

3rd Annual Massachusetts Trails Conference

“TRAILS FOR ALL”



Novmeber 8, 2014

Double Tree Hotel and Conference Center
Leominster, MA

Presented by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) in partnership with
the Massachusetts Recreational Trail Advisory Board (MARTAB)

Conference Agenda

- 7:30 Registration**
- 8:15 Welcome and Kick-Off Session**
Paul Jahnige, *DCR*
Dick O'Brien, *MARTAB Chair*
- 8:45 1st Concurrent Workshops / Presentations**
- 10:30 2nd Concurrent Workshops / Presentations**
- NOON LUNCH & KEYNOTE SPEECH**
Janet Zeller, Accessibility Manager, USFS
- 12:50 MA Trails Award Ceremony**
- 1:00 3rd Concurrent Workshops / Presentations**
- 2:45 4th Concurrent Workshops / Presentations**
- 4:15 Conference Wrap-Up/Round Table Discussion**
Dick O'Brien
- 5:00 Conference Ends**

Keynote Address – Grand Ballroom

Keynote Speaker: Janet Zeller

Janet Zeller is the National Accessibility Program Manager for the U.S. Forest Service. She is responsible for the development and implementation of the accessibility programs and policies across all the 193 million acres of the National Forest System. Janet's been working in the field of accessibility since the mid-1980s and has been with the Forest Service since 1991.

She was the lead author of the Forest Service Outdoor Recreation and Trail Accessibility Guidelines. Janet also represents the Forest Service working on accessibility issues with organizations, States, and other federal agencies including the Access Board. And she instructs accessibility and universal design of programs and facilities at a wide range of training sessions nationally. In her personal life she is an avid outdoor recreationist and an instructor trainer of canoeing and sea kayaking.

Keynote Topic: Sustainable Trails for All - Trails, Wellness and Accessibility

Well-designed, sustainable trails blend into the setting, protect the resource, require less maintenance and welcome a wide range of hikers. Janet will discuss where, when and how using the trail accessibility standards works with the purpose of the trail, maximizing accessibility without changing the character and experience of trail.

Morning INDOOR SESSIONS

1st Concurrent Workshops

8:45 – 10:15

Session 1

Ampitheatre Room

Examining Rail Trail Surface Options: Design, Construction and Maintenance

This session will discuss up-to-date standards and practices for multiuse trail design, construction and maintenance, by contrasting two different sections of the Mass Central Rail Trail in Massachusetts; the Norwottuck Rail Trail to the west and the central section of the Mass Central Rail Trail. The presentations will specifically cover trail surface design considerations, construction specifications and maintenance needs, discussing the strengths, weaknesses, and overall challenges associated with each approach. Additional considerations, including trail drainage, shoulders, signage and accessibility will also be discussed.

Presenter: John Scannell, DCR

John is a Regional Director with the DCR Division of Water Supply Protection and oversees the protection of the Wachusett and Sudbury watersheds. As part of the oversight of the watershed protection program, John is responsible for the development and implementation of the DWSP Public Access Plans in these two watersheds. The Mass Central Rail Trail and, in particular the Wachusett Greenways portion of the trail, runs on DCR DWSP lands in the Wachusett and Ware River watersheds. As such, John has been a member of the Wachusett Greenways' Rail Trail Task Force, involved in the planning and construction of miles of trail through these watersheds. John has also been the staff manager for several Wachusett Greenways projects under the DCR Partnership Grant program.

Presenter: John Mastera, MassDOT

John Mastera is a Professional Civil Engineer working for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation – Highway Division in Northampton, Ma. John holds a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Massachusetts. With over 12 years' experience as a Civil Engineer, John has worked on numerous State and Federally funded projects including the Norwottuck Rail Trail Rehabilitation. John has extensive knowledge with State and Federal design requirements for Multi-Use Paths as well as the many issues during the design and construction of Rail Trails.

Session 2

Irving Berlin Room

Local and Regional Trail Visions

This session will give you insight into two very different and successful trail visioning processes, one on the community scale and one on the regional scale. Benefits of developing a trail vision, how to organize and implement the effort, and examples and snapshots of the completed work will be covered. On the regional scale, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) has created a new vision for a regional greenway system of connected active transportation corridors for Metro Boston. The network will ultimately be mapped, signed, and operated similarly to state and interstate highway systems. On the community scale, the Town of Groton Trails Vision considers a diverse set of trail systems, from

traditional to river trails. A five-year plan is presented to implement a list of prioritized projects, contingent on identifying advocates. Trail Visions must be tailored to the specific opportunities and needs of your community which is the challenge that awaits those who will develop a Trails Vision via consensus.

Presenter: David Loutzenheiser, *Metropolitan Area Planning Council*

David Loutzenheiser is a transportation planner managing projects primarily in the area of bicycle transportation, walking, and related areas. He champions a growing number of projects and plans to bring cycling and walking transportation into the forefront of sustainability in the region. He is currently developing a greenway system for the metro Boston region. He is leading planning efforts to develop the regional 70 mile Aqueduct Trail as well as the proposed 90 mile Boston Greenbelt Trail. Projects accomplished include planning for and implementation of the Hubway bike share system, development of the Regional Pedestrian Transportation Plan, development of the Regional Cycling and Walking Map, and completion of more than 15 bicycle and pedestrian network plans throughout the region. Mr. Loutzenheiser holds a Master's Degree in Urban Planning from the University of Washington in Seattle, a Master of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley, and a B.S. in Civil Engineering from North Carolina State University.

Presenter: Paul Funch, *Groton Trails Committee*

Paul is a resident of Groton and has been on the Trails Committee (and is now chair) since it was chartered in 1998, which currently manages over 110 miles of public trails. Recently, the committee used GPS technology to create an interactive map of all the town's trails, which resides on their website. Paul is also a member of the Montachusett Regional Trails Coalition (MRTC), helping with its development of a regional trails map. He formed a Trails Vision Committee to develop the Groton's Trails Vision document which was approved by the Selectboard earlier this year. He is currently heading the Trails Committee's effort to create Groton's first fully accessible trail that will provide a forest experience and scenic views of the Nashua River.

Session 3

Gershwin Room

Sustainable Trail Design, Construction and Maintenance

With the increasing demand to allow for a growing variety of trail uses on our lands, participants in this session will learn techniques to design a trail that will limit user conflicts while holding up to diverse trail traffic. Topics include: designing for summer and winter use, general design guidelines and considerations and primary design patterns for multi-use trails.

Presenter: Brendan Taylor, *Appalachian Mountain Club*

Brendan has been working on trails for over 7 years now. He has led trail crews for the Student Conservation Association, been an Associate Regional Representative for the Pacific Crest Trail Association, and is now the AMC North Country Trails Volunteer Programs Supervisor. Over the past 7 years, Brendan has developed his trail design skills on hiking, equestrian, mountain biking, and ATV trails, and he has developed his teaching skills to engage volunteers in all aspects of trail work.

Session 4

Cole Porter Room

Meeting the Challenges of Urban Trails

This session will explore the urban trail landscape in Massachusetts, focusing on particular trails as examples, giving participants the opportunity to learn about some challenges associated with working in

urban conditions and explore the opportunities for robust public participation. There will be an in-depth look at Lawrence's success in creating a series of riverfront parks along the Spicket River and linking them with a shared-use path, including a preview of the Ferrous Site park, the capstone to the Spicket River Greenway. The session will go on to discuss the Quequechan Rail Trail in Fall River, the Monoosnoc Brook Walk in Leominster, the Northern Strand "Bike to the Sea" trail in Everett and the Chelsea Greenway Trail in Chelsea, Massachusetts. The session will end with a discussion of the East Boston Greenway, which has just expanded a trail to connect Constitution Beach to Logan Airport.

Presenter: Brad Buschar, *Groundwork Lawrence*

Brad is responsible for managing the community input, design, and construction of landscape and infrastructure improvements, including the Spicket River Greenway, Merrimack Riverwalk Trail, Bradford Rail Trail, and community and schoolyard garden sites. He is overseeing GWL's expanding role in supporting low-impact development (LID) practices and economic development in the city and implementing Lawrence's Open Space and Recreation Plan. Brad most recently worked as a Project Coordinator for Cabot, Cabot & Forbes in Boston, MA where he coordinated the firm's build to suit projects, leasing of existing properties and prepared feasibility studies for multifamily housing development. Previously he worked as a Landscape Designer on park projects in Boston as well as large commercial and institutional projects in Russia and Pakistan and as a Land Protection and Conservation Associate with The Nature Conservancy. Brad holds a BA in Urban Planning and Political Science from Miami University and a Masters in Landscape Architecture from University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Presenter: Clarissa Rowe, *Brown, Richardson & Rowe, Inc*

Clarissa Rowe has been a registered landscape architect for over 36 years and, for the past 33 years, a founding principal at Brown, Richardson & Rowe, Inc., Landscape Architects and Planners, located on Post Office Square in Boston, Massachusetts. Clarissa's experience has included a variety of projects in both the public and private realms, including urban design and transportation, parks, waterfront parks, land reclamation, and historic preservation projects. Her projects of note include: Spectacle Island in Boston Harbor, MA; Chestnut Hill Waterworks, Boston, MA; the Master Plan for the Paul Revere House, Boston, MA, Winthrop Park in Harvard Square, Cambridge, MA, and Nathan Tufts Park, Somerville, MA; and currently her work on the Gateway City Parks Program, for EEA, Commonwealth of Massachusetts. She has decades of experience as a leader of the public or community process during design and planning work. She has recently stepped down from her role as Board Chair of the Arlington Board of Selectmen. During her tenure as Selectman, she founded the Tourism and Economic Development Committee for the Town. She is the past board chair of Preservation Massachusetts and the current board chair of the statewide Community Preservation Coalition.

2nd Concurrent Workshops

10:30 – 12 pm

Session 5

Irving Berlin Room

Practical Tips and Problem Solving for Trail Projects

This workshop will provide participants with valuable tools for identifying solutions to problem areas on existing trails. Specifically, participants will learn appropriate applications of trail structures and strategies for identifying best practice solutions through an analysis of trail conditions, user groups, and available resources. SCA Massachusetts AmeriCorps staff will also provide tips for working with volunteers.

Presenter: Melissa Patterson, SCA Massachusetts AmeriCorps Program Director

Melissa Patterson is the Program Director for SCA Massachusetts AmeriCorps. This is her second year in this position, and her seventh year as staff with SCA Massachusetts. Melissa began working in the conservation service field as a crew leader with the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps. She has held a variety of positions with SCA as a Project Leader and a Conservation Work Skills Instructor. She received a B.A in environmental studies from Allegheny College and holds a teaching certificate in elementary education.

Presenter: Rob Hopkinson, SCA Massachusetts AmeriCorps Conservation Coordinator

Rob Hopkinson coordinates the SCA Massachusetts Conservation Service Season. He is responsible for managing and implementing training and providing support during summer hitches. He has worked as a carpenter, a trail crew member for the National Park Service and has held a variety of positions with SCA as a Crew Leader, a Program Assistant, and a Conservation Work Skills Instructor. Rob graduated from Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon with a B.A. in Environmental Studies.

Session 6

Gershwin Room

Hiking with Dogs

In the past few years, hiking with dogs has become increasingly popular, leading to safety and resource management issues for trail organizations and health and safety concerns for trail users. This talk explores the many issues associated with dogs on trails, including canine health and nutrition; training and behavioral issues; safety issues for both dog and owner, as well as other hikers on the trails; and, canine and dog owner etiquette at high impact areas such as campsites and summits. We will explore ways to keep your dog safe and healthy in the woods, and to minimize the environmental impact of having your four-legged friend along for a hike to your favorite mountain peak or other natural resource. We will also discuss some training techniques and tips to make sure that your dog does not impact the experience of other hikers; as well as what to do when your dog is lost during an outing in the mountains.

Presenter: Richard Windish

Richard Windish is a lawyer, hiker, father and bluegrass music enthusiast from Reading, Vermont. For most of the past twenty years, he has spent much of his free time engaged in some sort of trail-related activity, either hiking the mountains of VT, NH or ME, performing trail work on the Long and Appalachian Trails in Vermont, or attending countless meetings in support of trail management and land conservation activities. Richard has served on the board of directors of the Green Mountain Club since 1996, and was GMC President from 2006-2009. Along with his two young daughters, Emma and Vera, he has adopted and maintained several miles of trail in Southern Vermont. His two dogs, Jack and Charlie, are frequent companions on his adventures in the mountains.

Session 7

Ampitheatre Room

MIXin' it UP Along Our Trails: Rediscovering Nature & Heritage through Trails

Come ponder, laugh, and be inspired by lessons learned from organizers who found novel ways to get people outside to rediscover nature and heritage. Panelists will invite you to think beyond conventional trail experiences and share tips and lessons on community collaborations that build connections and capacity while offering engaging and fun experiences for all ages.

Panel Projects

Massachusetts Walking Tours, Co-founders Raianne Richards and Mark Mandeville 

Hidden Landscapes, Plainfield Historical Society

Tracks In Time, Electa Tritch

Connecting Communities Sheri Bean, Montachusett Regional Planning Commission

Panel Moderator: Maud Ayson, *Consulting Director for Freedom's Way Heritage Area*

After a career in teaching and school administration, Maud Ayson followed her passion for learning and community building in a second career holding leadership positions at *Old Sturbridge Village*, *Museum of the City of New York*, *The Norman Rockwell Museum*, and at *Fruitlands Museum*. Presently Consulting Program Director for *Freedom's Way National Heritage Area*, she serves on the boards of The Bulfinch Fund, the Montachusett Regional Trails Coalition, Monadnock Media, and Red Tomato, Inc.

Panel Moderator: Charles Tracy, *National Park Service*

Charles Tracy is a National Park Service landscape architect who guides community trail development and regional landscape conservation initiatives in New England. Tracy is currently Superintendent of the New England National Scenic Trail and national lead for NPS artist-in-residence programs and art partnerships. He holds a master degree in landscape architecture from the University of Massachusetts.

Session 8

Cole Porter Room

Negotiating Trail Easements

This presentation will cover (1) working with private and institutional landowners to secure trail easements, licenses, and handshake agreements, (2) arranging permitting for trails on new easements, (3) drafting easement documents, and (4) case examples of easement negotiations, successes, and pitfalls.

Presenter: Pete Westover, *Conservation Works, LLC*.

Pete Westover is a founding partner in Conservation Works, LLC, a firm involved with land protection & management, trail system design & construction, biological inventory and assessment, baseline documentation, and open space planning for land trusts, towns, colleges, state agencies, and private owners. He is a member of the Mass Board of Conservation Law Foundation, a founding board member of Whately Land Preservation, and a previous board member of Valley Land Fund, the Hitchcock Center, and the Deerfield River Watershed Association. He laid out and supervised construction of the 47-mile, 10-town Robert Frost Trail, and has worked on many other trails and trail systems. He is the author of *Managing Conservation Land: the Stewardship of Conservation Areas, Wildlife Sanctuaries, and Open Space in Massachusetts* and co-editor of *Bird Finding Guide to Western Massachusetts*. He has a BA from Oberlin College, a Masters degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and an ABD in forest ecology from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Afternoon INDOOR SESSIONS

3rd Concurrent Workshops

1:00 – 2:30

Session 9

Irving Berlin Room

Trail Access for All: Creating Trail Experiences for Persons of all Abilities

Learn about collaborative possibilities for offering trails experiences for persons with disabilities! Mass Audubon has combined sensory trail features with accessible trails to provide fully inclusive self-guided experiences. DCR's Universal Access Program offers adaptive hiking programs with specialized equipment and assistive techniques utilizing trails around the state. The Town of Lancaster is about to install a handicap-accessible ramp system for boating access to the Nashua River. This workshop will provide inspiration and essential wisdom gained from these three successful ventures.

Presenter: Lucy Gertz, *Massachusetts Audubon Society*

Lucy Gertz, Statewide Education Projects Manager at Mass Audubon, works with 19 staffed nature centers to strengthen visitor experience and to provide resources to help visitors and program participants experience, understand, and protect the nature of Massachusetts. Since 2008, Lucy has coordinated the completion of ten accessible interpretive trails in Massachusetts.

Presenter: Marcy Marchello, *Department of Conservation and Recreation*

Marcy Marchello has developed and managed accessible outdoor recreation programs for DCR's Universal Access Program since 1995. Her diverse background as an environmental educator, outdoor recreationalist, program leader, sales manager, personal care attendant and artist offers experiential expertise to the many facets of her role as Program Coordinator. She is from Ann Arbor, Michigan and has a B.S. in Environmental Education from Lesley University.

Presenter: Noreen Piazza, *Town of Lancaster*

Noreen is the Planning Director for the Town of Lancaster. She is also a member of the Montachusett Regional Trails Coalition, the Lancaster Trail & Bike Way Coalition and the Lancaster Open Space and Recreation Committee. Noreen has worked with the Lancaster Conservation Commission and the MA Department of Fish & Game, Office of Fishing and Boating Access, to advance the handicap-accessible boat launch at the Pellechia Recreation Area. Their collaborative efforts have resulted in a canoe and kayak launch project that will allow persons with mobility challenges to enjoy the North Nashua River.

Session 10

Gershwin Room

Solving Common Trail Problems with Creative Solutions:

The Conte Wildlife Refuge Accessible Trail and the Mt. Tom Trail Bridge Project

This session covers two special trail construction projects, which presented their own unique challenges, but were accomplished through extraordinary effort and collaboration.

The 1.1 mile long Fort River Birding and Nature Trail is universally accessible and compliant with the American with Disability Act. The trail meanders through various habitats on the Fort River Division of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge located in Hadley, MA. It is built entirely above ground, due to archaeological concerns on the property, by Student Conservation Association interns,

Youth Conservation Corps members, and lots of volunteers. This trail is an example of successfully placing a universally accessible trail in an area that presented unique challenges.

The Bray Lake Bridge is located on Mt. Tom State Reservation in Easthampton, MA. The Mt. Tom Advocacy Committee worked to replace an existing, deteriorating bridge by partnering with DCR, AMC, and a local volunteer base, while also accessing funds from the Recreational Trails Program for materials. During the planning process, the scope of the project expanded to make the bridge accessible and to construct approximately 1/3 mile of accessible trail. After two years, \$10,000 for materials and about 1800 hours of volunteer labor, the project was completed.

Presenter: Andrew C. French, Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge

Andrew is the Project Leader for the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge. The legislated project area spans the 7.2 million acre Connecticut River watershed and includes portions of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont. He started his career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1975. As a part of his approach to National Wildlife Refuge administration and management, he emphasizes the importance of making trails universally accessible to provide outdoor opportunities for people with disabilities, the elderly, and young families with strollers and small children. Two of the ADA compliant trails designed and constructed have been designated as National Recreation Trails.

Presenter: Artie McCollum, Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge

Artie is the Private Lands Biologist for the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge. He works with private land owners interested in doing land protection, habitat improvements, and has worked on a few dam removal projects. He provided oversight and logistical management of the Fort River Nature and Birding Trail over the past three years. Prior to joining the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Artie served as an Environmental Consultant with the Peace Corp in Mali, West Africa.

Presenter: Bill Finn, Mt. Tom Advisory Committee

As a retired executive from the foodservice industry, Bill has a wide range of interests, including volunteer work on various environmental projects. Bill is an active member of the Mt. Tom State Reservation Advocacy Group and has developed and continues to maintain a volunteer trail maintenance program for the 20+ miles of trails on the Mt. Tom Range, including 6 miles of the New England National Scenic Trail. Bill recruits and trains new volunteers and has been instrumental in developing the Advocacy Group's community profile. Through his volunteer efforts at the Mt. Tom Visitors Center, Bill has helped to promote the historical, cultural and natural resources of the Reservation to the visiting public. His work with DCR and community partners to develop projects and programs, as well as to foster a sense of stewardship at the Reservation, has produced many successes, including the construction of the Lake Bray Bridge in 2012.

Presenter: Mike Zlogar, Appalachian Mountain Club

Mike has been a trail volunteer for 25 years and is an active member of Trailwrights, a New Hampshire based group providing leadership for trail projects and training volunteers. He also serves as trailmaster with Chatham (NH) Trails Association, managing 40 miles of trails in the USFS White Mountain NF and volunteers with the Society for the Preservation of NH Forests, New England National Scenic Trail, and Baxter State Park in Maine. Mike is experienced in trail design and construction techniques, including but not limited to rigging, rock work and design of trail structures. He is a Licensed Construction Supervisor and has led many projects to build and maintain trail facilities. He has served the Amherst Fire Department for 39 years, retiring as Assistant Chief in 2010, and is an active volunteer with the Western Massachusetts Boy Scouts

Session 11

Cole Porter Room

Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation in Mass: Programs, Policies and Updates

This session will be presented by representatives from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the Massachusetts Environmental Police. Topics will include DCR's management of OHV use on state land such as funding via the Federal Recreational Trails Program, permitting, maintenance and oversight. The EoEEA segment will highlight and explain the Massachusetts' OHV Committee, the use of the OHV Fund, some aspects of planning and the recent history of OHV management within the state. The Massachusetts Environmental Police portion of this session will describe fines, activity, enforcement and outreach.

Presenter: Stephanie Cooper, *Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs*

As Assistant Secretary for Land & Forest Conservation in the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs, Stephanie Cooper guides the Patrick Administration's forestry, land, and park policies and investments. Prior to joining EEA, Stephanie served as Chief of Staff and Director of Operational Analysis for the Department of Conservation & Recreation. Prior to that, she oversaw and analyzed operations for the New York City Department of Transportation and the Mayor's Office. She also has experience in environmental consulting and the non-profit sector. Stephanie holds a BA in political science from Middlebury College and a Master's in public administration from Syracuse University.

Presenter: Captain Merri Walker, *Massachusetts Environmental Police*

Captain Merri Walker is a 29 year veteran of the Massachusetts Environmental Police (MEP) specializing in boating and recreational vehicle safety for the last 20 years. She has investigated and aided in the prosecution of numerous boating & OHV fatalities over the last 20 years as well as being the liaison to several national education & safety organizations on behalf of the Environmental Police which include the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA), the International Association of Snowmobile Administrators (IASA), and the International Off-Highway Vehicle Administrators Association (IOHVAA). Merri has worked to develop national off-highway vehicle operation safety education standards and criteria for OHV education providers. She helped to establish the MEP OHV safety education program for the public as mandated by Massachusetts General Law CH.90B in 2010. She is also the liaison to the OHV Advisory Committee wherein she communicates with the 13-member board which consists of user groups, land owners, OHV manufacturer representatives, Child Safety Advocates and other various stakeholders, in OHV education, trail development and OHV law enforcement.

Presenter: Scott Morrill, *Department of Conservation and Recreation*

Scott Morrill started his service with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation in July of 2010 and has been the Western Region OHV Trail Coordinator since June of 2013. With a bachelor's degree in Natural Resources from UMass Amherst, work experience as a grounds keeper, service as a law enforcement officer, and management in both high ground parks and campgrounds, Scott brings with him a wide and relevant knowledge base for Environmental and OHV program management.

Session 12

Ampitheatre Room

Obtaining Rail Trail Corridors

The session will address the towns of Holliston and Milford's experiences in the planning, communication, negotiations, challenges, mistakes and accomplishments of acquiring property rights for their respective segments of the proposed 25 mile multi-town Upper Charles Trail. Topics will cover the various types of property rights agreements, Federal and State funding requirements regarding property rights, and issues with eminent domain takings. Emphasis will be on their experiences with acquiring property rights from CSX Railroad and National Grid.

Presenter: Robert Weidknecht, *Holliston Conservation Commission*

Robert Weidknecht is chair of the Holliston Trails Committee, a seven-member committee appointed by the Holliston Selectmen to assist with the acquisition of the land and implementation of the construction of the Holliston section of the Upper Charles Trail. He has served on the Trails Committee since its inception in 1999. Prior to the establishment of the Holliston Trails Committee he assisted in various ways in promoting the proposed Trail. Professionally, Robert is a landscape architect for the firm of Beals and Thomas, Inc., a civil engineering consulting firm. He manages multi-disciplinary projects and deals with complex permitting issues.

Presenter: Reno DeLuzio, *Town of Milford*

Reno has served the Town of Milford in various capacities for over four decades. Elective positions included Selectman, Planning Board, and Town Meeting. As a result of being an advocate for preserving open space, he was appointed to the Conservation Commission (where he served as Chairman) and to several other open space related committees. As Town Planner from 1996 to 2002, Reno was tasked by the Selectmen to prepare plans and a program to develop the Milford Upper Charles Trail. He has served as Chairman of the Milford Upper Charles Trail Committee since its inception in 1997.

4th Concurrent Workshops

2:45 – 4:15

Session 13

Irving Berlin Room

Statewide Long-Distance Trail Updates:

The Mid-State Trail: The Midstate Trail is a scenic footpath located in Worcester County, 45 miles west of Boston. This 95 mile hiking trail extends from Rhode Island crossing the gentle hills of central Massachusetts and eventually connecting to the Wapack Trail in New Hampshire. Approximately 42% of the trail is currently unprotected, and over 15% is located "on-road" due to development and the loss of historic informal trail agreements. This update will describe efforts by the Greater Worcester Land Trust, MidState Trail Committee of the Worcester Chapter of the AMC, National Park Service, DCR and the local and regional land trusts to take a coordinated approach to promote the permanent conservation of the MidState Trail corridor.

The SNETT: The 22-mile Southern New England Trunkline Trail (SNETT) is managed by Massachusetts DCR and designated as a National Recreation Trail. But it doesn't get much respect: highways and roads have disrupted it; drainage structures have been neglected; and ATV/dirt bike damage is extensive and unchecked. Despite all this, the remarkable news is that SNETT today is being used and loved: local residents are enjoying its scenery, getting exercise, walking dogs and riding horses;

and local organizations are working hard to improve the SNETT for the health, recreation and transportation in their communities.

Presenter: Marie Auger, *Mid-State Trail Committee*

Presenter: Charlie Tracy, *National Park Service*

See Biography – Session 7

Session 14

Gershwin Room

Great Trails: Providing Quality OHV Trail Experiences

Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) recreation is an increasingly popular activity. It provides access to nature for people with mobility disabilities; makes other activities such as hunting, bird watching, or fishing more accessible to everyone; and provide positive economic impact for local towns and communities. This activity can be compatible with wildlife, the natural environment, and the nearby communities; but it must be actively managed. This session will walk you through the basic principles of actively managing an OHV trail system or area. It will also give you information regarding a guidebook being produced by the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) to guide all involved with OHV recreation in creating and maintaining sustainable OHV trail systems.

Presenter: Karen Umphress, *NOHVCC*

Karen Umphress has been an enthusiastic advocate of off-highway riding for over a decade in her home state, Minnesota. She is the IT and Project Manager for the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC). In this role, she has created projects and given workshops regarding sustainable OHV trails throughout the US. She, along with her husband, have been the Government Relations Officers for AMA District 23 (also known as the Amateur Riders Motorcycle Association) since 1999. Karen is a founding member of a local dirt bike club, the Twin Cities Trail Riders, and serves on 2 MN state motorized recreation coalitions, the Minnesota Motorized Trail Coalition and the Coalition for Recreational Trail Users. In addition, she represents motorized recreation on the national America Trails board of directors.

Session 15

Ampitheatre Room

A State-Wide Trail Mapping Center: Panel Discussion

Six panelists will discuss the topic of how we move forward to create a “location” where all trail users can have access to trail maps, where trail data can be quickly, accurately uploaded and made available to the public and where all trails are in the data base. Drawing on their experience with GIS systems, their experience in creating and promoting trail maps for their organizations or communities and their own personal experience in finding and using map data, they will begin to outline a plan for moving our state forward in this area of creating an accessible trail map data base for all trails across the entire state.

Panelist: Paul Funch, *Groton Trails Committee*

Paul has been a member of the Groton Trail Committee since its formation 15 years ago and currently serves as Chairman. He has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Squannacook River Runners for several years and a trail runner for over 30 years. Paul is a former race director of the Groton Town Forest Trail Races and the Wapack Trail Race. He is a former Board of Director of the Groton

Conservation Trust and past recipient of their annual “Tree Award” and a former Chairman of the Groton-Dunstable Regional School Committee. He is currently participating as a member of the Montachusett Regional Trails Coalition.

Panelist: Peter Sutton, MassDOT

Working within MassDOT’s Office of Transportation Planning (OTP), Pete Sutton has been active in several Bicycle and Pedestrian initiatives. These have included recent updates to the Bay State Greenway Priority 100, a database of off-road shared use paths currently under construction and/or advertised. Pete is also in charge of keeping OTP’s bicycle trail GIS layers up to date and compatible with other state agencies to ensure consistency. In addition to volunteering his time with Bike to the Sea, Pete has also cycled nearly every greenway from Provincetown to Williamstown.

Panelist: David Loutzenheiser, Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)

See Biography – Session 2

Panelist: Jason Stanton, Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC)

Jason Stanton earned a Bachelor of Science in Geography from Bridgewater State College. His 16 years of GIS experience began with a position at the US Census Bureau from 1998 to 2001 and continuing with the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC) from 2001 to present where he is currently the GIS & IT Director. Jason obtained the designation of GISP (GIS Certified Professional) from the GIS Certification Institute (GISCI) in 2013. Jason has worked on the MRPC Trail Inventory project since its’ inception in 2005. He has been involved in all aspects of the program including planning, GPS data collection, traditional GIS mapping and more recently web mapping. He has authored Trail Inventory applications focused on the MRPC region for both the desktop (PC) and mobile (smartphone/tablet) environment.

Panelist: Nathanael Lloyd, DCR

Nathanael Lloyd is the GIS Director for the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and has been with DCR since 1997. Mr. Lloyd holds a Bachelors degree in Anthropology and a Certificate in Environmental Management from George Mason University, and Master’s Degrees in Environmental Science and Public Affairs from Indiana University. Mr. Lloyd and his GIS team provide a wide range of GIS services to DCR including: asset mapping, database design, map production, data analysis, and web mapping. As part of a 7 year effort, DCR has recently published data for over 4,000 miles of roads and trails within its system of forests and parks. Efforts are continuing to add to that data set and provide better access to the data and maps.

Panelist: Vin Antil, The Trustees of Reservations

Vin Antil is manager of the GIS program at The Trustees of Reservations. GIS is integrated into most aspects of TTOR’s operations, including land protection, land management, CR monitoring, and membership. Vin has been involved in various aspects of mapping and GIS for over 20 years, including seven years with Massachusetts Fisheries and Wildlife, and over 15 years with The Trustees. He has a Masters of Regional Planning from University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Panelist: Dean Marsh, Town of Groton

I am a database administrator for a small company in Bedford called iRacing.com. My background as far as "trails work" is concerned is my work with the Groton Trails Committee (and working with scouts). My son's Eagle Scout project was originally to help the committee in mapping a few more parcels in town

and creating .pdf hiking maps for those parcels. During his work on that project, we discovered a means of making more interactive and customizable maps that we presented to the committee and they accepted. I continued to work with the committee after my son's initial project was completed and we managed to finally put out probably close to 100 miles of trails in town.

Session 16

Cole Porter Room

Wetland Permitting for Trails: Community Case Studies

This session will cover wetland regulations and permitting on trails from the community perspective. The communities of Danvers and Lexington have had a great deal of experience with the wetland permitting process in diverse trail settings throughout their towns. The goal of this session is to provide information for other trail professionals and volunteers which will help guide them through the permitting process. This is not a regulatory session, it is a community perspective of the process, sharing successes, challenges and basic advice for others looking to permit a trail project.

Presenter: Kate Day, Town of Danvers

Kate is the Senior Planner for the Town of Danvers. Her responsibilities include staffing the Planning Board, conducting development reviews, preparing zoning initiatives, and providing support for a variety of citizen committees. A favorite project is the Danvers Rail Trail, a new 4.3-mile recreational corridor that follows a north-south MBTA corridor, connecting Danvers to Peabody, Wenham and Topsfield as part of the Border-to-Boston trail. She has an undergraduate degree from Bryn Mawr College, a Master's degree in City and Regional Planning from Harvard, and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

Presenter: Charles Lincicum, Danvers Rail Trail Committee?

Charley moved to Danvers in 1984. Almost immediately, he became involved with a committee appointed by the town manager to advise on a pathway for the citizens of Danvers for safe biking and walking. The plan took 6 years to develop and was not adopted. In 1998, he once again tried to raise interest and co- founded the Danvers Bi-Peds with Ingrid Barry. He served as vice-president for 10 years to promote "safe walking in biking". Surveys, door to door canvassing and community outreach was the mainstay of the group but again, no traction was gained. The Town Manager then started an Advisory committee called the Danvers Rail Trail Committee in 2009. Their charter was to advise on the feasibility of incorporating a rail trail in Danvers without impact on the town budget. Charley was appointed and elected the Chair Person within the first meetings and through a shared passion for trails with Kate Day, has been instrumental in the design, planning and installation of the 4.3 mile corridor in Danvers.

Presenter: Mike Tabaczynski, Town of Lexington Conservation Stewards

Mike is a director of the Lexington Conservation Stewards, trail work coordinator of the New England Mountain Bike Association Boston (NEMBA) chapter, founding member of the Lexington Greenways Corridors Committee and Friends of the Western Greenway, and member of the Lexington Bicycle Advisory Committee. He was a presenter or instructor at dozens of trail design and construction schools and events sponsored by NEMBA, the Massachusetts DCR, and the Town of Lexington. He assisted in creation of the ACROSS Lexington town-wide trail project and the Western Greenway multi-town project, assisted in securing over \$200,000 in trail construction grants, supervised hundreds of volunteers performing over 10,000 hours of conservation labor, relocated, built, or designed more than 10 miles of trails, and planned and executed the installation of more than a mile of wetland trail boardwalks and bridges.

Presenter: Keith Ohmart, Town of Lexington Conservation Stewards

Keith has been an active member of Lexington's Conservation Stewards for over ten years. He has participated in, planned, organized and directed several major trail improvement projects involving the construction of boardwalks cumulatively totaling several thousand feet in length throughout the town. Keith is a founding member and current chair of Lexington's Greenways Corridor Committee, appointed by the Board of Selectmen to develop a 40 mile network of inter-connected walking and biking trails throughout the community. He is also a founding member of Friends of the Western Greenway, a regional trails organization connecting the communities of Lexington, Belmont and Waltham through a regional trail network.

OUTDOOR SESSIONS

Fieldtrips, Hands-On Workshop & Bonus Demonstration

Meet outside in front of the hotel. Shuttle buses will be waiting for you to board. Please ensure that you are signed up for these sessions, SPACE IS LIMITED!

Fieldtrip #1

8:45 – Noon

Shuttle Bus Tour at Wachusett Mountain State Reservation

This field trip will showcase the improvements at Wachusett Mountain State Reservation as they relate to summit accessibility and trail reconstruction. Wachusett Mountain is a popular destination for sightseeing and hiking in Central Massachusetts. By way of a paved Parkway, or hiking up 4 of the trails that lead to the summit, over 500,000 visitors reach the top to enjoy the views from the highest point in Massachusetts east of the Connecticut River. Join DCR Staff as they discuss the elements involved in the Summit Restoration project, and then hike back to the Visitor Center observing the reconstruction tactics used on the Pine Hill and Bicentennial Trails.

Presenter: Dwayne Ericson, DCR, Central Highlands District Manager

Dwayne has been involved in trail management since 1985 when he began his career with the Maryland DNR. After graduating with a Masters of Park and Recreation Resources Management from Frostburg State University, he began his work with DCR in 1999, as Supervisor of Wachusett Mountain State Reservation. During his time at Wachusett Mountain, he initiated the reconstruction of the Pine Hill and Bicentennial trails in collaboration with the AMC Worcester Chapter, SCA AmeriCorps, MassParksCorps, and professional trail crews. As District Manager, Dwayne continues to be involved in the ongoing efforts to improve the trails of Massachusetts as part of the DCR statewide trails team.

Fieldtrip #2

1 – 4:15 pm

Looking at Accessibility Issues in Designing Trails for All

This field trip will consist of 2 site visits. One to a trail that was recently completed at the Doyle Community Park and Center and the other to Barrett Park where the existing trail is being redone to address accessibility issues to make it more functional for all users. Janet Zeller, USFS Accessibility Program Manager, Jason Hill, Trustees of Reservations Superintendent, Judy Sumner, Director of Leominster Recreation Department and Andrew Leonard, Principal LA for A.L. Leonard Associates will provide observations, comments and information on these two sites. Dick O'Brien, Conservation Works LLC will lead the tour of these two trails. The fieldtrip will run from 1 pm to 4:15 pm. A bus will take participants from the Hotel to the sites and back to the hotel.

Presenter: Janet Zeller, NPS

See Biography – Keynote Speech

Presenter: Jason Hill, TTOR

Superintendent for the North Central Management Unit of The Trustees of Reservations, overseeing stewardship operations on 13 properties located throughout the North Central Region of Massachusetts. With a professional background in agronomy and property management, Jason came to the Trustees in 2013 after finishing a Masters Degree in Environmental Policy at UMass.

Presenter: Andrew Leonard, Leonard and Associates, Inc.

Andrew Leonard has been designing and shaping landscapes for living and learning for over 17 years. He has developed his design, planning, and project management experience through a wide range of planning efforts and built works for campuses, residences, parks and communities. Andrew is involved in each of A. T. Leonard & Associates projects from conceptual vision through fundraising to a built work. He graduated Summa Cum Laude with Bachelor's Degree in Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Andrew is active in the Town of Ashby through planning, open space plan preparation, and as a Planning Board member of 9 years.

Presenter: Judy Sumner, City of Leominster Recreation Department

Judith Sumner has been the Director of Recreation for the City of Leominster for the past 20 years and President of the New England Park Association for the past two years. Judith previously worked at 4-H Camp Middlesex and Fitchburg Recreation Department. She graduated from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Physical Education and Health. She is on the Open Space and Recreation Committee for the City of Leominster; a member of the Leominster Trails Association and the Montachusett Regional Trails Committee; and enjoys leading hikes.

Hands-On Workshop

8:45 – Noon

1 – 4:15 pm

Boardwalk Building at Barrett Park

This session will discuss and then construct ½ of a 70-foot boardwalk in the morning and afternoon time blocks, completing the boardwalk by the end of the day. Wetland permitting and other planning considerations will be discussed, including boardwalk design.

Session Leader: Eric Boudreau, Conservation Works, LLC & Wachusett Chapter of NEMBA

Eric has been building, improving and maintaining trails for the past 15 years as both a volunteer and professional. He has formally received training in trail design and construction. Eric has participated in notable projects including the Pomeroy Meadows Footpath in Easthampton and the handicapped accessible trail at the Doyle Reservation in Leominster. He is an avid year-round mountain biker and also enjoys hikes and snow shoeing.

*****Bonus Outdoor Demonstration*****

1 – 2:30 pm

Location: Meet at back end of Hotel Parking lot, proceed to workshop site from there

Training Skills for Dogs on Trails

Training Reliable Recalls: Nothing is more important than for a dog to come when called, especially when off leash in the wilderness. In this workshop, participants with dogs will learn how to teach the whistle recall starting on an everyday 6 foot walking leash before moving on to a long field leash. Several games adapted from search and rescue training will be incorporated to enhance the learning experience for all. Recommendations will be made for products that assist in the finding lost dogs.

Safety Tips: Mountain Bikes & Dogs - How To Handle Potential Conflict: Dogs chase things that move fast and particularly, things that come up from behind. Inevitably, there will be conflict out and about unless both dog and non-dog trail users consider the other's point of view. Participants learn what to do to mediate these challenges. Dog owners will go home with a training plan to help their 'bicycle responsive dogs' maintain composure in proximity to mountain bike users.

Session Leader: Vera Wilkinson, The Cooperative Dog

Vera is the owner-operator of The Cooperative Dog, a certified dog behavior consultant (CDBC), certified professional dog trainer (CPDT) and a Karen Pryor Academy Certified Training Partner (KPA CTP). Since 1996, she has traveled throughout Eastern Massachusetts helping several thousand people to better understand their dogs. She teaches dog training classes in Brookline, Wellesley and Revere; provides private lessons and behavior consultations in her clients' homes and educational dog behavior seminars for dog owners and other dog related businesses throughout New England. Vera belongs to several dog related organizations including the Association of Professional Dog Trainers (APDT), Family Paws Parent Education and the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants (IAABC). She served over three years as the Chair of the Dog Division of the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants and received the 2009 Dog Division Member of the Year Award for her work on behalf of the organization. She was the recipient of the prestigious Boston Magazine's 2011 Best of Boston 'Best Dog Trainer' Award. Her interests include field ornithology, photography, videography, landscaping, gardening and of course, spending time on the trails with her dog. She has participated in agility, nosework, tracking, sheepherding, camping and other not-roughing-it travel with dogs!