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[Release Date]

LOCAL WILDLIFE VOLUNTEERS ATTEND “COVERTS” TRAINING WORKSHOP

[Your Town], NH – A new group of wildlife conservation volunteers have been released into the wild in locations all over New Hampshire, including right here in [your town]. Twenty-six new Coverts Project volunteers emerged from the fourteenth annual New Hampshire Coverts Project Training Workshop held at the Barbara C. Harris Conference Center in Greenfield, NH, September 23-26, 2009.

The program’s name comes from the term “covert” (pronounced “cover” with a “t”), which is a thicket that provides shelter for wildlife.

This year’s 3 ½-day workshop included several participants from [your county] County, including [ADD YOUR NAME & NAMES OF OTHERS IN YOUR AREA – CONTACT THEM FIRST]. The volunteer training workshop offered field trips and lectures where participants learned about managing land for wildlife, conserving wildlife habitat in their communities, and practicing sound forest management. [ADD A QUOTE HERE ABOUT WHAT WE DID AT THE WORKSHOP...EXAMPLE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR: "I learned a lot about the benefits of grasslands to wildlife – and the overall thread of the workshop conveyed the benefits to all that come from conserving and improving wildlife habitat."]

The participants came from a wide variety of backgrounds. At this year's workshop, a teacher, a doctor, a philanthropist, a financial consultant, a lawyer, a retired minister, and an art dealer were among the workshop participants. Many of the new volunteers also own significant amounts of land and are members of their town conservation commissions. All share an interest in land stewardship and wildlife conservation.

[ADD HERE ABOUT PARTICIPANTS FROM YOUR NEWSPAPER'S REGION --
INCLUDE DIRECT QUOTES IF POSSIBLE]

Over 290 trained Coverts volunteers from all over New Hampshire educate the public on how sound forest management and conservation practices can enhance wildlife habitat. UNH Cooperative Extension coordinates the program with funding from the NH Fish & Game Department, the NH Division of Forests & Lands, and the Quality Deer Management Association.

To learn about a Coverts Project Cooperator near you, contact the Extension Educator in Forest Resources at your county Cooperative Extension office. If you would like more information on the Coverts Project, write to NH Coverts Project, UNH Cooperative Extension, 214 Nesmith Hall, 131 Main Street, Durham, NH 03824 or call (603) 862-2166, or view the website at www.nhcoverts.org.