

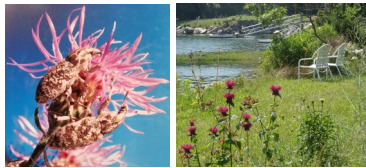


## GROTON OPEN SPACE ASSOCIATION, INC.

Advocating for LAND – WATER – WILDLIFE since 1967

GOSAonline.org | P.O. Box 9187 Groton, CT 06340

# 2023 Annual Appeal



2022 was a big year for GOSA land management and improvements with the help of your volunteer efforts and donations.

Our hardworking, volunteer Stewardship crew made significant strides in continuing to improve properties and trail offerings to ensure they remain in good condition, are safe, and have well marked trails. In addition to weekly work parties to mow grassy areas, clear invasive plants, and maintain trails and fields, a new bridge was installed at Avery Farm over Haley's Brook, and a railing was added to the bridge at the Sheep Farm waterfall for added safety. New signage is underway to identify our newer properties with historic and highlighted feature information and for trail mapping purposes. Additional pollinator garden plantings were installed at Beebe Cove Vista and Walt's Walls & Woods, and both were registered under the pollinator pathway program.

This year GOSA developed a comprehensive plan to manage invasive plants, and commenced work on the development of detailed property management plans. GOSA also engaged in numerous collaborative projects with local environmental specialists and organizations. Projects include:

- Pitch Pine planting at Candlewood Ridge with GOSA botanist Whitney Adams
- Innovative weevils used to mitigate invasive spotted knapweed at Candlewood Ridge
- Bat house installation at Avery Farm by Eagle Scout Nathaniel Kimpan
- Avery Farm tour in collaboration with CT Forest & Park Association for Trails Day
- Earth Day cleanup and invasive plant removal at Haley Farm in collaboration with The Last Green Valley (TLGV) with the support of the local Cub Scouts
- New trail construction connecting both the North and South ends of the Sheep Farm supported by a Pfizer work party
- Connecticut DEEP Eastern Regional Forester consultation on new growth forest at Candlewood Ridge

GOSA's Board of Directors grew with new Members having skills in finance, website & social media, and land management. A new website was launched this summer

showcasing our properties and ongoing activities and news. All of the efforts and accomplishments highlighted were achieved with your support. The GOSA community continues to be our most valuable asset! Your 2023 membership and donations provide sound fiscal support, help sustain open spaces in our community, and assures successful protection of our waterways and open spaces. Please consider supporting GOSA in your yearly giving.

With gratitude from all of us, *GOSA Board of Directors*



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# Notice of Annual Meeting

**Thursday, October 20, 2022**

*The Board of Directors for the Groton Open Space Association, Inc., cordially invites members to participate in the 2022 Annual Meeting in-person on **Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the Latham Chester Store** 108 Main Street, Noank*

**Doors open at 6:00 PM**

**Business Meeting at 6:30 PM**

Officer Reports - Board Elections

Spotted Salamander Awards

**Special Guest Speaker at 7:00 PM**

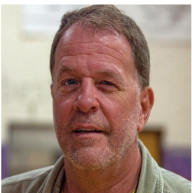
**A Presentation by Peter Christoph**

*Refreshments & Snacks provided*

## Owls of New England

**A Presentation by Peter Christoph**

**Discover the Owls of New England.** In this captivating presentation, Peter delivers stunning photographs of his favorite owls combined with stories that entertain, educate and inspire the audience. You'll learn the secrets Peter uses to find and photograph these same owls in the wild in their natural habitat! Eight species of expected owls in New England include: Great Horned, Barred, Eastern Screech, Long-eared, Short-eared, Snowy Owl, Northern Saw-whet and the very elusive Barn Owl - the toughest of all to find. Why are all these owls so successful at hunting? Peter provides the answer with his beautiful images. He'll wrap up this exciting program with stunning photos of a rare visitor from the North called the Great Gray Owl.



**Peter Christoph** is a well-known wildlife advocate, naturalist and award-winning bird photographer based in Lancaster, MA. He has a great respect for wildlife and through his presentations seeks to raise awareness of the need to conserve bird habitat. Peter has presented at photography groups nationally and locally, including the Photographic Society of America (PSA), New England Camera Club Council (NECCC,) and several camera clubs throughout New England. He is a regular speaker for the Appalachian Mountain Club, Mass Audubon and the National Wildlife Refuge System, as well as numerous birding clubs and dozens of libraries. Peter is Vice Chair of the Massachusetts Camera Naturalists, and is past president of the Camera Club of Central New England. He has been the recipient of many prestigious national and international awards and medals recognizing his photographic talent. Peter is also responsible for publishing three bird photography books, including his latest "The Art of Bird Photography."

## Visit us Online

Checkout [GOSAOnline.org](https://www.gosaonline.org) for more information on our properties

Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GrotonOpenSpaceAssociation>