

Summer 2004

*From The President's Desk:*

### **Preserving Rural Character**

When Bolton residents are asked what future they want for the town, surveys always put "preserve the rural character of Bolton" at or near the top. It draws many to town, and is cherished by residents. In May, Bolton took three giant strides in preserving this special rural character.

First, citizens voted to preserve two of the town's six large active farms, the Nicewicz and Schartner Farms. Agriculture is central to Bolton's character. These two farms have had apple orchards since colonial days, and now will for future generations. Together with the adjacent Schultz farm, they form a nearly 300 acre agricultural preserve.

Another part of Bolton's rural character is wooded hills so large that you can get lost. In May, voters saved the town's largest parcel of land that is surrounded by open space, the 76 acre Stephenson land, centerpiece of a now 450 acre forest preserve.

The third big stride in May was not a parcel but an attitude --- the realization among town officials and voters that saving some land at a good price moderates the growth of our taxes. Housing developments usually wind up costing the town much more, and their cost is permanent. This new outlook could mean a greener future for Bolton.

The Nicewicz and Schartner APRs (agricultural preservation restrictions) have been one of the Bolton Conservation Trust's largest projects. In this Newsletter we recognize the many people who have contributed to it, including:

- The 86 plus (as of press time) individuals, families and corporations that have donated money to our APR fund raising campaign.
- The 197 individuals and families who are members of the Bolton Conservation Trust, as projects like this take many years.
- The Nicewicz and Schartner families that have looked after these lands for generations, and sold the APRs for a reasonable price.
- The Massachusetts Department of Agriculture for providing the critical \$1.8 million grant
- Senator Antonioni and Representative Walrath for helping secure this grant
- All boards that supported the grant: Selectmen, Conservation Commission and Planning Board.
- Our partner, the Trust for Public Land (TPL), and Nellie Aikenhead, negotiator of all contracts
- Ken Troup and the Board of Selectmen, sponsors of the APR articles at town meeting
- Advisory chairman Chris Slade for championing the new outlook that saving land at a good price can be less costly than more housing.
- Bolton Town Meeting, which overwhelmingly voted to save these farms.
- Bolton citizens that approved it at the ballot box by well over 3 to 1

Now that the town has voted to fund its share of the APR, we and TPL are working with the state to move from preliminary approval to the state's funding list.

But we still have a funding gap. To close it we have a \$50,000 private fund raising campaign underway, and are matching each dollar

contributed with a dollar from our capital fund. As of the press time of this newsletter we were xx% of the way toward this goal. Please consider a donation.

With so much of our focus on the APRs, we are very thankful that the Conservation Commission doggedly championed the Stephenson acquisition. At town meeting, the Trust donated \$40,001 from our capital fund to help put this critical parcel over the top. It further depletes our reserves, but these kinds of unique opportunities are what our reserves are for.

Beyond saving land, the Bolton Conservation Trust also tries to get people and especially children onto the land. Our school programs are now concluding, but our Tom Denny Nature camp is coming up, and there are still some openings in some weeks.

Ken Swanton  
President  
Bolton Conservation Trust

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## Town Votes to Purchase Stephenson and Braman Parcels

On the second night of Town Meeting on May 4, Bolton Residents voted to purchase the 77 acre Stephenson parcel and the adjoining 12 acre Braman parcel in the Rattlesnake Hill area for \$500 thousand and \$24 thousand respectively. These two parcels were particularly critical because they connected two large existing conservation areas - the Lime Kiln and Phillips - to make a total of 438 acres of contiguous conservation land and established town ownership of existing trails that had been used by Bolton residents for many years. (See map at the right and the table of parcels that comprise this conservation area at the end of this article.) These parcels were identified in the 1998 Bolton Open Space plan as some of the highest priority open space for the town to purchase.

The Bolton Conservation Trust was founded in 1974 specifically to 40 acres of land in the Lime Kiln/Rattlesnake Hill area. The seed planted by visionary founders of the Trust on Rattlesnake Hill in 1974 has grown over the years to include 438 acres of contiguously protected land when these latest purchases are included. This is one of the biggest pieces of contiguous conservation land inside Interstate 495!

Like the original acquisitions, The BCT played an important role in the Stephenson land purchase. At a last minute meeting, a quorum of BCT directors unanimously voted to use \$40 thousand dollars from our capital fund to purchase a conservation restriction on the Stephenson parcel and thereby lower the town's

cost to purchase the land. The Bolton Conservation Commission also increased their contribution from the town's conservation fund from \$40 thousand to \$60 thousand bringing the

### Map of the Lime Kiln and Rattlesnake Hill Conservation Area.



Grey: Existing Conservation Areas.  
Dark Grey: Stephenson Property  
Black: Braman Property

amount of debt required to purchase the land below \$400 thousand and made it an easier decision for town voters to purchase the land. In spite of the Trust's focus on the Schartner/Nicewicz APR acquisition, we thought the opportunity to purchase the Stephenson land was too good to pass up and needed the Trust's support

Closing on these purchases is scheduled

for the end of July. Get out and enjoy these spectacular trails!

**Table of Land Acquisitions that form the Lime Kiln and Rattlesnake Hill Conservation Area**

Parcel	Type	Owner	Acres
Phillips	Owned	Bolton Conservation Trust	75
Rattlesnake Hill	Owned	Bolton Conservation Trust	10
Harris Farm	Owned	Town	56
Lime Kiln	Owned	Town	42
Moses Henry Mentzer	Owned	Bolton Conservation Trust	22
Atlantic Union	Owned	Town	68
Phillips	Conservation Restriction	Town of Bolton,	76

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## **Preserving Bolton's Rural Character**

The Trust wishes to recognize the following people who responded so generously to our Farm Preservation Initiative this Spring and the Agricultural Preservation Restriction Fund Raiser last Fall.

Anonymous  
Mike and Noreen Beck  
Bolton Fitness  
Bolton Historical Society  
Bolton Orchards  
Martha Broad & Glenn Tarullo  
Gil & Janet Burns  
Elizabeth Calcagni  
Century Mill Stables  
CHR Designs  
Classic Pizza  
Classic Upholstery Services  
Herb & Lori Colby  
Joy Cooke & Bill Allen  
Curves  
Pam & Robert Czekanski  
Helene & Daniel Demmer  
Penny & Rich Dickson  
Edward & Margaret Dienst  
Donald & Pamela D. Dobeck  
Dog Watch Hidden Fence

The Douglass Family  
Timothy & Joanne Edmunds  
Elite Hair Studio  
Ernest & Cathy Elliott  
Essential Therapies  
Joan Finger & Al Ferry  
Eileen Fitzpatrick of RE/MAX Traditions  
Jim & Tina Flaherty  
Susan & Richard Fly  
Freddie Freidus  
Alice & Daniel Gaffney  
Amy Gavalis  
Great Brook Farms  
Vivian & Sherwin Greenblatt  
Jean & Dick Heaton  
Scottie & Rob Held  
Mike Hoeffler  
Deborah & Gerard Holtorf  
Hudson Art & Framing  
The International  
Isabel's Soaps

## **APR Donors Continued**

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Brooke & David James  
Sharon Johns  
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Anne & Bob Kingan  
Jill Lashua, Pet Nanny  
Corinne & Vaughn Mackie  
Deborah & George Malone  
Sharon & Andrew Mandell  
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Beverly Mentzer  
Susan Miles  
Jane Moosbruker  
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Karen & Robert Plaskon  
Thomas Polanyi  
Marie & Randy Porteus

Bonnie & Barry Potter  
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The Saltbox  
E.B. Sayles  
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Bill Tobey  
Kristin Thompson & Richard Gibson  
Eleanor & Imre Toth  
Tribal Textiles  
Wachusett Mountain  
George Watkins, Chance the Gardner  
George & Elizabeth Watkins  
John Wikoff, At Your Service  
Susan & Tom Wildman  
Eileen Griffin Wright

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## **Bolton Conservation Trust 2004 Membership Roster**

Membership dollars provide the funds for the Trust's operating expenses. These expenses include the salaries of the Executive Director and office staff, the surveying and legal costs associated with land evaluation for potential conservation, rent, utilities, office supplies, printing and mailing costs. These donors represent the backbone of the Trust and we could not function without them.

Terry Abdalian  
Annelisa Addante & Rick Brown  
Matt & Karen Adiletta  
Nicholas & Joan Agretelis  
Bill Allen & Joy Cooke  
John & Rona Balco  
Audrey Ball  
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Jamie Beaton & Deb Small  
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Stephen & Diane Belliveau  
Patricia & Steve Bergey  
Nancy & Eric Bettez  
Scott & Susan Bobholz  
Bolton Family Medicine

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Roger & Leslie Breeze  
Martha Broad & Glenn Tarullo  
Christopher & Bonnie Broders  
Gil & Janet Burns  
Robert Busch & Joyce Miller  
Tom Byron  
David & Elizabeth Calcagni  
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The Clementi Family  
The Clinton Savings Bank  
Marlin Cobb

## Membership 2004 Continued

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Paul & Jill Enders  
Edward & Linda Engelman  
Joan Entwistle  
Nancy Federspiel & Sam Peirce  
Joan Finger & Al Ferry  
Eileen Fitzpatrick of RE/Max Traditions  
Jim & Tina Flaherty  
Yvonne Forte  
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Jan Johnson  
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Terry & Corrine Mackie  
Deborah & George Malone  
The Mandell Family  
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Linda , Paul and Nicholas Mauro  
Becky McEnroe & Don Bunker  
Amy & Ken McLean  
Beverly Mentzer  
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M. Morgan & W. Robbins  
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Peter & Judie Ochsner  
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Franklin & Margaret Parker  
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**Membership 2004 Continued**

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Eileen Griffin Wright  
Lynn & Nick Yavarow  
The Yavorsky & Held Family

Clip and send in or see our website....

***Bolton Conservation Trust***

***Annual Membership 2004***

\$30 Individual                       \$50 Family                       \$100 Sustaining  
 \$200 Supporting                       \$500 Benefactor                       \$1000 Patron

Name \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to be listed as anonymous.

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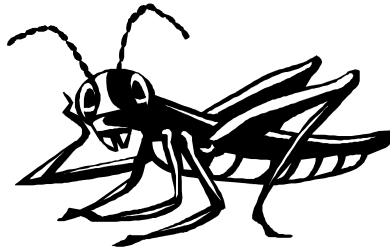
***Thank you for your support!***

## The Tom Denney Nature Camp

The Bolton Conservation Trust's co-educational summer day camp is a unique camp experience that offers six weeks of fun and learning in the beautiful natural setting of Bolton's Bower Springs conservation area.

The Tom Denney Nature Camp was founded in 1976. Our dedicated and enthusiastic staff supports Bolton's commitment to environmental education and to kids by creating a safe, enjoyable outdoor learning experience. Children learn about themselves and develop understanding, respect and responsibility for the environment, while making new friends, taking on new challenges, and most of all, having fun!

While this summer is quickly passing by, it's not too early to think about next year. We've set the dates for our 2005 Season so you can plan ahead. Registration forms for camp will be available on our Website in January.



### Tom Denney Nature Camp 2005 Dates

Session 1	July 11 to July 15
Session 2	July 18 to July 22
Session 3	July 25 to July 29
Session 4	August 1 to August 5
Session 5	August 8 to August 12
Session 6	August 15 to August 19

***The Bolton Conservation Trust***

*Established 1974*

*Dedicated to its mission, "to assist in and promote the preservation of the rural character of Bolton, to preserve and maintain conservation areas, and to educate the public concerning the use of natural resources."*

***President: Ken Swanton***  
***Treasurer: Herb Colby***

***Vice President: Tom Parker***  
***Clerk: Bob Johnson***

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*Al Ferry*  
*Tom Moses*

*Bonnie Potter*  
*Bob Roemer*  
*Lisa Thibault*

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***Associate Directors:***

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***Office Manager: Alice Roemer***

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