



ABOVE: Looking north at the new Luigi and Teotista Cortelli Preserve

## Great Happenings On Great South Pond

On the cusp of the winter solstice and just a few days before Christmas last December, Wildlands Trust received an unforgettable holiday gift.

Through the extraordinary generosity of Gerald and Maureen Sheehan, the Trust received a donation of 275 acres in Plymouth—the largest single acquisition in our organization’s history. Now known as the Luigi and Teotista Cortelli Preserve, the property includes about one mile of frontage on Great South Pond, a Coastal Plain Pond, and contains a wonderfully diverse mosaic of Pine Barren woodlands, diverse topography, and retired cranberry bogs. It also connects with large tracts of adjacent conservation land to create one of the largest greenbelt corridors in all of Southeastern Massachusetts.

Coastal Plain Ponds are globally rare habitats that support some of the highest concentrations of rare species in New England, including Plymouth Gentian, a plant known for its colorful displays along pond shores. These unusual ponds are remnants of the most recent glacier that once buried the region under a mile-thick sheet of ice. As the glacier slowly retreated around 10,000 years ago, large blocks of ice remained embedded on the sandy outwash plain, and when they melted left depressions in the landscape known as “kettle holes”. Many of these kettle holes that intersect with the water table below became Coastal Plain Ponds.

Pine Barrens are also globally rare habitats that support several types of rare plants and animals and are defined by their

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TOP: Plymouth Gentian, *Sabatia kennedyana*



MIDDLE: Cone and needles of Pitch Pine, *Pinus rigida*

BELOW: Doug Hart, Karen Grey and Scot MacFaden meet with Jerry Sheehan and others while finalizing the donation of land on Great South Pond



Wildlands Trust works throughout southeastern Massachusetts to conserve and permanently protect native habitats, farmland, and lands of high scenic and ecological value in order to keep our communities healthy and our residents connected to the natural world.



# Donation of Land on Great South Pond Generates Wide Ripples

The Sheehans' inspiring contribution to land preservation resonates with the community.

On January 25, 2017, we announced Jerry and Maureen Sheehans' gift to Wildlands Trust of 275 acres on Great South Pond in Plymouth. Although Wildlands Trust was the recipient of this beautiful and highly developable land, the community at large seems to understand the greater impact of this donation on the residents of the region. At a time when no topic is free from vitriol stirred up on the internet—even the gestures of good will and generosity—we'd like to share some posts from our website that express genuine gratitude to the Sheehans.



Karen Grey  
President

“ Thank you for saving what is left of our natural lands. Grateful in many ways!

“ All creatures and flora, great and small, thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Sheehan for preserving and sharing this magnificent resource!!

“ How absolutely fantastic...thank you for your generosity Sheehan family and to Wildlands Trust for all you do.

“ What great news!! Thank you Sheehan Family! Amazing!

“ Thank you so much to the Sheehan family for their priceless gift to our community.

“ Thank you Sheehan Family! What a wonderful and generous gift of preservation for current and future generations!

“ This is such awesome news! What a great, gorgeous, generous gift. My heart is singing! Thanks so much to the Sheehans and the Wildlands Trust.

“ Thank you to the Sheehan family!!!

“ What an impactful and important thing the Sheehans have done for our community. There are few things as priceless as our natural environment and preserving its beauty for generations to enjoy and learn from. This gift will benefit so many.

“ Thank you so much!!!!!!!

“ I hope there will be a celebration honoring the Sheehans for this wonderful gift to the community and to the wildlife that will find shelter here.

“ Very proud of the forward thinking actions and commitment of my parents to preserve this land in perpetuity.

“ Thank you for your generous spirit.

“ Wow! What an amazing gift to the town, to WLT, to future generations. Thank you Sheehans!



“ Wonderful news! Thank you so much, Sheehan Family!

“ Piece by piece we make progress and the world is a better place for it.

“ What wonderful news. So thankful there are people with a vision and a feeling of responsibility to protect and preserve our unique pine barrens. Thank you to the Sheehan family.

“ A great example of Stewardship. They began to protect the land many years ago, before that concept was trendy, because they saw the need for protection of natural areas. I am sure they resisted pressure from developers many times over the years, each time they did the right thing for the land and the animals that deserve a place to live. It's not all about money, some things are much more important. The Sheehans have set a great example for landowners. I hope to do the same someday.

“ Fantastic that they did this. Thank you Sheehans!

“ Wow. Amazing gift. Thank You Sheehan family for your generosity.

“ Wow. What a stunning display by the Sheehan family of generosity and respect for this land. Sincere thank you!

“ Fabulous news! My wife and I live on Boot Pond, and have enjoyed many quiet walks around Great South over the years. A true ecological treasure! The bald eagles, red bellied turtles, and Plymouth Gentian, among many others, will still be seen thanks to you, Wildlands Trust!

“ The Sheehans are as much of a treasure as is the beautiful land they have protected. The generosity of this family is incredible, and sets a great example for others to follow. The wildlife and the wildlands and we wild-loving souls are forever in your debt! Thank you, thank you, Jerry and Maureen Sheehan!

“ Generous contributions like this will provide future generations of nature enthusiasts the privilege of witnessing first-hand the beauty and wonder provided by our creator! Thank You, Sheehan Family!

“ Thank you for doing this. Such beautiful land and water will become ever more valuable to all of us as the years go on.

“ My heroes!

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FOR INFORMATION about membership or the benefits of conveying land or conservation restrictions (agricultural included) to the Trust, call or write:

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Plymouth, MA 02360

(774) 343-5121 Phone  
(774) 343-5124 Fax  
info@wildlandstrust.org

www.wildlandstrust.org





# Public Programming Takes Off at Wildlands Trust

In the past year, the number and variety of public programs offered at Trust properties across southeastern Massachusetts have grown.

## JOIN OUR SPRING PROGRAMS



### BIRDING

with Brian Harrington

Sunday, May 21  
7:30 – 11:00 am

Brockton Audubon Preserve,  
Brockton

### INVASIVE SPECIES WORKSHOP

with Russ Norton

Saturday, June 3  
9:00 – 11:00 am

Davis-Douglas Farm, Plymouth

### LONG HIKE PART II

with Malcolm and Scott

Sunday, June 11  
9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Plymouth to Wareham

### MUD HUT ARCHITECTURE

with Kiko Denzer

Tuesday, June 13  
7:00 pm

Davis-Douglas Farm, Plymouth

### WILD EDIBLES WALK

with Russ Cohen

Sunday, June 18  
12:30 – 3:00 am

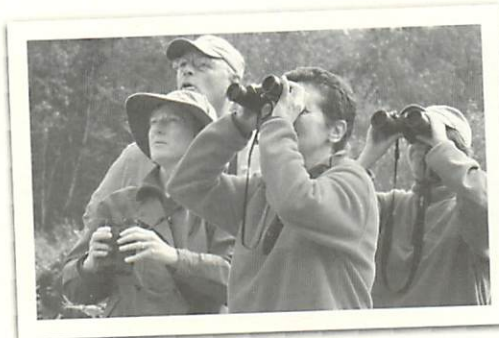
Great River Preserve, Bridgewater

### BUTTERFLIES & DRAGONFLIES WALK

with Nick Block

Saturday, June 24  
10:00 am – Noon

Great River Preserve, Bridgewater

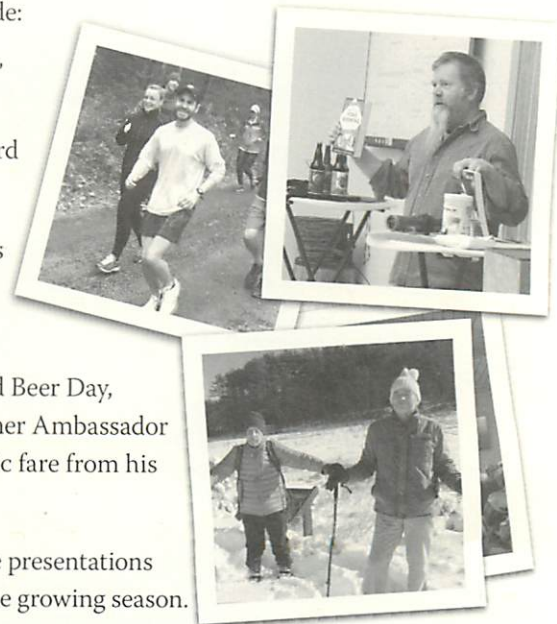


Hike with Trail Guy Malcolm MacGregor on the second Sunday of each month, go for a run with Erik Boyer on a Saturday morning Trail Run, volunteer with the Trailblazer crew to keep our preserves clean and accessible, or join us on a Wellness Wednesday for yoga or meditation classes. These activities and more are open to the public for little to no cost!

With the completion of our new Community Conservation Barn at Davis-Douglas Farm and the addition of our full-time Program Coordinator and Educator, Rachel Calderara, we are offering more to our communities than ever before. These educational programs aim to increase awareness of conservation issues, enrich knowledge of the local landscape, and build a community around our shared interests.

In addition to outdoor activities at various Wildlands Trust preserves, programs and special events have packed the Barn since it opened in November 2016. Around 450 people have participated so far this year. Highlights include:

- A sold out screening of “A Wing And A Care” with Producer Shawn Carey on February 23, highlighting the stories of three important bird conservation projects.
- Three potluck dinners that brought in curious neighbors and old friends to share food and learn about the work of Wildlands Trust.
- A conservation-minded celebration of Iceland Beer Day, where over sixty people welcomed home former Ambassador to Iceland, Rob Barber, with beer and Icelandic fare from his official brewers, IndieFerm.
- An Earth Day gardening celebration with free presentations and info to help the community prepare for the growing season.



This outpouring of support has shown us that our community wants and needs more opportunities to connect with the land and with each other. It is a privilege to be able to provide this service to you, our members, and to the residents of the 35 towns in which we protect land. We hope you'll join us at a program soon!



# Hop Yard Coming to the School House Field in Plymouth

Historically worked for hay and row crops, School House Field will be adding hops to the mix for the 2017 season.



Eel River Farm, comprised of two separate parcels known to locals as the Hoxie Field and the School House Field, is a recent addition to the Trust's agricultural holdings. Protected by an Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) requiring the continual use of the property for agricultural purposes, Wildlands Trust is under agreement with the State of Massachusetts to farm this land forever.

Since acquiring the property last summer, the Trust has been soliciting proposals from local farmers who need farm land. Over the years, the property has been primarily a hayfield and worked for row crops. Now hop growing will be added to the mix for the 2017 season.

We are happy to welcome Paul Nixon, owner of Independent Fermentation in Plymouth, who will set up his hop yard in School House Field. The brewery specializes in craft beers that are sourced with locally grown ingredients. Paul is excited about putting Plymouth on the map for hop growing.

The 58-acre Eel River Farm in Plymouth has been farmed since the earliest days of colonial settlement, the fields are bifurcated by the Eel River, a 3.9 mile river that outlets into Plymouth Harbor. They are an important component of Plymouth's agricultural heritage and contribute significantly to the beauty of rural Chiltonville, one of the most scenic neighborhoods in Plymouth.

## A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR CHAIRMAN'S COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR CONSISTENT AND VALUED SUPPORT!



Each year, since the beginning of the Chairman's Council in 2012, more members give generously to save and preserve land in southeastern Massachusetts. Today the Chairman's Council has over 140 members, each giving between \$500 and \$5,000 annually. This year, we have added a special designation for businesses that comes with networking opportunities and benefits.

Keep an eye out for the invitation to a preserves tour on Brockton Audubon Preserve, and for news about our fall event.

To become a member of the Chairman's Council, contact Sue Chamberlain 774-343-5121 x101 or [schamberlain@wildlandstrust.org](mailto:schamberlain@wildlandstrust.org)



## YOUR LEGACY FOR OPEN LAND

For over 40 years Wildlands Trust has worked to ensure that you and your family will always have clean water to drink, and woods, fields, ponds, and beaches to enjoy. Much of our success has been made possible by generous individuals who made provisions in their wills to support Wildlands Trust. Have you thought about leaving a legacy to protect the nature of southeastern Massachusetts through a planned gift?

There are many options and we appreciate gifts of all size. If you have named—or would like to consider naming—Wildlands Trust as a beneficiary in your estate plan, please call Sue Chamberlain at 774-343-5121 ext 101 or email [schamberlain@wildlandstrust.org](mailto:schamberlain@wildlandstrust.org)



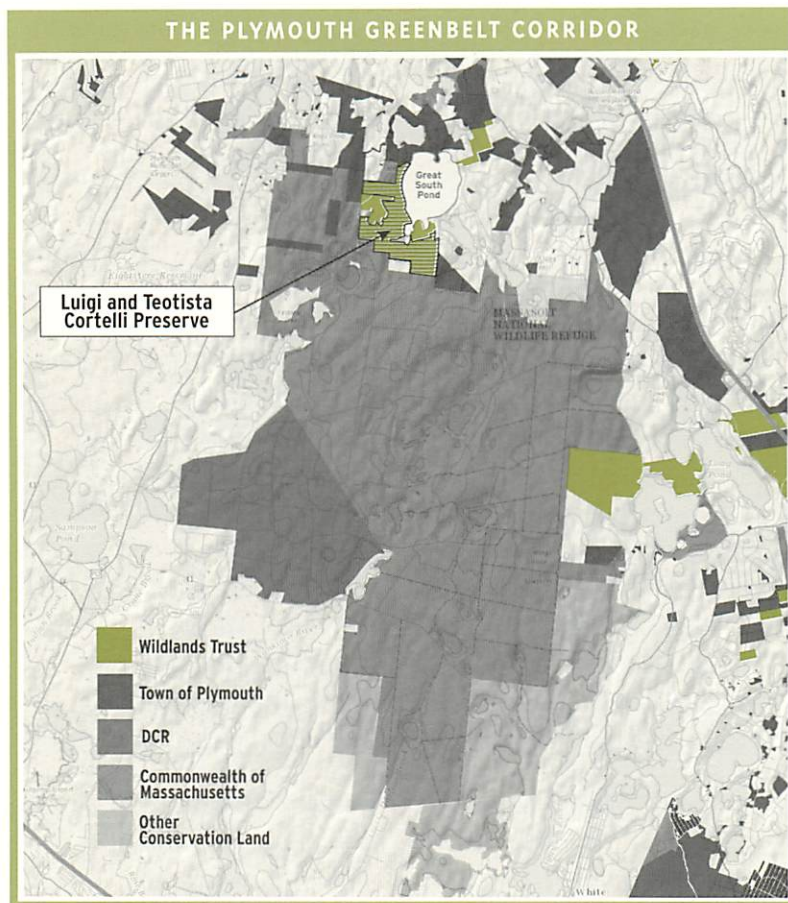
## Great Happenings On Great South Pond — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Pitch Pine/Scrub Oak woodlands. These ecosystems are fire-adapted and rely on periodic fire outbreaks to renew themselves. Plymouth's Pine Barrens are one of two large concentrations found in Massachusetts and are among the largest in the world, behind only those found in New Jersey and Long Island.

Yet further recognition of the preserve's ecological richness is its location within a portion of the recently designated "Great Thicket" National Wildlife Refuge, a project of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service intended to help address wildlife decline in the Northeast U.S. The six-state refuge encompasses parts of five New England states (excluding Vermont) and eastern New York state. It is particularly oriented toward habitat restoration efforts for the New England cottontail and other species that depend on shrub-dominated or "early successional" habitats.

The preserve is vital to the protection of water quality. It helps protect the federally designated Plymouth-Carver Sole Source Aquifer, a 199-square mile aquifer serving eight towns that is highly vulnerable to pollution. It also serves as a buffer zone around Great South Pond, a backup water supply for the Town of Plymouth, and is proximate to two town drinking water wells.

The landscape connections enabled by the donation of the property are especially impressive. It directly abuts and connects other significant conservation lands in the area, including our 23-acre Domero Cortelli Preserve, acquired with the support of the Sheehan Family Foundation in the early 2000's, the Plymouth Town Forest and the



Myles Standish State Forest. Together, these and other conservation lands comprise over 18,000 acres of contiguous greenspace—an area that is unequalled in Southeastern Massachusetts for its scale, concentrations of rare species, and opportunities for passive recreation. We intend to establish public access over a trail corridor linking the Plymouth Town Forest with Myles Standish State Forest, which will enable adventurous hikers to walk from the Town Forest through Myles Standish and into Wareham crossing only two paved roads—a ramble of over seventeen miles!

The permanent preservation of this *sui generis* property is the culmination of decades of patient advocacy on the part of WLT staff and board, past and present. Former Executive Director Mark Primack and Former Staff Biologist Brian Reid conceived and implemented our Coastal Plain Pond program, which enhanced public

awareness of these globally rare habitats and helped introduce us to the Sheehan family. The Sheehan Family Foundation provided critical funding for the Coastal Plain Pond program. More recently, our board member Howard Randall provided invaluable assistance with facilitating the land donation.

Donors Gerald and Maureen Sheehan have long had a profound connection with the property they donated and the larger Great South Pond landscape. As Mr. Sheehan related, "This area has held a special meaning for generations of our family and many other families in the area. We acquired various parcels of this land over 50 years from several local landown-

ers who used the land for deer and duck hunting, fishing and wildlife observation. We are pleased the land will be preserved for future generations and that the extraordinary biodiversity there will be able to thrive. Maureen and I are proud to give back to our community by conserving a special part of the Town's landscape and heritage."

In addition to donating the preserve, the Sheehans established a stewardship endowment to fund its oversight and protection. And later this year we will grant a permanent Conservation Restriction on the preserve to the Northeast Wilderness Trust, a Vermont-based organization serving all of New England. Placing a restriction on a preserve we own is not an uncommon practice, and provides a so-called "belt and suspenders" framework that represents the maximum protection outcome we can achieve for a property.

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# Thank You for Your Contribution

The Trust relies on private philanthropy to fund the work we do to save land throughout the region. You, our supporters, *are* Wildlands Trust. Thank you for your vision and for your dedication to preserving land for future generations.

With the opening of the new Conservation Barn last November, it has been an extraordinary year for Wildlands Trust's members. Multiple programs—trail hikes, bird trips, yoga, film presentations and workshops have already brought record numbers of members and non-members to our new headquarters at Davis-Douglas Farm. Our members receive discounts for any fee program we offer, along with many other discounts at local farm markets and participating businesses.

We hope all of you will be able to renew during our membership drive in May. And while you're at it, encourage your friends, family, neighbors and colleagues to join for the many benefits Wildlands Trust membership can provide. More importantly, you will be helping to preserve and protect land in our communities.

To our members who made a tribute in memory or in honor of someone important to them, the list on this page reflects gifts we have received since October 2016. We thank the families and friends who chose to make Wildlands Trust the recipient of these tributes.

## In Honor of

CHRISTIANA BRIGGS & FAMILY  
-Jordan Strauss, *Wyndmoor PA*

SAM CHAPIN  
-Rusty & Aileen Briggs, *Plymouth*

SAM & CAROLINE CHAPIN  
-Anna Chapin, *Brooklyn NY*

LEE & KATIE HOAGLAND  
IN HONOR OF THEIR MARRIAGE  
-Elizabeth Hoagland, *Plymouth*

HELEN DROZDICK  
-Joan & Joe Iovino, *Hingham*

GARY LANGENBACH  
-Jencie Stewart, *Marshfield*

CHARLOTTE & ED RUSSELL  
-Darice Wareham, *Plymouth*

PAM SCHMIDT  
-Eric Schmidt & Angelina Fox,  
*Lakewood CO*

MEG SHEEHAN & FAMILY  
FOR THEIR ONGOING WORK IN  
CONSERVATION IN SE MASS.  
-Pamela Kohlberg & Curt Greer,  
*Chestnut Hill*

ETHAN & LINDA WARREN  
-Caleb Warren, *Tucson AZ*

MARY WINSLOW  
-The Nordell Perraults, *Duluth MN*

## In Memory of

DELIA BRIGGS  
-Alan Exon, *Plymouth*

GERDA CONANT  
-Syma Ebbin, Michael Kane & Family,  
*Groton CT*  
-Pinewoods Camp, Inc, *Plymouth*

EDWARD DROZDICK  
-Joan & Joe Iovino, *Hingham*

DIANNE GRADY  
-Arlene & W. Scott Axford, *Kingston*  
-Karin Axford, *Marietta, GA*  
-Benjamin & Anne Brewster, *Plymouth*  
-Kristine Chaves, *Berkley*  
-Pamela Ciampi, *Plymouth*  
-Jackie Fitzhenry, *Town*  
-Sandra Gerraughty, *Georgetown*  
-Joseph Haddad, *Wakefield*  
-Steven Lodi, *Plymouth*  
-Joseph & Annie Maguire, *Plymouth*  
-David Monteiro, *Plymouth*  
-Nancy Morrison, *Kingston*

EDITH KEMP  
-Wallace Kemp, *Hanover*

BARRY MELTZER  
-Fay K. Meltzer, *Plymouth*

WALTER E. MORRISON, Jr.  
-Edwin Martin, *Norwell*  
-Linda & Ethan Warren, *Marblehead*

FRANK & NELLIE RYMUT  
-Joan & Joe Iovino, *Hingham*

WESLEY SOMERVILLE  
-Leighton & Dorothy Price, *Plymouth*

MARTHA STEARNS  
-Geoff & Joyce Stewart, *Plymouth*

CAROL STEWART  
-Ann H. Stewart, *Cambridge*

GRETA UHLIG  
A LIFELONG CONSERVATIONIST  
WHO PASSED AWAY AT AGE 100  
-Linda Lancaster, *Plymouth*

PHYLLIS O. WILSON  
-Charlotte Christian School, *Charlotte NC*  
-Connie & Michael Frantz, *Ft. Mill SC*  
-Anna McCraw, *Charlotte NC*  
-Kim McGinn, *Lancaster SC*  
-Curtis & Jennifer Ramsey, *Mt. Pleasant SC*

JOHN ZARO  
-Joan & Joe Iovino

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"On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff, and members, we wish to express our deepest gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Sheehan for entrusting this unique property to Wildlands Trust," said Karen Grey, the Trust's President. "The Luigi and Teotista Cortelli Preserve represents the largest single acquisition in our 44-year history, but even more importantly, it

is one of the most ecologically significant assemblages in the entire Southeastern Massachusetts region. It provides habitat for multiple rare species, including several globally rare species, and helps to protect Great South Pond's water quality. We look forward to continuing the Sheehans' exemplary stewardship of this outstanding property."

"The donation of this preserve is the latest in a long-running series of land preservation projects the Sheehan family has enabled," said Grey. "Without their consistent support for the conservation work that we and others do, Southeastern Massachusetts would be a much lesser place—less green, less healthy, and with a diminished quality of life."





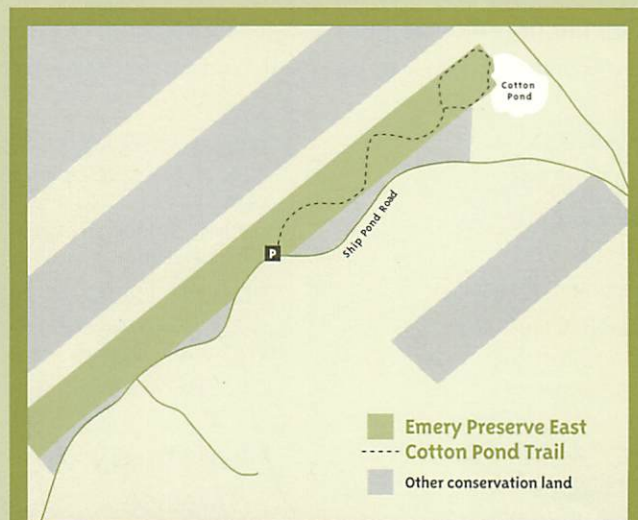
## PROPERTY SPOTLIGHT

**STAFF PICK: Cotton Pond Trail at Emery East Preserve, Plymouth**

**This long-established trail that rambles through lush forest, giving way to the berry bush-lined shore of Cotton Pond, is worth a revisit after getting some TLC from dedicated local volunteers.**

The 29.2-acre Emery East Preserve was gifted to the Trust in 1973 by the Emery family as part of two significant donations that were the Trust's first land acquisition. The Preserve is located on a glacial upland just east of Long Pond and contains a small stretch of shoreline on Cotton Pond, a small kettle pond. Off-pavement parking can be found for the trail off Ship Pond Rd.

The trail starts off entering a gradually revegetating former gravel pit then turns east towards Cotton Pond. After a short stretch the path winds up, then down a large hill, part of the Ellisville Moraine, with a steep descent down towards Cotton Pond. Most of the forest cover is Red Oak and Pitch Pine with some Gray Birch and Red Maple scattered about. Most of the shrub layer consists of dense thickets of Black Huckleberry, while Sweet Pepperbush with its fragrant late summer blossoms dominates along the pond shore. Herons and various waterfowl can be seen, particularly in the spring and fall, and frogs and turtles inhabit the water during the summer.



A portion of the property was once a cranberry bog that the Emery Family worked at the turn of the twentieth century. Succession has led it to now become a Red Maple swamp.

This trail was recently restored during the summer and fall of 2016 by a group of Sierra Club volunteers and Trailblazer volunteers from Wildlands Trust. Some improvements were made on the original trail which includes primitive steps on the steep hill climb and a hand rail.