



# ESSEX COUNTY GREENBELT

Volume 2, Summer/Fall 2005

## Notes from the Field

Newsletter for Greenbelt's Volunteer Property Monitors

**Greetings** from Greenbelt! It's hard to imagine that fall is nearly here again. Please mark **October 6** on your calendar as the date of the **Annual Property Monitors Meeting** at the Cox Reservation in Essex. We'll begin the meeting at 6:30PM, and we'll wrap it up with a GPS workshop, so bring your GPS if you have one! We hope you're all having a great summer, and look forward to seeing you all in the fall.

Best,  
Dave Rimmer & Kate Walton,  
Stewardship Department

### **Stewardship News**

Greenbelt has recently released a new logo; and we are in the process of having new trail and boundary markers printed with the new logo. If your property needs trail markers, please contact us at the office and we'll make sure you get some to post at your property.

Greenbelt stewardship staff are also beginning management plans for select properties. Over time, we will have plans for all our properties. For more information, contact us at the office.

### **Trail Days**

Please join us on **September 23**, for a trail work day at **Tompson Street Reservation** in Gloucester from 9AM-1PM. Meet at the Fernald Street entrance at the cemetery. Please bring water, work clothes sturdy shoes and gloves. Greenbelt will provide some beverages and snacks.

Please contact the Greenbelt office if you have any questions or would like to sign up. (978) 768-7241.

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Please tell us about what projects you are doing at your Greenbelt property, and we'll put you in our a Property Monitor profile in this newsletter!

### **Invasive Species in New England**

Controlling invasive plant species on our properties has been an ongoing effort of Greenbelt staff and volunteers over the years. You can help by identifying invasives on your property and working with us to develop a control strategy.

#### **Invasive Species Profile:**

##### **Purple Loosestrife** (*Lythrum salicaria* L.)

You've all looked out across a wetland area in July and August and seen a sea of tall purple flowers. As pretty as it looks, this is an invasive plant species; a non-native North American species. Purple loosestrife is a perennial, herbaceous wetland plant that reproduces through the dispersal of its seeds. It was brought to the U.S. either by boat or farm animal, and was spread by garden plantings.

The threat is its ability to completely dominate a wetland area, which then prevents native wetland plants from growing. Since it produces up to 2.5 million seeds per plant and establishes a seed bank, it is extremely difficult to eradicate.

The best non-herbicidal method for removal is hand-pulling the plant and the entire root out before the plant has set seed. This method is time consuming and difficult, and must be repeated and monitored annually. The plants must also be placed in trash bags and then burned or placed in a landfill.



Photo courtesy of Linda Wilson, University of Idaho

#### **For More Information and Sources Cited:**

[www.invasive.org](http://www.invasive.org)  
Invasive Plant Atlas of New England;  
<http://invasives.eeb.uconn.edu/ipane/>



## Property Profile

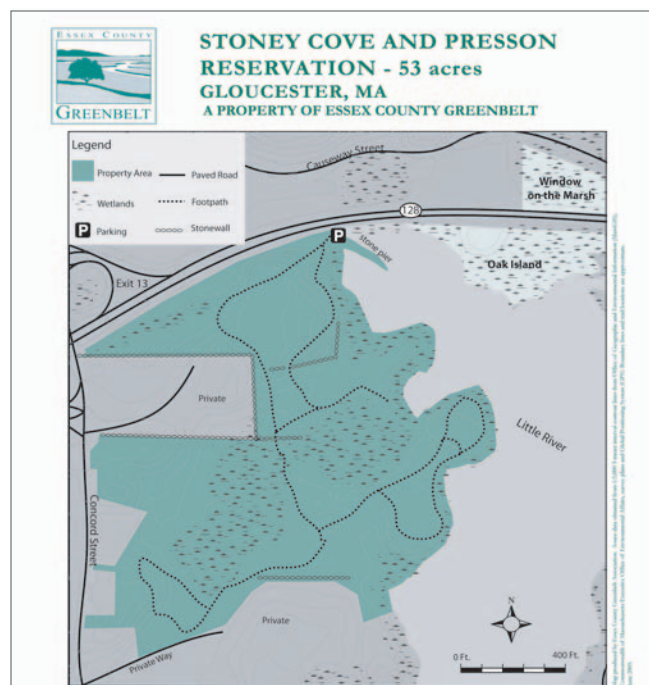
### Stoney Cove Reservation

The 53 acre reservation lies on a bend of the Little River, which joins the Annisquam River as it runs to the sea from the inland side of Gloucester. This property, in the heart of salt water farming country, combines a colonial history with exceptional ecological value.

Stoney Cove has been a crossroads connecting West Gloucester to Gloucester since the earliest colonial days. West Gloucester colonists had to walk across the marsh, then row across the Annisquam River, to attend compulsory church services at the Green near the site of the present day Chester Grant Circle. In 1694, an initial public route was established by means of a ferry over the river and a causeway built over the marsh to the mainland near the head of Stoney Cove. The current location of Route 128 is superimposed over the old causeway in the immediate Stoney Cove area.

In colonial times, wood and lumber were undoubtedly floated and poled down the Little River and the Annisquam River for the thriving trade with Boston, and salt hay left its marshes in heavy flat-bottomed boats called "gundalows." In the late 1800's barges left Stoney Cove at high tide loaded with granite from the quarries off Concord Street. Little Pit was once part of a quarry said to have provided brown granite for St. Margaret's Church in Beverly Farms, was later used as a swimming hole by local children, and is now a tranquil pool of water lilies.

Although the shorter of two wharves is now under Route 128, the remaining pier sees constant use today, with people fishing, birdwatching, picnicking and just looking at the Little River with its lovely view of the marshes and the city of Gloucester in the distance.



### Directions:

From Route 128: Drive north toward Gloucester. Proceed 0.3 mile beyond the Concord Street, Gloucester exit #13. Watch for the stone pier on the right, before the bridge. Pull off Route 128 into the breakdown lane as soon as you see salt water on the right. Park in the pullout off Route 128 just before the stone pier.

### Stoney Cove Property Monitors:

Greg Doe & Boy Scout Troop #60, Jill Christiansen, Jim Delameter and John Nelson

### Property Monitor Profiles

Mike and Jen Agosti of North Andover are property monitors at Greenbelt's Bald Hill properties, including the Price Reservation and Prichard Woodlots. This fall, on **November 27**, they are leading a walk for Greenbelt at the Price Reservation in Boxford. To sign up, please contact the Greenbelt office.

This spring, Kate Walton met with Stuart Saginor, property monitor of the Spofford Pond Property in Boxford. They were able to find entrances to the property that were difficult to identify without the use of the GPS. Stuart posted property boundary signs so that access to the property is apparent along the roadside.

