the wonders of our world, whether they be about how glaciers shaped our landscape, or the ecology of a particular crayfish species. I firmly believe that by creating opportunities for youth to explore nature, they may discover a passion that sticks with them for the rest of their lives, much like what happened to me with crayfish.

How can I provide this experience for others? One of my service projects is an educational program called Brookside Adventures. Families or individuals can sign up for a session where we will explore their local streams to learn about the aquatic ecosystem of their area. We may encounter various animals, ranging from small aquatic insects to crayfish to freshwater mussels! The project already kicked off a few sessions in September, and the program will return later in spring when everything warms back up.

COVID-19 presents difficulties for everyone this year. As an educator, providing programming that is both engaging and informative is a challenge, especially in a pandemic! I am ready to overcome this challenge and have planned several virtual learning experiences. One of my service projects will be creating a virtual book reading program.

I will record myself reading a variety of books that are focused on the environment or conservation. "The Lorax" by Dr. Seuss is one example of a book that will be part of this program. Parents will then have access to these videos and can share them with their children. A follow-up exercise that engages viewers will also be provided. This creates a way to interact with youth without any risk, and also creates an opportunity to reach a wider range of audiences that would normally not be able to attend in-person. That aspect is particularly exciting for me, as I want to create a fun and engaging experience that will reach as many people as possible!

Perhaps the thing I'm most eager for is engaging with new communities. I have interacted with people from a wide range of backgrounds in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and other states in my travels. However, I have never been to New England before, so this is a brand new experience for me! In order for me to provide the best educational experience I can for these new communities, it is important that I listen to what everyone has to say and learn from them. I encourage all to reach out to me ([youtheducation@eqlt.org](mailto:youtheducation@eqlt.org)) and tell me your story, so I may have a better understanding of why you love the EQLT, your communities, and the natural world around us all. ■



Pat and Vladia looking at one of the Quinebaug River Crayfish they caught.

***"By creating opportunities for youth to explore nature, they may discover a passion that sticks with them for the rest of their lives, much like what happened to me with crayfish."***  
**-Pat Allison**

# Discover How Your Support Makes a Difference this Fall

## *Will you support these projects?*

Make your gift at EQLT.org or send a check to the East Quabbin Land Trust at P.O. Box 5, Hardwick, MA. Include a memo note to support your favorite activity.



### Raise Funds for Trailer to Transport the Tractor

We currently have to drive our little blue Ford tractor along the roads to mow our trails and brush-hog fields. A trailer for moving our tractor will save staff and volunteer time, money, and emissions as we care for our expanding list of trails and preserves. The goal is to raise \$5,000.



### Expand Our Pollinator Pathway

Pollinators are declining, and together we can bring them back! Let's plant native pollinator plants throughout the East Quabbin Region. With your support we will host seed swaps, plant swaps, and plant give-aways! The goal is to raise \$1,000.



### Support Virtual Communications with a New Laptop

We're depending on virtual forms of communication and education to achieve the mission of the land trust, e.g. creating educational videos for kids and instructional videos for at-home projects. All of this work requires powerful video editing software, and we need a new graphics computer to be sure we can produce this work. The goal is to raise \$2,000.

## GIVING TUESDAY – December 1st, 2020

*#GivingTuesday is a day when millions of people across the world come together to support the causes they believe in.*

### When you support EQLT this #GivingTuesday:

#### Your gifts will be matched!

A generous supporter will **match up to \$20,000** of gifts made as part of #GivingTuesday. "I like leveraging my annual gift to the East Quabbin Land Trust by offering a challenge to its members and supporters. Together we discover so much when we conserve the farms and woods of the region, and then explore and care for these lands throughout the year. This works leaves the world a better place for all." -- Generous Benefactor

#### Receive a 10% off coupon to TidePool Bookshop!

The first 100 #GivingTuesday donors will receive a 10% discount coupon to the TidePool Bookshop, an independent bookstore located at 372 Chandler Street in Worcester. The owners, Jo and Huck Truesdell are strong supporters of land conservation and the East Quabbin Land Trust. Huck was a founding board member and served for 10 years on the Board of Directors.

### Here's How You Can Get Involved:

1. No need to wait until December 1st to take advantage of the match and bookstore discount! Write #GivingTuesday on your check or make a note if you give online at EQLT.org.
2. Share what you *discover* or hope to discover about this region, thanks to EQLT and the work of its volunteers, on your social media pages.
3. Contact Rich at (413) 477-8229 or Ravanaugh@eqtl.org to coordinate social media efforts.





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Hardwick, MA 01037  
Phone 413-477-8229  
[www.EQLT.org](http://www.EQLT.org)

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## INSIDE: Transformative Gifts: A Legacy of Loren & Elaine Gould



FALL 2020 | VOLUME 17 | ISSUE 4



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## UPCOMING EVENTS...

### Lunch on Soapstone Hill

**Sunday, November 8th, 11 AM | Quabbin Reservoir, Gate 36 off West St., Petersham**

Pack a lunch and take a hike to the top of Soapstone Hill. Enjoy the views looking out over the reservoir!

### Holiday Open House on Magi's Lawn

**Friday, December 4th, 5 PM | EQLT Office, 120 Ridge Road, Hardwick**

Start the holiday season by spending an evening with friends and neighbors at the East Quabbin Land Trust. Join us around fire pits for mulled cider and bagged goodies. Don't miss the fun!

### New Year's Day Walk or Ski

**Friday, January 1st, 12 PM | Mass Central Rail Trail, 1700 Hardwick Road, New Braintree**

Start 2021 off with a walk or ski (conditions depending) at the Mass Central Rail Trail, 1700 Hardwick Road, New Braintree. Bring your whole family and make new friends!



*Prepping the pollinator meadow at Seven Acre Preserve in Petersham.*



*Removing tires from the new conservation project at Prince River Preserve in Barre.*



*Joy (the mule) and Tex (the donkey) grazing at the Kitchen Garden in Hardwick.*