



GOSA *Instant!* News

Groton Open Space Association *Instant!* News, Fall 2013, Volume 2, No. 5
P.O. Box 9187 Groton, CT 06340-9187

GOSA to Acquire Avery Farm in Groton-Ledyard

Groton Open Space Association, Inc. is very pleased to announce an agreement with Julia A. Weber, daughter of Latham Avery, for the donation and sale of the Weber family's 298-acre property called Avery Farm. The addition of Avery Farm to GOSA's 91 abutting acres at Candlewood Ridge will create a greenbelt of protected land extending from Gold Star Highway into Ledyard.

According to the terms of the agreement signed on December 2, 2013, the Webers will donate the 146 acres located in Groton at 465 Lambtown Road to GOSA, and GOSA will purchase the remaining 152 acres in Ledyard at 58 Lambtown Road Extension for \$1,020,000. (See map on page 3.) The house and barn lot are not included in the sale.

GOSA is deeply grateful to the Weber family for their generous donation. We will immediately launch a fundraising campaign and apply for additional grant funding. Meanwhile, we encourage you to join us on a [tour](#) and [make a donation](#) towards the purchase of this outstanding property.

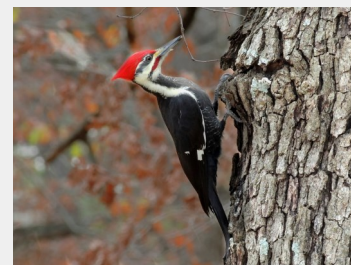
Protecting the Avery Farm is critical because of the property's size, location, and historical and ecological significance. Latham Avery, a pioneer in land conservation, purchased the first 80 acres in 1929 and enlarged it over time through the acquisition of over 200 additional acres. The result is almost 300 acres of



Colonial Avery Farm

beautiful land composed of diverse habitats and species. The Avery/Weber family have cared for the land through responsible stewardship. Sitting along an unpaved, town-designated scenic road, the farm is an historical landmark which protects significant water resources and is also home to many species of wildlife, including several endangered species.

Avery Farm provides a stimulating location for bird-watchers and ornithologists. It hosts 169 identified species, 19 of which are on the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species list. A 38-acre marsh, part of which is in Avery Farm and the remainder in the neighboring Lamb Farm, provides important habitat for shorebirds and migratory waterfowl.



Pileated woodpecker

For hikers, walkers, and artists, Avery Farm features scenic views from the road of bucolic pastures; in addition, several trails and



Avery Farm west ledge



Photo by Sue Sutherland

Lamb/Avery marsh and bog, cattails and asters

utility-managed habitat corridors pass by bogs, vernal pools, grassy fields, and forests, some listed on the state's Natural Diversity Data Base. Once acquired, these trails will be accessible to the public for non-motorized recreation.

The farm offers floodplain, estuary, and drinking water protection for two watersheds: Groton Utilities' Ledyard Reservoir and Haley Brook to the Mystic River and Long Island Sound.

Opportunities abound for the appreciation, exploration and study of the farm's ecology, history, ornithology, and geology. Protecting this site also serves to achieve many of the goals established in local, regional and state plans of conservation and development.

The New England cottontail, a candidate federal endangered species, has been identified on Avery Farm and provides a locus for regional coastal protection efforts. GOSA received a \$100,000 Long Island



Photo by Sue Sutherland

Great egret and great blue heron taking flight

Sound Futures Fund grant to pay for the restoration of 46 acres of early successional habitat favored by the rabbit and over 50 other species at risk on the Avery Farm and Candlewood Ridge.

Avery Farm serves as an outdoor classroom for the study of nature and agrarian history. It is currently used by the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center as a location for educational walks and as a field site for college classes in ornithology, geology, and archaeology.



Photo by Sue Sutherland

New England cottontail rabbits

We all benefit from the quiet beauty of our natural surroundings and from the clean water in our streams, reservoirs, and estuaries. Please, help GOSA preserve this significant piece of open space by making a donation today.



Left to right clockwise: yellow-breasted chat, American kestrel, box turtle and black racer snake.



Photo by Sue Sutherland

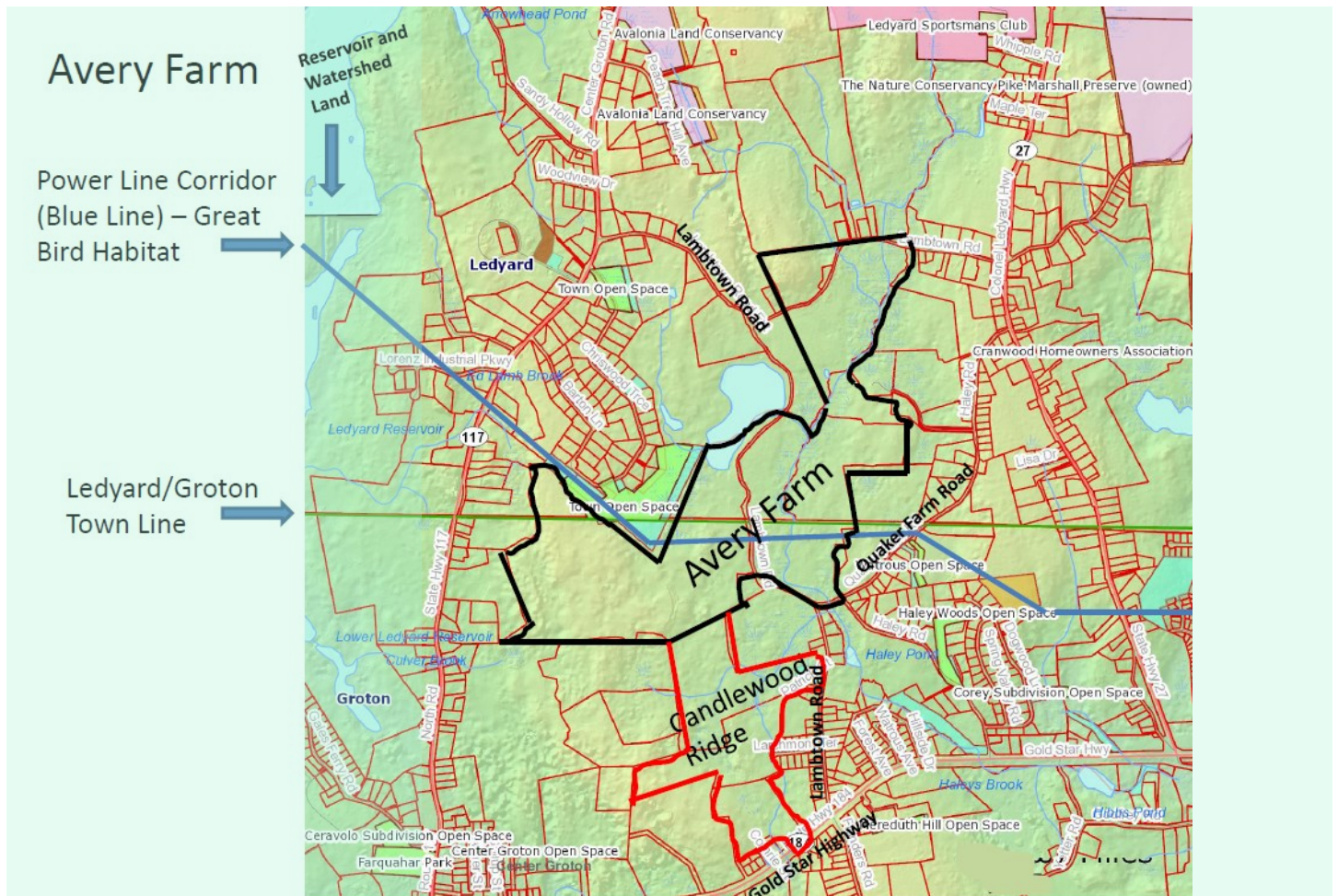


Photo by Wayne Forsberg



Photo by Sue Sutherland

Avery Farm upper field



GROTON OPEN SPACE ASSOCIATION, INC.

Advocating for land, water, and wildlife in Southeastern CT since 1967

Please make your check payable to: Groton Open Space Association, Inc. or GOSA, Inc.

and mail to: GOSA, P.O. Box 9187, Groton, CT 06340-9187

Yes! I support the purchase of the Avery Farm\$ _____

Yes! I support GOSA with my membership, \$10 per person \$ _____

Name(s) _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

- ☐ My employer, _____, has a matching gift program.
- ☐ I would like to volunteer to help with land care _____ and/ or other _____.
- ☐ Yes, I have included GOSA in my will or estate plans.
- ☐ Contact me for more information about including GOSA in my will.

GOSA Instant! News will support the mission and purpose of the Groton Open Space Association by publishing electronic newsletters to inform the public and will also serve as a link to the GOSA website <http://gosaonline.org/> and to our Facebook page.



GOSA Mission and Purpose GOSA supports the protection of land, water, and wildlife in Southeastern CT and is a nonprofit tax-exempt organization under IRS Section 501(c)(3).

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Membership

To join, send a check to GOSA and include your name, address and e-mail. Annual dues are \$10 per year.

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