

“Spring Awakening” Walk in Old College Road Preserve

Saturday, May 21, at 1 PM

Press release

Andy Deegan, ASLPT’s land protection specialist and stewardship manager, will lead an easy woodland walk for all ages on property in East Andover recently acquired by the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust (ASLPT) from 1 to 3 PM on Saturday, May 21.

Beginning at a trailhead near Route 11 and Agony Hill Road, participants in the “spring awakening” walk in Old College Road Preserve “will identify springtime blossoming,” according to Deegan. “Because the property has vernal pools in it, we’ll also be looking for amphibian activity.” The walk will also introduce attendees to newly established hiking trails on the 54-acre property. The walk is co-sponsored by ASLPT and the Andover Conservation Commission.

About the Preserve

From the ASLPT Web site: “In 2002, a group of concerned neighbors in East Andover co-purchased a 54-acre parcel of land to protect it from future de-

velopment. The group, including Alex Bernhard and Myra Mayman, Fritz and Barbara Hunting, Joyce Jones, Jon and Vicky Mishcon, and Lori Cox, named the property Old College Road Preserve.

“After more than 10 years of ownership, the property owners approached ASLPT Land Protection Specialist Andy Deegan to discuss their desire to gift full ownership of Old College Road Preserve to the land trust.... As the owner, ASLPT will assume the Current Use taxes for the property and will have the flexibility to manage the property independently.

“Not only does Old College Road Preserve have good forestry soils, but a portion of the property is listed as supporting landscapes under the 2010 Wildlife Action Plan. There are vernal pools on the property that support native amphibians.

“The most important factor in ensuring the preservation of Old College Road Preserve, however, is its connectivity to other land. This 54-acre parcel is adjacent to over 2,400 acres of previously conserved land.”

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machine, on which one could make no mistakes (as there was no way to correct them), made me realize one could use a computer and laser printer to create a newspaper.

I literally went through telephone books to generate a list of businesses for ads. There was a group in Andover who had already, unbeknownst to me, discussed a newspaper, so getting people together was not difficult.

Dennis Melchin from Salisbury, an artist, gave us an incentive by offering to create a masthead. I had grown up with the *Winchester* (Massachusetts) *Star* and thought of the five sections of Andover (East Andover, Andover, West Andover, Cilleyville, and Potter Place) making a five-pointed star. We thought paintings of buildings from each section would show Andover’s whole town.

My husband Don set up plywood tables in the basement at 65 Maple Street in East Andover. I bought a used laser printer, we heated glue guns and pasted the articles and hand-bordered ads onto sheets which were taken to a Plymouth printer of which Benny Benson of the *Kearsarge Shopper* knew.

Mike Pride from the *Concord Monitor* was helpful and directed me to Jim “Sandy” Bucknam of the *Bow Times*. Sandy said, “If you can spell, we would have a newspaper.”

Cindy Benson, Dane Loomer, and Laurie Zimmerman were great editors. Dane, and Sarah Will from Proctor Academy, interviewed poet laureate Donald Hall for the the first issue’s front page. Irene Jewett volunteered for circulation; Reggie Roy and Benny Makechnie were photographers.

In August 1988, we sent out a letter describing the newspaper to the town and asking for donations. Many had faith and replied, although more donations came in after the first issue was published in September.

The Andover Star served as a sounding board for the town, a forum, a watchdog. I remember laughing when people said it would be a tabloid, a rag sheet. We proved otherwise.

Dr. Jon Mishcon wrote monthly medical columns. Julia Philipson from Peter Christian’s in New London shared cooking tips. Kevin Poulin, who wanted to write works news, and Heather Makechnie agreed to cover various reports.

As the paper grew, we needed a central office. The upstairs rooms over what is now Ragged Mountain Physical Therapy were available. We rented the space. Along with a new computer, we had many volunteers to run production and the business aspect.

Two years later, Operation Desert Storm came. The advertising revenue dropped, there was an internal difference, and I saw the writing on the wall.

The shareholders agreed to stop production, and the last issue was sadly printed. We broke even financially, to the penny.

Some people wanted to buy *The Andover Star*, but such a blessing, run by volunteers, was not for sale. We give God the glory!

God has definitely graced Andover, and when *The Andover Beacon* became the next paper, the people demonstrated their love for their town. Thank you to everyone who helped make both successors to *The Andover Star* – the first *Beacon*, through 2002, and now the second *Beacon*, since 2004 – successful.

Conservation Commission Hosts Spring Plant Sale

Saturday, May 7, at the Town Hall

Mary Anne Broshek, ACC

The Andover Conservation Commission (ACC) and the Merrimack County Conservation District (MCCD) will co-sponsor a public sale of plants, trees, and shrubs at a discount from 9 AM to noon on Saturday, May 7 at the Andover Town Hall. The focus is on pollinator plants for bees and insects that ensure we can grow food.

A sample rain barrel will be on dis-

play and orders will be taken. The rain barrels cost \$50 and are made in the area, so delivery will be fast. All proceeds go to the MCCD to pay for the cost of the plants, trees, and shrubs and scholarships for students majoring in natural resource studies at UNH.

MCCD will provide (until supplies are gone) a free bulb or plant for children to give to their mothers for Mother’s Day. MCCD staff will be on-site to answer questions and provide planting guidance. We hope to see you on Saturday, May 7.

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