



P.O. Box 395  
Groton, MA 01450

[gctrust.org](http://gctrust.org)

Dear Friends,

We write to you this year with a message of gratitude and hope. The year has been both exhilarating and tumultuous, unique and glorious, challenging and uplifting.

First, some gratitude: thank you all for remaining connected to us and supportive of our work to protect and conserve land in Groton. With your support we have been able to both establish new conservation projects and continue many ongoing stewardship projects, slowly restart in-person hikes and gatherings, and develop new programming that reflects our mission. We are sending this letter to many new friends, new members, and Groton newcomers who reached us through word of mouth, by finding our trails, and by attending the diverse range of programs we were able to produce this year. We thank each and every one of you for visiting the land we strive to conserve, sharing your love of the trails, joining us for our programs, and discovering the unique and diverse nature of Groton.

We strengthened our connections with many local organizations by collaborating to produce new programming. Our partnerships with the Groton Public Library, the Groton History Center, Massachusetts Audubon Society, Prescott School Community Center, and UMass Lowell resulted in a diverse slate of programs for a wide range of ages and interests. Our Winter Tree Stroll brought many new faces to our trails and united Groton organizations who communicate messages of peace and joy to our community.

We have worked hard this year on many projects and we are proud to share the fruits of our labors. In October, we dedicated a new parcel to our stewardship, Carters' Folly, thanks to a generous gift from Anne Carter.

Our ongoing research project into the history of enslavement connected to the Moors Schoolhouse Site resulted in a new, informative kiosk and a series of programs and speakers that helped us contextualize the complex stories of Groton's relationship with slavery. The new kiosk also features a pictorial guide to the medicinal plants that were once abundant in this area and that we have replanted, thanks to a grant from Freedom's Way National Heritage Area.

We have made improvements at The General Field in our ongoing efforts to address invasives there and we installed a series of bluebird boxes to encourage these beautiful native birds to live in that thriving ecosystem.

And by now you have heard about our campaign to add much needed improvements to our first property, the Bates Land. With your help we will expand the parking, replace the crossing over James Brook, and make an accessible trail to our picnic area for all to enjoy. This effort is the final step after working many volunteer hours over several years to restore the meadows and trails on one of the most beautiful conservation areas in Groton.

Your support is greatly appreciated, now more than ever. Annual support from donors like you is the lifeblood of our organization. With your generosity, we are able to continue our work to protect and preserve land in Groton for the enjoyment of all. Thank you for giving generously.

Please visit <http://www.gctrust.org/website-donation> to make your secure, eco-friendly donation, or feel free to drop your donation in the mail to Groton Conservation Trust, PO Box 395, Groton, MA 01450. Thank you for continuing to make our work possible.

Your neighbors and friends,

Mark Gerath, President  
Susan Hughes, Vice President  
John Llodra, Treasurer  
Holly Estes, Clerk  
Brian Bettencourt, Trustee  
Heather Rielly Frothingham, Trustee  
Wendy Good, Trustee  
Ted Lapres, Trustee  
Ed McNierney, Trustee  
Rick Muehlke, Trustee  
Bob Pine, Trustee  
David Pitkin, Trustee  
Michelle Ruby, Trustee  
Chuck Vander Linden, Trustee

PS: We are pleased to announce the production of our new conservation map! The map is free with your annual membership. Check the box on your online donation or your mailed donation card and we will be sure to send one to you early in 2022.