

# RGT Stewardship Plan

Site: Ellamoose Repose

Plan for year: 2013

## 1. Description: size, location, access, brief description

When Elise Krober gave 24.5 acres on Cave Hill Road to the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust in 2009, she asked that it be called Ellamoose Repose and included a wonderful story to explain the name.

The property has frontage on Cave Hill Road between mailboxes #66 and #78. An opening has been cut in the stonewall so that farm equipment and walkers can enter the property.

The gift of this land protects a property that could have been developed as house lots. It offers opportunity to preserve a traditional New England pattern of land use: meadows bounded by stone walls and woodlands - both wet and dry forest habitats.

*or ..... same as last year*

## 2. Site Significance:

The west end, near Cave Hill Road, includes 3 meadows bounded by stone walls. Eastern 2/3 is forested. The eastern and western sections of the woods are low/wet; the middle section is slightly higher and drier. The orthophoto clearly shows the meadows/edges, the deciduous (lower) wetland forest and the coniferous (higher) dry forest.

There are a number of stone structures probably of Native American origin (as well as more recent stone walls) on the property.

*or ..... same as last year*

## 3. Deed Restrictions/Responsibilities:

There are no restrictions in the deed.

*or ..... same as last year*

## 4. Site Restrictions/Limitations:

When RGT received the property there was a healthy crop of poison ivy in the meadows.

*or ..... same as last year*

## 5. Plant Communities, Wildlife Communities, Natural Features:

No systematic plant inventories have been done. The wet meadows and wet woodlands host a variety of spring wildflowers. In mid-May 2009, wet woodlands included hellbore, jack-in-the-pulpit, royal fern, winterberry and arrowwood. Drier woodlands had star flower and fringed polygola.

With the combination of wet and dry woods, open fields and shrubby edges, Ellamoose Repose

is also home to a variety of breeding birds and other critters. On May 18 and 19, 2009, in dry and wet forest, we heard Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hermit Thrush, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Pine Warbler, Ovenbird, Scarlet Tanager, Slate-colored Junco, and Barred Owl. Along the edges we saw a female Eastern Towhee feigning injury to lead us away from nest, flushed Ruffed Grouse and Gray Catbird. In the meadow, we saw an American Robin and a Field Sparrow. Again, no systematic inventories have been done.

This spring a neighbor saw a very large bull moose on the property – although he did not notice the hoped-for Ellamoose trunk.

*or ..... same as last year*

**6. Historic Land Use and Cultural Resources:**

Given the stone walls and the fence wire deeply embedded in boundary trees and the field-grown pine in the drier woods, it is reasonable to assume that this land was farmed. The present property boundaries were created in 1983 when the Cave Hill area was being developed.

There are numerous stone structures probably of Native American origin on the property (not yet mapped).

*or ..... same as last year*

**7. Trails Present and Potential** (also complete/revise Trail Assessment on last pages):

A hiking trail is planned for this property, therefore, the Trails Assessment is not included.

*or ..... same as last year*

**8. Potential Threats:** (boundaries/access, unauthorized use, hydrology/wetlands, soil erosion/sedimentation, invasive species, sensitive resources)

When RGT was given the property we were also given an long-standing problem with the neighbor to the north whose horses escape their fenced area regularly.

*or ..... same as last year*

**9. Management Goals Last Year and Accomplishments:**

Goals 2009-2011:

1. To gain access to the property without having to get either neighbor's permission.

Accomplishments: With permission of the Conservation Committee, Greg Rawls made an opening in the stone wall wide enough for farm vehicles and therefore for hikers.

2. To reduce the poison ivy crop so that we could invite the public to walk to trail.

Accomplishments: Greg Rawls has mowed the fields at least once a season, limed and fertilized to create a richer habitat in order to discourage poison ivy.

3. To develop a working relationship with the neighbor to the north so that her horses would not be a hazard to hikers.

Accomplishments: A work in progress.

**10. Comparison last year's budget (years 2009-2012) with actual costs:**

**a. Estimated every-year costs: (Note: figures need to be verified by Lou)**

2012: spring (fertilizing?) \$ 1,270 mowed in trade for hay

2011: late fall \$625 (may be an ELM bill). mowed in trade for hay

2010: late fall \$125+ \$1830 = 1,955 (liming/brush hogging?) (Rawls from her on)

2009 fall mowing \$400 (Wentworth)

**b. Estimated single-year costs:**

unclear

**c. Unanticipated costs:**

none (or all - since we are still working out how to manage this land)

**11. Management Goals This Year:**

1. To develop a plan for Ellamoose Repose that, while recognizing the horses will continue to be a problem, focuses on ways to provide the community with access to a lovely property.

2. To maintain the present landscape pattern:  
the front meadow  
the second double-meadow  
the forested area (both wet and dry forests)

3. To re-mark the borders (take new gps readings as well) – this was done in 2010, but needs to be renewed. And, of course, done every few years in the future.

4. To map the ceremonial stones on the Property

5. To open the property to the public by designing and building a loop trail on the property.

6. To (eventually) connect the Ellamoose Trail to Rattlesnake Hill and thus to trails in the Rattlesnake Gutter area.

**12. Schedule of Planned Activities (including monitoring) to Meet Goals:**

Goal 1: Focus on opening property, try to neutralize problems with horses (on-going)

Goal 2: Maintain meadows and forested area

1. Contract with Greg Rawls for haying (no cost, he takes hay) February
2. Discuss with Board whether to improve the land by liming (once? twice?) let Greg know. February
3. Remove some of shrubbery along meadow side of stone wall to improve view from road. February

Goal 3: Re-mark (paint) boundaries (Feb-April) This is also serve as monitoring trip

Goal 4: Map stone structure (Eva will do at her convenience)

Goal 5: Design/create loop trail on property (Feb-April)

Goal 6: Create longer trail

Begin by exploring possible routes and ownership of properties.(after 3-5 complete)

| <b>13. Budget: Description</b>  | <b>Estimated cost</b>         | <b>Estimated Total</b>       |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>a. Costs every year</b>  |                               |                              |
| Mowing  | \$0 (Greg Rawls takes hay)    |                              |
| Liming  | Board to decide (#1,270/time) |                              |
| Mowing Trail Path   | \$0 (Greg Rawls will do free) |                              |
|   |                               |                              |
| <b>b. Costs just this year</b>  |                               |                              |
| signage – first year can be simple                                    | \$40                          |                              |
|   |                               |                              |
|   |                               |                              |
|   |                               |                              |
| <b>(Total for this year)</b>  |                               |                              |
| <b>c. Anticipate additional costs next year</b>                       |                               | <i>(do not add to total)</i> |
| Haying may now be worth farmer doing it for hay – will not know ahead |                               |                              |

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
|   |  |  |
|   |  |  |
| <p>A first draft plan completed by RGT Board, December 17. The Ellamoose Committee met January 23 and January 30 (with Greg Rawls, Jimmy was not able to attend that meeting. To be presented to the Board Feb 20 for their approval (and decision on liming).</p> <p>2013 Ellamoose Repose Committee: Julie Collier, Eva Gibavic, Jimmy Grogan, Mary Alice Wilson.</p> |  |  |

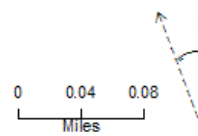
*Special thanks to the East Quabbin Land Trust for their help with the format of this document.*

# Ellamoose Repose

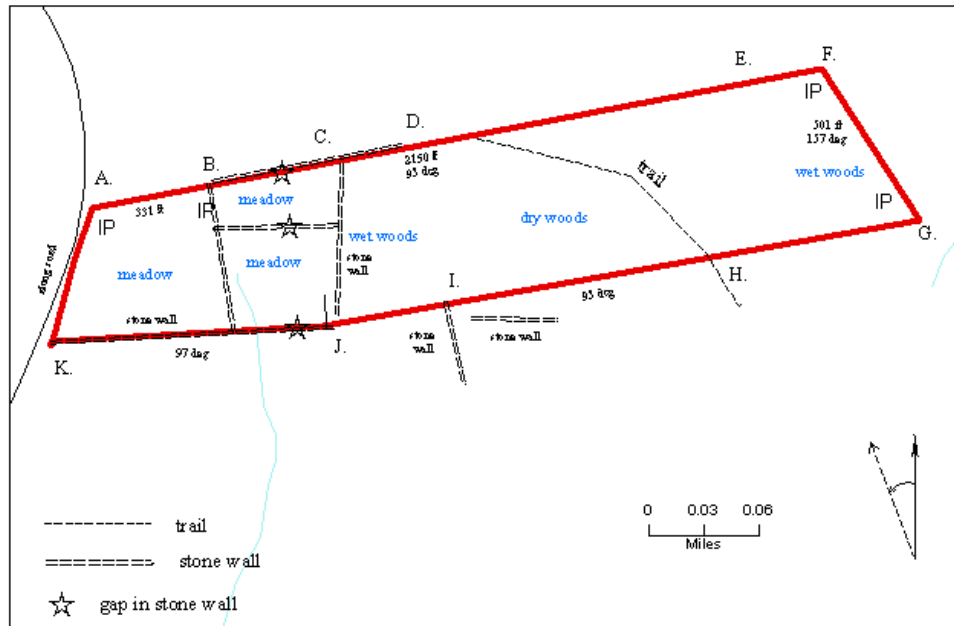


Ellamoose Repose (owned by the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust)

Trails on this new (2009) property are being developed.



## Ellamoose Repose for Monitoring



- A. NW corner on road, iron stake, 42.49396, -72.49554
- B. N edge, iron pipe, 42.49413, -72.49422  
(this first section of line does not follow land use or stone walls, stone wall begins here, line easier to follow to the east)
- C. end of meadow, stone wall along line 42.49432 -72.49282
- D. trees blazed to ne corner, stone wall ends here 42.49443, -72.49216
- E. lot to north heavily logged/thinned, 42.49499, -72.48833
- F. pin, northeast corner, beyond logging, 49.49502 -72.48766
- G. southeast corner, iron pipe/stones, 42.49387, -72.48647, east line is blazed
- H. series of iron pins along south line, trees blazed here to stone wall to west. Trail crosses here, 42.49358, -72.48886
- I. west end of lovely stone wall south of property line, 42.49323, -72.49143 (only pin shown on survey not found is at the east end of this wall)
- J. beginning of stone wall on line, 42.49305, -72.49285. wall continues on line to road
- K. southwest corner, stone wall corner at road, 42.49275, -72.49605