

MAKING TRACKS

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The Newsletter of the New Hampshire Coverts Project

April 2005

A Homesteading Way of Life

by Malin Clyde

"Would you and your family like to come on up during sapping and see our place?" was the question David White, Coverts Cooperator (Class of 2004), asked this winter when we were talking about his sugaring operation. It was only when he sent a picture of the sap house and a map of how to get to his homestead that I realized what a treat was in store for us. The card said, "Leave your car at the road. Walk in less than a mile from there. Snowshoes are a good idea."

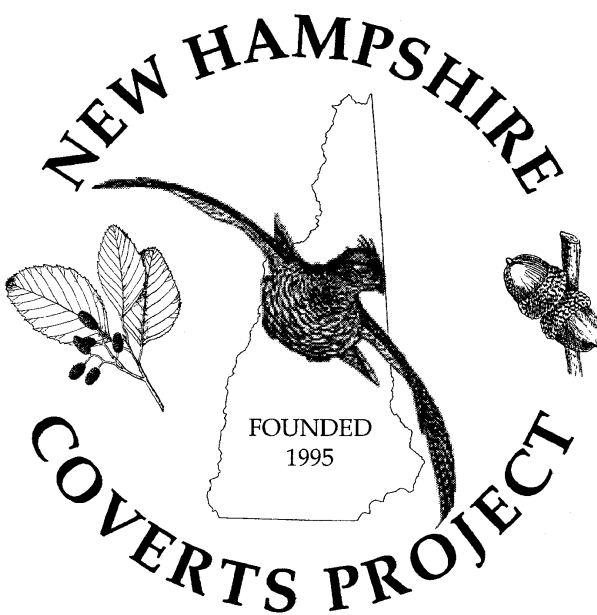
Since 1998, David and his wife C.C. have been creating a homesteading way of life—from scratch—in their corner of Sandwich, NH. They live without electricity of any kind, growing or hunting for much of their own food. They heat and cook with wood from their 118-acre property, and enjoy the serenity of a picturesque outhouse overlooking the birdfeeders behind the barn. They pump and haul their water, and have an icehouse filled with ice they cut by hand for use in a genuine wooden "icebox" that David built. Although they can drive into their homestead in the summer months, during winter and mud season they choose to walk, snowshoe or ski three-quarters of a mile to get in or out.

David attended the Coverts training workshop in the fall of 2004, and has periodically mailed us engaging updates about his Coverts-related activities, written long-hand or typed on a typewriter (he gets extra credit for this, of course). Since attending the workshop, he has started a non-profit association of landowners in the Atwood and Heath Brook watershed, in which the White's land and the Thompson Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary are located. "We are very interested in conserving *and* improving habitat for wildlife" in the region, reports David. One of the first goals for the group is to map the watershed, working with the nearby Community School, co-founded by fellow Coverts Cooperator Rudy Carlson (CC02) and his wife Martha. "The school became involved early on in GIS mapping, and they have a cadre of 'techie' students who are helping us create amazing maps," says David. "Digitizing the property boundaries had to be done by hand, but I think they learned a lot about the community—as will we—in the process."



The White's sugar house on Maple Weekend, 2005

Using the resulting maps, the watershed group will then connect with the other 160 landowners in the watershed to discuss land conservation options. So far, the group has helped raise funds to protect 42 additional acres in the watershed, and has found six other landowners willing to donate easements on their land. David and C.C. have plans to donate an easement on their land too, and to use this offer as a way to inspire and leverage other donations around the watershed.



David also recognizes that land stewardship will be key to encouraging a diversity of wildlife in the watershed. The new watershed group plans to offer education to landowners about management options to create an even better diversity of habitats in the region. To this end, the Whites are managing their land for a variety of wildlife species, particularly bobcat, deer, grouse, and woodland songbirds. A recent meeting with NH Audubon staff had David proposing the creation of patch cuts abutting the neighboring sanctuary to create early successional habitat which would complement the relatively mature forest in the sanctuary. "They were delighted, and we talked about making the cuts larger (3-5 acres)" David says. "But we'll see what I can actually accomplish, essentially working on it in my spare time."

Looking at the White's sugaring operation, you begin to wonder what he means by spare time. When we snowshoed towards the sugar house in March, we noticed that the Whites collect their sap in buckets, and carry it by hand along a maze of snowshoe paths. My daughter remarked that there were an awful lot of buckets. "Two-hundred and sixty buckets, actually," David reported with a smile.

When the Whites were looking for land to purchase and build their homestead, a grove of sugar maples was a key criterion. David grew up sugaring on his family's land in Wolfeboro, and he had the family evaporator (and a portable sawmill) ready to relocate to his Sandwich land. The White's new sugar house looks more like an architect's dream than a sugar shack. It has diagonal floor-to-ceiling glass windows and a door latch shaped into two maple leaves which was forged by C.C.'s brother, a blacksmith in Newmarket, NH. Everything about the building is wooden, simple and beautiful, but also highly functional. In the White's cozy living space (in the back half of the barn, for now) there are open shelves, an antique cookstove, a few well-placed hanging pots, a wooden airplane propeller hung above a window. Form follows function here, but not by far.

The homesteaders I've met growing up in Alaska seemed to have chosen their tough existence in order to avoid other people. But David and C.C. are clearly not hermits. When looking for land, David says, "we wanted a real community where we felt comfortable. We're both New Englanders, born and bred, and community is very important to us... We liked what we found in Sandwich." David and C.C. both do some



C.C. and David White (CC04) of Sandwich, NH.

work off the homestead, though C.C. has recently left her work at a bookstore to spend more time painting. And although they are relatively new to Sandwich, they are very involved in the community doing trail maintenance for the Wonalancet Outdoors Club, providing input into the White Mountain National Forest plan revision, volunteering for the neighboring Audubon sanctuary, and working with Friends of Sandwich Range to expand the Sandwich Range Wilderness. They recently hosted a "Keeping Track" program, led by Susan Morse, and spent the day tracking mammals and learning about the species they tracked. David plans to set up a monitoring transect on their land and share the data with Audubon and the town of Sandwich. When we visited their place on Maple Sugar Weekend, the crowds of friends and neighbors who hiked into the sap house were a testament to the White's community connections.

David describes their life as one committed to living self-sufficiently, sustainably, and with minimal impact on the planet. Compost from the house goes back into the garden. Thinning the sugarbush provides fuel for the evaporator. The woods provide sawlogs, which the White's mill into lumber for the buildings. They have done 100% of the building construction themselves, starting with fieldstone foundations made of stones found on their own land. Carroll County Extension forester Peter Pohl



The claw marks on the door of the White's sugar house show evidence of black bear. Luckily, this one couldn't open the latch!

describes David and C.C.'s incredible persistence in building the barn foundation: "I watched the two of them build that foundation from May until November, every day, working together. They had to find the rocks, carry them to the site, clean them, mortar them in place, and then turn around and look for more... It was exhausting! It would drive most couples crazy to work together like that, but they seem to inspire admiration in each other. They are an incredible team, and succeeded where most of us would have quit."

David's commitment to conservation in his town fits into what he describes as the "community ethic of careful land stewardship" in Sandwich. "There are many large private landowners who are committed to long-term care for their land," says David. And given the early success in talking with landowners in their watershed, the outlook for wildlife in this corner of New Hampshire seems bright.

"Much of the process proves to be very slow and time-consuming," says David, "but I see this as part of a bigger effort to protect the forestlands between the Sandwich and Ossipee Mountains." And though all community conservation projects require patience, hard work, and collective effort, it seems that these are just the sort of traits David and C.C. have honed as homesteaders that will serve them well in their efforts. Protecting a watershed may be as hard as building a stone foundation by hand, but something tells me they will persevere.

HAPPENINGS

Harmony Anderson (CC02) is a member of the Strafford Conservation Commission which held a "get to know your Town Forest" day in February. It introduced animal sign ID, tree ID, and new town forest maps that forester Charlie Moreno prepared for the town. She also writes, "I will be taking a turn at being Chair of the Bear-Paw Regional Greenways executive board. On my own land, I'm planning some habitat improvements, including reclaiming a few more acres of field land for meadow species out of my 30-some acres of woodland. There will also be a strip through a wetland that will be cut and allowed to grow back into brush to benefit wildlife."

Celeste Philbrick Barr (CC04) will be giving a slide show presentation to the Milford Garden Club on Invasive Plant Species in May.

Brenda Bhatti (CC97) of Jaffrey sends news of her recent activities: "I presented my Wildlife Tracking Program to an energetic group of Cub Scouts and their parents who came up to Rindge from Westford, MA for a weekend adventure. I'll be presenting the same program again at the Jaffrey library (date TBD) and again for the local Boy Scouts. Also, I often do peer reviews and/or prepare planting plans as part of my professional skillset. I recently did a voluntary review of a landscape plan for a locally-proposed project for the Jaffrey Planning Board. I've been trying to educate others at a local level on invasive, non-native, and aggressive plant issues (and the differences in terminology). I highly recommend the site plants.usda.gov to fellow Coverts Cooperators in their search for suitable alternative plants to use in landscaping (e.g., native). Finally, I'm celebrating four years on the Jaffrey Conservation Commission. We have so much going on and were recently awarded a SPACE grant to perform a Cost of Community Services study!"

Bob Craycraft (CC 2003) has served on the New Durham planning board since 2000 and following the Coverts training he worked with the board for a grant through the Natural Resource Outreach Coalition (NROC). Says Bob, "NROC is a consortium of local, state and federal entities that assist with natural resource-based planning and projects. The town of New Durham was awarded assistance that will kick-off with a community workshop this April titled 'Dealing with Growth in New Durham.' It will bring community members together and begin some constructive dialog on how the citizens want the town to grow and how the town can work to protect the natural resources and scenic features it cherishes most. Considering the Town of New Durham has been working to update our antiquated 1983 master plan (the blueprint for growth in our town), we feel this assistance will help move the master plan towards completion. The NROC team has also provided some preliminary assistance with our Natural Resource Inventory. I was also recently nominated as chairman to the planning board. In this role, I intend to assure that our citizens are better informed on both natural resources and other planning issues."

Paul Dionne (CC01) sent in lots of news about his activities in recent years: "Broadview Farm Conservation area in Derry has woodcocks for the 1st time in almost 20 years. I have worked on habitat restoration & habitat improvement at this former dairy farm since the town purchased the 76-acre parcel six years ago. The fields had overgrown with invasive shrubs. We had the main 30-acre field brush hogged, limed & fertilized, and since then it has been cut twice a year (once after bobolinks have fledged and again after the monarch butterflies are gone). The field supports 6-8 pair of bobolinks, some nesting meadowlarks, lots of bluebirds and tree swallows. Savannah sparrows stop by, but as yet have not nested. In addition, I worked with John Brown & Sons for a week this fall with the brontosaurus, based on a plan I worked on with Phil Auger, Matt Tarr & Charlie Moreno. The main field now has unbroken views from end to end & I anticipate more nesting grassland species this summer. The field with the woodcocks is 8-10 acres and has excellent woodcock habitat: a grassy knoll, hayfields with a wet edge filled with speckled alder. I began clearing this field with a brush hog and chain saw on weekends this past summer, and the brontosaurus completed the project in the fall. This March, I went up to the field with my wife Susan, and we were immediately greeted with the "peenting" of a male. We saw 4 that night & 4-5 each night since. It is very exciting!"

Joyce El Kouarti (CC03), Executive Director of Moose Mountains Regional Greenways, sends news of an event to put on your calendar in August. She writes, "The Moose Mountains Regional Greenways' Third Annual Trail Day will be on Saturday, August 27, 2005. Underwritten by The Siemon Company, this fun, family-friendly event will have guided walks with nature experts, hayrides, kids' crafts, pony rides, live music and more. Trail Day will be held at Branch Hill Farm, a 3,000-acre farm in Milton Mills, NH. For more information, call 603-817-8260 or email info@mrmrg.info."

Barbara Fales (CC98) has been named to two boards of directors. These include the New Hampshire Environmental Educators, whose mission is to advocate for high quality environmental education in New Hampshire, including sponsoring high quality professional development workshops for educators. Barbara will also be serving on the board of The Little Nature Museum, a non-profit nature and science center located at Gould Hill Orchards in Hopkinton, NH. The mission of the museum is to develop awareness and appreciation of the natural world and the environment through the hands-on and interactive collections, trails, and educational programs. The Museum is open during late spring, summer, and early fall and celebrates its 50th year in 2005 (see www.littlenaturemuseum.org)

We are very sad to report that Coverts Cooperator **Stephen Fedor** (CC95) of Richmond passed away on March 4th after a long illness. Stephen was a great friend to wildlife and forest stewardship in Cheshire County. He wrote a wildlife-focused column every month for more than three years in the monthly "Richmond Rooster." His witty prose told of wildlife visiting his land, good stewardship practices, insect observations, and many other subjects, all written with a folksy appeal. In 1998, Steve wrote an article for other Coverts Cooperators where he shared his knowledge and advice on how (and why) to write articles for regular publication in local papers: "Wildlife subjects are a good start. Writings about them are easily accepted, and wildlife is a high-interest topic for the general public. Then, when you are discussing wildlife, weaving in related information is easy. For example, you may link wildlife to habitat, and then associate habitat with human initiative, specifically good forestry/stewardship. The complete link may not happen in every article, but if you keep at it over time with a whole series of articles, the connection will be made." Steve clearly took the outreach message of the Coverts Project to heart, spreading the message of stewardship and wildlife to many others in his corner of New Hampshire. His good friend **Omer Ahern, Jr.** (CC95) writes, "Steve and I kept in touch over the years and we had the privilege to visit and 'compare notes' several times at his woodlot in Richmond. He and his wife, Elizabeth, implemented many of the lessons derived from the Coverts program on their land. Steve's friendship, thoughtfulness, and sage advice will be truly missed." We send our sincerest condolences to Stephen's family and friends.

Diane Fitzpatrick (CC99) writes with news from Milford: "I was the primary instigator and spokesperson for the warrant article on Milford's ballot to spend \$2.3 million on 452 acres of conservation land in the south-west section of town, a primarily undeveloped area that has been recently targeted by developers. I prepared newspaper articles, invited the public to come on a walk last fall, and prepared a Power Point talk that I presented at several public gatherings. The effort was rewarded when, on March 8th, the voters of Milford voted "yes" by a margin of 75%. Now I am working with local groups including a mountain bike club, two snowmobile clubs and an ATV group. The management plan must address a variety of users including the neighbors of the property."

Jane Flythe (CC01) has been busy this year as chairperson of the Mont Vernon open space committee. "We worked to get a bond for the purchase of open space in town. We asked the town to approve a bond for \$750,000—and it passed."

Betsy Hardwick (CC02) writes, "As Chair of the Frankestown Conservation Commission, I am delighted to announce that we successfully passed a one million dollar bond for conservation and open space protection at our March town meeting. This proposed warrant article was significantly enhanced by the offer of a \$200,000 donation from the Russell Piscataquog Watershed Foundation, and more than \$100,000 in private cash and easement pledges that were contingent upon the bond being approved. In spite of the snowstorm that dumped over a foot of snow, a record-breaking number of voters showed up at the meeting and the article passed with an overwhelming majority (264 votes for and 44 votes against). This project was initiated by enlisting the help of a core group of qualified and enthusiastic volunteers (including help and support from my husband **Jeff Tarr**, CC02). These volunteers wrote articles for the local newspaper, compiled information for a basic fact sheet, produced an attractive and persuasive flyer, made phone calls and visitations, and talked to various small organizations and groups in town about the bond. The work of this group of volunteers was key to the success of this initiative and it was a gratifying experience to be a part of it."

Paula Gilman Hatem (CC03) of Gilmanton writes, "My husband, Tom, and I have retained a licensed forester, Brenda Brown, to write a management plan for our 32+ acres. Brenda is the forester that the Gilmanton Conservation Commission retained to do management plans for our Town Forests. Brenda has also filed the necessary paperwork for us to become a Certified Tree Farm and we recently received notification that we are now Fernwood

Farm & Forest. Very exciting! In addition, we will be completing a survey of our property this year. We have long felt, and Brenda agrees, we have significantly more acreage than the 32 that is on our existing deed. Once the survey has been completed, we will pursue putting our land into conservation. Our land is part of a 1,207-acre area of unfragmented land. There are several parcels that about us and the owners are in the process of conserving their land as well."



Pictured l-r: Bob Kief, Associate Director of Facilities Management at Phillips Exeter Academy; Don Briselden, Director of Facilities Management, PEA; Phil Bryce, Director of NH Division of Forests and Lands; Dennis Huber, Supervisor of Grounds at PEA; Patrick Kenney, Chair NH Tree Farm Program; Stan Knowles, consulting forester for PEA; New Hampshire Governor John Lynch

Dennis Huber (CC97) writes, "Of course the big happening for us at Phillips Exeter Academy was being selected for the 2005 Outstanding Tree Farm of the Year award. This means that we will host the Tree Farm Field Day on October 1st, 2005 (mark your calendars!). When the ground dries sufficiently, we will complete a 30-acre thinning of white pine and fuel wood. This will include reclamation of an old field and 6 acres of TSI work. The logger will be Chappell Farms from Milford, NH, a family operation who have done excellent work for us in the past. We have also applied for cost share funding for woods access road improvement, patch cutting and tall grass habitat improvement, and other projects. We plan to show some of this work on the October field day. Hope to see you at the Tree Farm Field Day!"

McGill James (CC04) sends news from Lancaster: "Our Town Selectman had proposed that we sell the Town Forest here in Lancaster. Coos County Forester Sam Stoddard spoke eloquently, and—armed with facts and data at town meeting—the measure was overwhelmingly defeated. I think there were 3 votes to sell the forest out of 150 votes cast. In other news, I am starting up a new chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society, along with RGS's new Regional Director for New England, Don Kliener. Our 'Northern New Hampshire Chapter' will be working with another RGS chapter head, **Ron Vars** (CC03), to organize some wing collection sites during hunting season this fall to assist biologists in their research of NH ruffed grouse and woodcock numbers. We have discussed the project with local 4-H leaders and it is likely that the kids in their Shooting Sports Program will assist us. On our own property, the timber management plan for our land is complete and we hope to be creating woodcock singing grounds with a Brontosaurus this spring and harvest some timber next winter. Meanwhile, restoration of the old sugar house is proceeding, along with preparation of food plots, the addition of bluebird houses, planning a vegetable garden, constructing a chicken coop, and welcoming 1 dozen homing pigeons for use in dog training. The effort to either start our own Lancaster-area land trust or have an existing land trust expand into Lancaster is progressing, and we hope to have accomplished one or the other by year's end."

Ginger Jannenga (CC99) writes about the 'Lyman Forbes Memorial Trail' she helped develop in East Colebrook: "I've enjoyed cross country skiing on it all winter, and Barry Graham, owner of Notch View Campground down the hill (where the trail ends—and who first had the idea that **Dick Mallion** (CC99) and I followed up on) has made some new "loops" off the trail down on his end, and has plans for more enhancements in the future. Dick and I are planning on doing some trail work this spring, and replacing some of the markers that have faded, etc. Another neighbor, Dennis Hyde, has periodically packed the "main section" of the trail thru the winter, too—which has made it very enjoyable for skiing."

Cheryl Kimball (CC98) writes that thanks to an announcement on the Coverts listserv, "I signed on to the North American Amphibian Monitoring Project (NAAMP). A friend and I are doing a route together here in Middleton. We had to re-plan the route a bit since it needs to be drivable and the computer-generated ones took us down some snowmobile-if-you-are-lucky trails, but we are looking forward to our first trip out within the next week!"

HAPPENINGS

Ken Knowlton (CC03) writes of his continuing work on the Belmont Conservation Commission: "In 2004, the Belmont Conservation Commission continued to explore ways of conserving open space. We are working with a number of organizations and agencies to determine the most critical areas of town that should be preserved, and techniques available to do so. Prioritizing will not be an easy task. This year, our commission will be talking with landowners within identified priority areas, explaining the importance of conservation, and presenting the alternatives that are available to preserve these important lands for Belmont's future generations. The Commission has also worked with the Planning Board in recommending an Open Space Overlay District and changes in the Wetlands Ordinance regulating vegetative buffers around water bodies, prime wetlands, as well as intermittent streams."

Jerry Langdon (CC99) of Epping has a busy spring planned at his tree farm: "On April 18th, Pat and I will be hosting the Epping fourth graders (2 groups of forty) with Lisa Madison, a PLT teacher. Some of the things on the 2-hour trips will be: identifying trees without their leaves on, looking at the value for different species an abandoned beaver swamp provides, checking out the skeleton of a moose (hit by car), examining dropped deer antlers, studying growth of pine, and looking at animal tracks and droppings (mostly deer and fisher cat). We are running the same program April 28 for the recreation program (school vacation) and there should be about twenty 10 year-olds."

Elise Lawson (CC98) writes, "In the last issue of *Making Tracks*, it was stated that I find my "...work on wildlife habitat planning for the 10,000-acre Randolph Community Forest to be a most rewarding effort." This is very true, but I do want everyone to know that I have worked as part of a team that includes Walter Wintturi, a licensed Forester from Gorham, and my business partner, **John Severance** (CC00) as Watershed to Wildlife, Inc. We have been working with the Randolph Forest Commission to obtain funding from the WHIP program for wildlife habitat improvements." [The editor apologizes for leaving out this important information in the last issue.]

Judi Lindsey (CC01) writes from Candia: "Our Open Space Committee and Conservation Commission worked together to successfully pass a \$200,000 warrant article at the recent Town meeting, allowing us financial leverage to work towards saving open space in Candia. I'm getting involved this spring in the Frogwatch USA program which monitors the presence and health of frogs in our local area. They are the canaries of our wetlands! Looking ahead to this summer, I'll be going to Costa Rica to help research scientists tag, measure, and weigh sea turtles that come ashore on Tortuguero Beach. I've tied this into the 3rd grade curriculum this entire year, teaching the students about the endangered sea turtles and how we can help protect their environment. We tracked the turtles on the Internet (www.cccturtle.org) as some were fitted with satellite transmitters.

Lisa Linowes (CC03) writes of an interesting project related to amphibians road crossings: "NH DOT is cur-

rently constructing the Route 111 bypass that will move the road away from Shadow Lake in Salem. This project has been in the works for years, and hundreds of thousands of dollars were spent to protect the sensitive areas impacted by the new road. Right now they are working on a stretch of road that intersects a very active amphibian habitat (spotted salamanders and wood frogs), thus separating the animals from their natal vernal pools. DOT paid to create two vernal pools last year situated north of the roadway and this spring will move egg masses from the already existing pools to the new ones. The new stretch of road includes an experimental amphibian crossing. It is approximately 4' x 4' in size with a natural sediment base. I coordinated with NH DOT Bureau of Environment to have several members of the Windham Conservation Commission, myself included, trained to monitor amphibian movement and to evaluate the success of the amphibian crossing. We will be going out between now [late March] and the next 3-4 weeks on wet, relatively warm nights to look for spotted salamanders and record where they are and whether they can find their way to the amphibian crossing and back to their birth pools for breeding. I will know in the next few weeks whether the crossing is working!"

Victor Schmalzer (CC04) writes, "I got talked into running unopposed for Brentwood Selectman, and now find myself not only on the Board of Selectmen but also the selectmen's representative on the Planning Board and an alternate on the Conservation Commission. Guess which one is more fun? My other Coverts-related project is helping in the efforts to get the 300+ acres of open field at the Rockingham County Complex into a conservation easement—a project that will take at least a couple of years, I think."

Bill Taffe (CC02) writes, "Thanks for circulating frog monitoring information on the Coverts listserv. I'd already signed up for the New Hampton workshop and also the New Hampshire RAARP program (in addition to following my usual vice of buying 'all the books')!"

Tanya Tellman (CC95) sends news of her recent appointment to the board of directors for NH Project Learning Tree: "In the past few years we have become supporters of NH Project Learning Tree and all that Esther Cowles has achieved with the program both as the Executive Director of NHPLT and her leadership on a national basis. We feel that the future hope for care of our environment lies with the next generation. Project Learning Tree reaches children in the classroom where they are a captive audience and the potential is there for many children to be exposed to environmental activities. I am thrilled to have the chance to work more actively in support of this wonderful organization. If you have a Tree Farm, be sure to fill out and return the form from the NH Tree Farm Chair to NHPLT saying you will participate in the Walk in the Forest Program."

In December, 2004, **Dave Tellman** (CC96) was appointed by the Governor to serve on the Board of Licensure for foresters in one of the two public member positions filled "by a forest landowner actively engaged in forest management, but not otherwise connected with

the forestry profession." Dave accepted this appointment because he believes that foresters are the men and women most responsible for how our public and many of our privately-owned forests are, and will be, managed for long-term sustainability of the timber resource as well as for wildlife habitat, clean water and recreational opportunities. The public expects that a "professional" meets certain minimum standards. Licensure helps make this possible and Dave hopes he can help ensure that foresters in New Hampshire are not only competent, but worthy of respect as professionals.

Tom Thomson (CC95) of Orford was recently re-appointed to the Current Use Advisory Board for another 2-year term. Tom has also been working to raise awareness about several landowner-focused bills that are before the legislature. These include bills concerning vandalism on private lands, education about the so-called "view tax bill," and allowing agricultural, forestry and seasonal buildings on lands without road frontage (for example sugar houses or seasonal cabins).

Greg Tillman (CC04) writes, "I continue to chair the Epping Conservation Commission, and was also elected to the Epping Planning Board in March. The Conservation Commission completed a set of natural resources inventory maps, and seven of them are hanging on the town hall walls. They are both informative and surprisingly attractive. The Commission will hold the 28th Annual Lamprey River Canoe Race on Saturday, April 30. It's a lot of fun!"

Rebecca Todd (CC2000) writes, "The City of Keene recently passed innovative rules regarding earth excavation. I was a volunteer member of the Earth Excavation Committee that spent over two years analyzing and drafting new Master Plan provisions, regulations, and an ordinance. These new provisions allow for the reasonable extraction of gravel and other materials while protecting human and environmental health. Other communities interested in solid regulations for earth extraction activities should get in touch with me or the City of Keene."

Francie von Mertens (CC99) wrote to the Coverts office recently, asking if we knew how to find the out-of-print "Buffers for Wetlands & Surface Waters – A Guide for NH Municipalities" on the web. The good news, thanks to Francie's suggestion, is that it is now available on the UNH Cooperative Extension website: <http://www.ceinfo.unh.edu/CommDev/CCAP.htm>

Debbie Waters (CC01) and **Bill McDevitt** (CC98) are working to put together stewardship plans for several parcels acquired by the Town of Pelham Conservation Commission. They were acquired using bond money approved by the voters to help protect open space. The largest parcel is over 150 acres. That parcel abuts the Musquash Conservation Area in Hudson and, due to this proximity, effectively protects a much larger area than either town anticipated. Once a draft plan for each parcel is completed it will be presented to the Conservation Commission for their review and public input.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

The UNH Cooperative Extension web calendar just keeps getting bigger and better. If you have access to the web and want to find out about local and statewide workshops, check it out! Go to: www.extension.unh.edu (and click on the "Forests & Trees" button, then the Calendar button).

New Hampshire's Changing Landscape **Thursday, May 19, 2005, 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

SPNHF Conservation Center, Concord
Sponsored by The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, this presentation focuses on the 2005 update of the Society's "New Hampshire's Changing Landscape Report." The report reveals startling new trends. While land conservation has kept pace with development in part of the state, a "sprawl frontier" has expanded northwest to the Mount Washington Valley, the Lakes Region and pockets of western New Hampshire. Fee for the program is \$5 for SPNHF members, and \$10 for non-members. For more information or to register via email at signup@forestsociety.org or call Trish at 224-9945.

Working Your Woodlot Day **Saturday, June 25, 2005, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

Urban Forestry Center, 45 Elwyn Road, Portsmouth
At this event last year in Stafford County, over 400 people showed up for a day filled with fun and education about working a woodlot. We'll have the Coverts booth there (please contact Malin at 862-2166 if you'd like to help staff it!), but also come learn about chainsaw maintenance, tree felling, marking a selection cut, laying out access roads, using a GPS, and more. The event is free for all. For more information or to register, contact Donna Haskins at 431-6774 or email at dhaskins@dred.state.nh.us

Caring for Your Forest

New Workshops Series for Landowners

UNH Cooperative Extension and the New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association are co-sponsoring a series of introductory workshops for landowners – invite your friends and neighbors to attend one or all of these. Each workshop is repeated on the same day in two locations so you can choose the one nearest to you (Fox State Forest in Hillsborough and Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest in Thornton) The cost (\$10 for TOA members, \$15 for non-members, \$5 per additional family member) will cover refreshments and handout materials. UNH Cooperative Extension County Foresters will teach the classes. All workshops run from 9:00 am - 12:30 pm.

June 4 - Getting to Know Your Woodlot

This should be especially helpful for newer owners. It includes exploring and mapping your woodlot, setting objectives, working with professionals, and developing long range plans. We will be using information developed for the "Women and the Woods" project and all are welcome.

June 11 - Choosing the Trees to Cut (and the trees to grow)

Whether you cut your own firewood, or have a forester make those choices, this session will demystify how those choices are made. Starting with woodlot assessment and setting objectives, learn how to develop general recommendations and how to pick the trees to cut and leave.

June 18 - Identifying Trees and Shrubs

We will be in the great outdoors as we identify the most common trees and shrubs. Appropriate for beginners to intermediate levels. Expect to learn over a dozen different species.

Questions about the program? Call Karen Bennett at 862-4861; Questions about registration? Call Debra Anderson at 862-1028

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 COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

"Making Tracks" is the newsletter of the Cooperators of the New Hampshire Coverts Project. The Coverts Project is a special volunteer education and outreach program that promotes wildlife habitat conservation and forest stewardship. Its goal is to increase the amount of New Hampshire's private and public lands that are managed with good stewardship practices. The efforts of these volunteers are shared through this publication. For more information, please contact Malin Ely Clyde, Coordinator, NH Coverts Project, UNH Cooperative Extension, 131 Main Street, 214 Nesmith Hall, Durham, NH 03824 (603-862-2166).

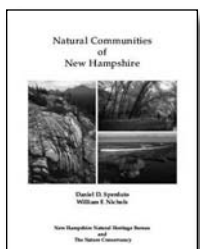
Editor: Malin Ely Clyde
 Coverts Project Coordinator: Malin Ely Clyde

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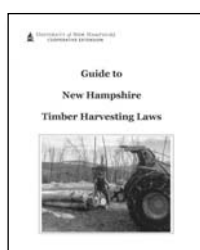
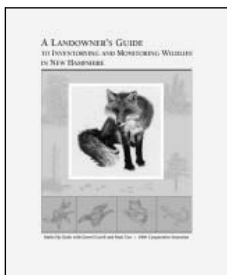
RESOURCES

The following publications are available from the Forestry Information Center. Make check payable to UNH Cooperative Extension and remit to Forestry Information Center, Room 211 Nesmith Hall, 131 Main Street, Durham, NH 03824. To request copies, call 1-800-444-8978 or email forest.info@unh.edu. Web versions of all are also available on the UNH Cooperative Extension webpage: www.extension.unh.edu.



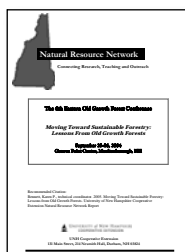
Natural Communities of New Hampshire, by Daniel Sperduto and William Nichols of the NH Natural Heritage Bureau and the Nature Conservancy. This comprehensive manual represents 15 years of natural community classification work in New Hampshire. The 230-page book describes 192 different types of natural communities. Cost is \$20.

A Landowner's Guide to Inventorying and Monitoring Wildlife in New Hampshire, by Malin Ely Clyde, Darrel Covell, and Matt Tarr of UNH Cooperative Extension. This illustrated publication includes tips for observing wildlife, how to keep records of wildlife observations, and guidance on creating a habitat map of your property. It also includes detailed how-to descriptions of wildlife inventory methods, data tabulation sheets, and contact information for larger-scale wildlife monitoring programs. Cost is \$10.



Guide to New Hampshire Timber Harvesting Laws published by UNH Cooperative Extension. This newly-revised 37-page guide contains information on laws pertaining to current use, timber tax, wetlands, timber trespass, deceptive business practices, basal area, slash, and land conversion. Landowners, loggers, foresters, municipal officials and others will find what they need when planning or reviewing a timber harvest. Cost is \$5.

Moving Toward Sustainable Forestry: Lessons From Old Growth Forests, Proceedings from the 6th Eastern Old Growth Forest Conference (September 2004). This report contains 32 summary papers and 7 poster abstracts from this conference dedicated to furthering the scientific understanding and conservation of old growth forests in the eastern US and Canada and promoting sound forest management informed by an understanding of old growth forest dynamics. Cost is \$5.



THE LAST WORD

New Fund to Sustain Conservation Volunteers

We are delighted to report on a newly-created fund to benefit volunteers for the UNH Cooperative Extension Forestry & Wildlife Program. The Adelard A. Roy and Valeida Lea Roy Foundation recently provided a \$20,000 grant to create a "Fund to Sustain Extension Volunteers in Conservation." This fund will provide a safety net for Extension conservation volunteer programs—the NH Community Tree Stewards, NH Coverts Project, and other future programs—during times of financial uncertainty.

The success of our conservation volunteer programs depends on establishing and maintaining long term relationships with volunteers and continued staffing for our volunteer programs which requires steady and continuous funding. This new fund will ensure that a program will not be discontinued due to a temporary lack of funds.



Coverts volunteer Nancy Cowan (CC98) excites a young learner with a close up view of a hawk.

Our goal is to increase this fund, through additional small and large gifts, to approximately \$100,000 over the next 5 years. We will connect with existing supporters and other foundations about adding to the fund, with the understanding that many of our existing volunteers have already given greatly to the Coverts & Tree Stewards programs through their time and volunteer energy.

If you would like more information about this fund, or know of a foundation, company, or individual who might be interested in sustaining volunteers in conservation, please contact Bob Edmonds, Forestry & Wildlife Program Leader at UNH Cooperative Extension: (603) 862- 2619, or bob.edmonds@unh.edu.

Ruffed Grouse Society Partnership Continues

We are also very happy to report that the Ruffed Grouse Society will again be a strong supporter of the Coverts Project in New Hampshire in 2005. We are looking forward to continuing our long-term partnership with RGS, and appreciate their consistent commitment to wildlife habitat management and sound forest stewardship. Thank you RGS!

