



ESSEX COUNTY GREENBELT

Volume 3, Spring 2006

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Newsletter for Greenbelt's Volunteer Property Monitors

GREETINGS from Greenbelt's Stewardship department! Hopefully you all enjoyed the winter; despite the lack of snow and strange weather. There's been a lot happening here at Greenbelt - from management planning to a larger, more diverse monthly walk series - we've been keeping ourselves busy. In this edition of Notes from the Field, you'll find trail maintenance tips, volunteer opportunities, invasive species management, a property profile, and a list of Greenbelt events. As always, we welcome your comments. Enjoy!

Best,
Dave Rimmer & Kate Walton
Stewardship Department

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

Trail maintenance is an important task that you can undertake quite effectively as a property monitor. After a winter like we've had, there are a lot of trees down and branches in trails. As you are out walking, here are handful tips for trail maintenance at your property.

- Cut branches that reach into the trail above head level for hikers, bikers and horseback riders.
- Cut branches and saplings flush with the trunk or ground.
- Use hand saws for smaller blown down trees.
- Report any blown down trees across trails to Greenbelt.
- Report any perennial wet areas on the trails to Greenbelt.

TRAIL CARE & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

APRIL 7, 9AM-NOON

CARTER RESERVATION, GLOUCESTER

APRIL 22, 9AM- NOON

COX RESERVATION SPRING CLEANUP

MAY 12, 9AM-NOON

BEVERLY COMMONS, BEVERLY

JUNE 3, 9AM

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY;

WILLOWDALE MILL, IPSWICH

SEPTEMBER 8, 9AM-NOON

CARTER FIELDS RESERVATION, BOXFORD

TO SIGN UP, OR FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT KATE.

INVASIVE SPECIES PROFILE:

Black Swallow wort (Cynanchum nigrum)

Black swallow-wort, a member of the milkweed family, is an herbaceous, perennial vine with dark, glossy-green, simple leaves. The small flowers are deep purple (almost black) and bloom in clusters. The fruit typically grows in pairs and looks like slender milkweed pods. Similar to the native milkweeds, the seed is winged and quickly spread by the wind. The vine can grow up to six feet, twining on surrounding plants, and is difficult to control.

Black swallow-wort is native throughout central and southern Europe and Asia and was introduced into North America as a horticultural plant that quickly escaped cultivation. Swallow-wort is an aggressive exotic species and quickly invades disturbed sites. It can also be found in old fields, pastures, fence rows, and road ditches. It has also been found invading managed landscapes and high-grade, native prairie.



Pulling the plants usually leads to resprouting but can be used to prevent seed production. Pull once or twice per season. Digging is very effective but the whole crown must be removed. Make sure to remove the crowns that have been dug up from the area or they could reestablish if they come in contact with the soil. Pod picking is used as a last resort to help prevent seed production. Pick pods before they are open and burn them.

FOR MORE INFORMATION & SOURCES CITED:

<http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu>

Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Invasive Plant Atlas of New England;

<http://invasives.eeb.uconn.edu/ipane/>

Mass Audubon Invasive Species Management Handbook



PROPERTY PROFILE

ORDWAY RESERVATION

The 55-acre Ordway Reservation, donated to Greenbelt in 2003, is a picturesque pastoral landscape as viewed from Turkey Hill Road in West Newbury. The old hayfield is backed by an overgrown orchard and encroaching forest. This property is located along the edge of the historic Common Pasture. Fields that were once managed as farmland and the overgrown apple orchard remind us of the historical importance of this land. Traces of old woods roads woven among the tress indicate that timber was once harvested here.

The Ordway property supports a diversity of landscape and habitat types, including open fields, woodlands, extensive freshwater marshlands and dry stacked stonewalls - the latter being remnants of its agricultural past. Many species of wildlife are found on this property, including whitetail deer, red fox, woodchuck and a variety of voles, mice and other small mammals, which inhabit the open field. Watch out for poison ivy, as it grows in abundance in the woods and fields!

The conservation of the Ordway Reservation helps to permanently protect the scenic corridor along Turkey Hill Road. A bronze memorial plaque can be found at the property, honoring the Ordway family's gift of this land. The opening of the Ordway Reservation to the public was greatly assisted by a group of volunteers from West Newbury, who helped clear the overgrown field and cut the loop trail.

DIRECTIONS:

From the north, take Exit 56 off Interstate 95. Bear right off the ramp. Take your first right onto Turkey Hill Road. Follow for approximately 0.25 miles, look for a Greenbelt property sign. Park along the right side of the road.

From the south, take Exit 56 off Interstate 95. Bear left off the ramp. Take a right onto Turkey Hill Road and proceed as above. Parking is limited to 4 cars.



ORDWAY RESERVATION TRAIL MAP



MONTHLY WALKS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 1PM
GEOCACHING, BEVERLY COMMONS, BEVERLY

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 1PM
PIKES BRIDGE ROAD, WEST NEWBURY

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 10:00AM
BEVERLY COMMONS MOUNTAIN BIKE

SUNDAY, MAY 28, 1PM
ALT WOODLAND, BEVERLY

SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 1PM
SUCCESSIONAL PLANTING WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, JULY 15, 1PM
NO TILL GARDENING WORKSHOP

SUNDAY, JULY 30, 1PM
CANOE/KAYAK THE IPSWICH RIVER

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 1PM
SEINE FIELD, GLOUCESTER

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