

MAKING TRACKS

Volume 8 No. 2

The Newsletter of the New Hampshire Coverts Project

October 2003

Stewardship Bug Hits New Coverts Cooperators

by Marsha Downs (Coverts Cooperator 2003)

During the second week of September, a group of people attending a workshop at Sargent Center in Hancock, NH was hit by a strain of contagion known as Coverts Project Workshop Syndrome, or CPWS. Some of the symptoms of this strain are glazed eyes, slackened jaw and a giddy enthusiasm that causes non-stop talk as well as day dreaming and idealizing about their surroundings. The interesting thing about this "normal" group of workshop attendees is that they went willingly to the workshop and asked for this exposure. Little did they know that CPWS would have such an effect. The group left Sargent Center as carriers of this contagion, hoping to spread it as far as they can into their own communities.



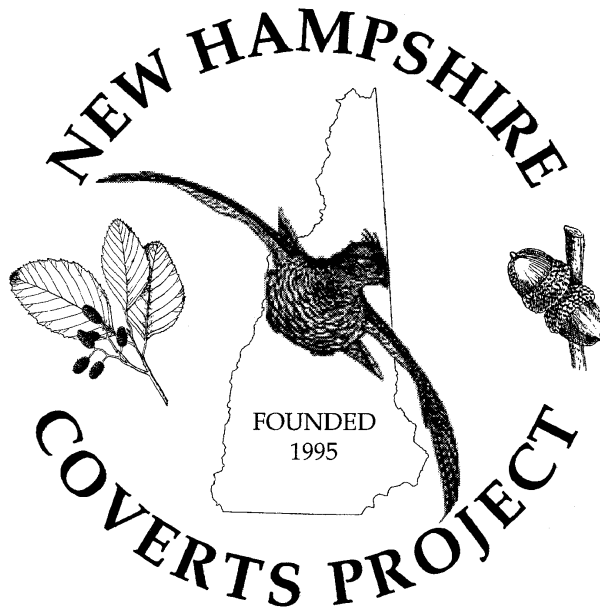
Marsha Downs (in white with binoculars) and others listen to NHF&G biologist John Lanier talk about early successional habitat.

The outbreak began on Wednesday evening, September 10th, when 25 normal people first became exposed to those already carrying the contagion, people known as Coverts Project Instructors. It had already taken hold by Thursday afternoon, when the willing volunteers became aware of a tired but blissful, burned-out feeling. Their eyes were glazed over and their jaws were beginning to slacken due to overload, long hours, and heavy feeding periods. Great food was being offered in large quantities to this group three times a day. Thursday morning had started normally enough. Getting up to identify trees at six in the morning did not seem too far out of the ordinary for a group of people who love being outside. But little did they know that the classroom activities in store for them would be so extraordinary, so intoxicating, and so full of information to assimilate that their brains would become scrambled and hit overload in no time at all. Therefore, the glazed eyes began. The air during the afternoon field trips cleared the heads somewhat, but information continued to be pumped into them at an alarming rate. All the while, the two main culprits of this, Malin Ely Clyde and Karen Bennett, smiled charmingly and kept introducing new people with more information to be churned over in the brains of the group.

The excellent Thursday evening maps activity was what pushed many over the edge into the slackened jaw symptom. For those that woke early, this was the end of fourteen hours of learning. Afterwards, one of the volunteers decided it was time to try to kick back, and attempt to regain some foothold on normalcy. They left the campus to gather a nutrient designed to ease the scrambled brains of those still wandering after the mapping class. This became known as "The Beer Run." We are not sure if this strategy truly helped in the effort to relax the tired and overworked minds or not. The discussion still centered around the information and material being given out. Some could be heard commenting on the fact that the NH Fish & Game Department was a much farther reaching organization than initially thought. Others could be heard to say, "Wow, open fields... who knew?" Some were muttering about aerial maps, the seasonal changes thereof, and how to properly place an overlay. It was obvious that even through this mode of relaxation, the contagion had taken hold to such a degree that it was impossible for them to ever be "normal" again.



Laurel Cox, Judi Matthews, UNHCE staff Malin Clyde, Jon Godfrey in the field.



Friday morning began much as the one before it. Up and out at 6:00 A.M. to watch for birds who were still smartly asleep in their nests. It was also noticeably a much smaller group than the previous day. Whether that was due to overtiredness or overindulgence remains unknown. Once the group began its trek into the woods, however, birds did awaken and graced them with song. The leader of this group, one Darrel Covell, a wildlife specialist with UNH Cooperative Extension, answered a barred owl call with one of his own. Anyone not standing next to him watching would never have known



Francie von Mertens (CC99) discusses the conservation of Fremont Fields in Peterborough.

the difference. In our sleepiness, we half expected him to sprout wings and fly away. He's really good. The other leader, Wendy Ward, a conservation technician with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, pointed out wildflowers. We wondered how she could smile so much, so early, when all we could do was stand there with our now-permanently

slack jaws and stare through the early morning gray dawn at pipsissewa, and attempt to learn to identify the fine differences between partridgeberry and wintergreen. She was knowledgeable, awake and alert (God bless her), and enthusiastic. It became obvious that perhaps the glazed eyes and drooping jaws may be a passing symptom of the CPW syndrome. She certainly did not seem to suffer from them. But she was a carrier. We were all sure of that.

After Friday morning's breakfast in the feeding troughs, we had developed a false sense of contentment when we were once again called into the classroom. We heard about early successional habitat, techniques for managing forested and grassland habitats, and learned a new word from the aforementioned Karen Bennett, "silviculture." Rolling that around on our tongues and in our heads, it was back to the dining room for more physical feeding before loading into the bus for another field trip. Except the bus was not there. Some of us capable of driving at that point offered to car pool to Powder Mill Pond to see what we could absorb from some other specialists in management, including John Lanier (NHF&G) and UNHCE's Matt Tarr, who had told us about the importance of open fields (who knew? Matt, that's who). We were then whisked away to Fremont Field in Peterborough to meet with our host, Francie von Mertens (CC99). This town land is under conservation easement. Oh, did I forget to say we learned about that, too? Most of us who were not familiar with easements decided that we would



Kris Armstrong listens attentively.



Slackened jaws? Dazed and Confused?

look up the legalese and implications of it once we had our heads about us. But we all decided it was one of the most important conservation options to understand in being able to create the greenway throughout our state that may decide the future of much of our wildlife.

Believe it or not, by Friday evening we were all hungry again. There must be a ratio between feeding the brain and feeding the body that was at work here. The evening found us being entertained by Coverts alumni. Many of them shared stories, and it became obvious to us new folks that CPWS is never cured. These people still spoke with that giddy enthusiasm that was beginning to overtake us all. Helen Evans (CC95), a very dear, intelligent woman donned a baseball cap and went into a very funny skit regarding a proud privy builder. Then came the campfire. In an all-out effort to go back to a cozy, safe place in the minds of the volunteers, old songs were sung to the strings of Chuck Cox's mandolin. Not knowing all the words seemed insignificant. Another Beer Run had been made.

The last day of our studies was spent in outreach possibilities, action planning, and a field visit to the land of Jeff Timmons (CC97), a Coverts Cooperator who has a management plan to encourage wildlife on his property. I'm sure in the accompanying photos you can see the symptoms of CPWS. Glazed eyes, slackened jaw, but with smiles of determination, new awareness, and a change of life that will cause us to go forth into our communities and try to bring the very same awareness to them. The giddy enthusiasm is ongoing. The desire to do something right for our forests, our wildlife, our quality of life is in our bloodstreams. The only way to satisfy this need for our environment is to feel we are making a difference for all living things, be it tree, field, mammal, bird, amphibian, person, water—for the cycle of life and for the sustenance that brings us all together. And thanks to all of you, whether mentioned in this article by name or not. We know your names. We know who you are. You have given us a precious gift to pass on. Thank you.



The Pied Piper of Furry Mammals: Meade Cadot of the Harris Center for Conservation Education.

NEW COVERTS COOPERATORS

Kris Armstrong	Keene
Bob Ball	Jefferson
Shane Carter	Raymond
Laurel & Chuck Cox	Lee
Bob Craycraft	New Durham
Jean Paul & Marsha Downs	Glenciff
Joyce El Kouarti	Dover
Ann Eldridge	Bradford
Bard Flanders	Goshen
Paula Gilman-Hatem	Gilmanton I.W.
Jon Godfrey	Candia
Dana Gove	Goffstown
Jim Hume	Warner
Ken Knowlton	Laconia
Lisa Linowes	Windham / Lyman
Judi Matthews	Durham
Benjamin Pratt	Antrim
Meri Ratzel	Mont Vernon
Nancy Spencer-Smith	Wakefield
Sue Spillane	Bedford
Kathy Thatcher	Chesterfield
Ron Vars	E. Kingston / Jefferson
Michelle Veasey	Atkinson

HAPPENINGS

Harmony Anderson (CC02) of Strafford writes, "I started a Conservation Notes column in our local town of Strafford monthly news bulletin which reports not only news from the Conservation Commission, but any conservation activities around town as well as Bear-Paw Regional Greenways news. I've had a column in each month since last October. This month I've started the proceedings to put a conservation easement on my own land. And I've worked for Bear-Paw in the last year and was... very proud to be elected to the Board of Directors this summer. In other news, I had the most fun answering the call from [UNHCE] to give a wildlife presentation to 60 day care kids up in Wakefield (kids 0-5 years old). Now what could I do for them that would give them some good information but also work with their attention spans? I searched my own wildlife magazines for pictures of wild and domestic animals, and got additional ones from the kind help of **Ed Fowler** (CC02). With these and others showing scenes of a forest, field, stream, and swamp as well as two more showing a house and children, I also borrowed the tub of animal pelts from UNHCE...The idea [I came up with] was that when I held up a picture, the kids had to tell what the animal was and whether it was an animal that we take care of or whether it takes care of itself, then to go tape it up on the side with the habitat pictures, or the side with the people and houses. Then the kids had to come up with the things all animals need - food, shelter, water, and space. We talked about their own pets and how they give them those things. We then talked about how we DON'T have to feed the wild animals, but we do need to make sure that they have enough wild places to find the other things they need. The kids were terrific, and it was great fun."

New Coverts Cooperator **Kris Armstrong** (CC03) wrote to thank us for the Coverts Workshop, and in doing so slipped in some news. After returning from the Coverts Workshop, she contacted the Keene Conservation Commission about signing up to serve. And lo and behold, she will be serving as an alternate to the Commission: "I am very excited. I have already attended one meeting and gone on two site visits...the presentation of the material [at the Coverts workshop] and the genuine interest of all was so uplifting...thank you for giving me a start on getting the tools that I know I will use."

Peter Beblowski (CC01) writes, "Just a brief note, the Antrim Conservation Commission is in the early stages of working with The Monadnock Conservancy and the Antrim Water District to place town-owned land surrounding Campbell Pond in permanent conservation easement. The town owns all the land surrounding the pond and a great majority of the drainage basin. Campbell Pond was the town's water supply until a cooperative agreement was worked out with the Town of Bennington for use of a well in the Contoocook River valley in the late 1980's."

Roger Brown (CC95) writes, "The main event at Coverts Corner in Brentwood this year was a Bio-thon or species-identification fundraiser toward the purchase of vital turtle habitat on the Lamprey River. I call it the Finch Initiative in honor of Davis Finch, who hatched the scheme in our parts. My crew of five found 295 species in four hours on our land, for which a couple of dozen pledgers coughed up \$1087. It's a great way to feel virtuous while finding out what you've got on your property."

We received sad news in September from **Jeannie (Arenia) Leone** (CC2001) who wrote to tell us of the recent passing of **Nancy Chandler** (CC2001) of Bartlett. Nancy and Jeannie attended the Coverts Workshop together, and shared a love for the outdoors and for education. Jeannie writes, "Please let the group know that Nancy lost her fight with cancer on Wednesday. In her final days and hours I showed her pictures of a walk I took to Cherry Pond in the last few weeks. It made her very happy." Jeannie hopes to plan a memorial walk for Nancy to Cherry Pond, a place Nancy loved. We send our heartfelt sympathies to Nancy's family and friends.

Coverts Cooperator **Larry Ely** (CC98) followed his annual tradition of planting wildlife-friendly trees and shrubs in his First Mountain Forest (Shelburne, NH) this spring. "This year's selection of rugosa rose and northern white cedar augment an earlier year's planting of Virginia rose that already provides an abundant supply of rose hips throughout the winter and adds a third small stand of cedar along the forest's high wooded wetland. The cedar is an experiment, successful so far, to bring cedar to an ideal habitat where it may or may not have been present in an earlier century. Wildlife value is still far into the future. Luckily, the deer and moose are allowing the cedar to establish. Winterberry holly was also planted along the edges of the wetland and this valuable wildlife plant will soon add beauty to the wetland's edge and provide an improved food source for birds and mammals. Each year's spring

wildlife planting comes from the NH State Nursery through the office of the UNHCE. Sam Stoddard is always there at the Lancaster office each spring to deliver the order and offer more forestry advice. The state nursery is a great place for landowners, large and small, to obtain seedlings to improve wildlife habitat at a very modest cost. The First Mountain Forest also hosted an AMC Trail Design and Layout Course this summer, benefiting both the AMC and the forest, with a potential new cross-country ski loop flagged during a practical exercise. The secondary goal of the forest's management plan is to provide for recreation and the workshop provided valuable experience for the course's participants and also furthered the goals of our management plan."

Fred Ernst (CC2000) writes from Walpole, "I am in the process of creating a 5-acre meadow in the middle of a forest with help from Wayne Young, consulting forester, Matt Tarr, UNH Cooperative Extension, and Wendy Ward, who is administrating a WHIP grant for me from the USDA. We have clear cut, de-stumped, sown oats, and brushed, and will hopefully be able to lime and seed before snow fall. We are using a special seed mix from Prairie Nursery in Wisconsin."

New Coverts Cooperator **Jon Godfrey** (CC03) of Candia is already off and running. He writes, "I'm writing a grant request through the federal Land & Water Conservation Fund to obtain funds for the purpose of creating about an acre of open water in a 4-acre cattail-choked wetland area (near the town center) for improved wildlife diversity. The grant is also requesting funds for a trail system throughout the town-owned 7 acre parcel, the additional three acres of which will be managed for habitat diversity. If we are funded, I hope to encourage the elementary school, an abutter to the property, to use the area in their science/environmental curriculum."

Andrew Hadik (CC02) writes, "I continue to serve the Town of Chester on the Strategic Land Protection Committee (SLPC) and the Planning Board (PB). On the SLPC we are still working on purchasing several more easements to preserve open space. I spent some time this summer preparing a Federal Farmland Protection grant application for a farm here in town. However, it did not make the cut. I was a bit disappointed, but I have a far better and worthy candidate for next year's application. On the PB, I am still Chairperson, and am personally still working on a groundwater protection ordinance. The PB has also decided to revise the town's zoning at a more aggressive pace regarding initiatives to preserve open space and reduce urban sprawl. These include revising the open space/cluster development articles to increase their appeal and incentives, and adding a Traditional Neighborhood Development article. We are hiring a professional planner to help us with this. On my own property, I bush-hogged the four 1-acre fields bronto'd two years ago with the help of a grant from NH F&G. We will be having a limited whole tree harvest this fall with the goal of becoming a registered Tree Farm. Because the new fields will be the landing areas for the cut, we are waiting until next spring to plow and replant them as various types of feeder plots. Just went to the [UNHCE] forest laws workshop in Auburn. Very worthwhile!"

Don Jackson (CC02) has been busy in Bradford: "Have recently completed the restoration of a second meadow (the first completed in '02) on this 200 year old sheep farm. The total acreage of the two is 8 acres on my 156-acre property. Restoration included some cutting, stumping, rock removal, discing, harrowing, fertilizing and seeding with conservation mix. Most of the work was completed by the owner (me)."

Bill and Marge Jahoda (CC96) write of their land in Pittsburg: "Our recently-added 46.8-acre 'Gore' parcel of mostly wetlands along Back Lake Brook connects all but one of our Johnson Memorial forest parcels to form an interconnected protected area of over 400 acres. This new parcel, dedicated to sustained biological diversity, will be used as a study area on which no manipulation by man will occur. And just today (10/8), the USF&WS informed us that they have granted us \$1,200 for the 2004 calendar year for additional wildlife enhancement projects on the Johnson Memorial Forest. This is the fourth year that we have received grants as Cooperators in their Fish and Game program."

Kate Kerivan (CC96) writes in, "I am now living in Keene and attending Antioch NE full-time in their Environmental Studies Department (Environmental Ed. program). I am hoping to work in the field full-time upon graduation. I am still doing ecologically-based landscape design part-time, and just finished a design/build project using entirely native NE plants in the communities they would naturally be found growing in. Very exciting project based on providing wildlife food/shelter and restoring the (mostly wetlands) site which was severely disturbed by the original developer. I hope,

upon graduation, to combine landscape design and restoration work with environmental education, perhaps in schoolyard design work. I would love to set up a native plant propagation nursery in a school setting!"

Dick Mallion (CC99) writes, "Big news from Whitefield and Jefferson (both of which have Conservation Commissions with Coverts members involved in Preserve stewardship) is the addition of 3,000 acres to Pondicherry Wildlife Preserve as of September 22, 2003. With 1,300 new acres in Whitefield and 1,700 new acres in Jefferson, the Preserve total is now 4,000 acres. We are now working to add another 1,000 acres which will complete the goal. The cooperation between NH Audubon, NH Fish & Game, US Fish & Wildlife Service, along with the Select Boards and Conservation Commissions of the two towns, has been exemplary. Senator Judd Gregg was instrumental in the expansion."

Coverts Cooperators **Camilla Lockwood** (CC98), **Maureen Lein** (CC98), and **Greg Lowell** (CC02) of Chester are all actively involved in the transformation of the former Silver Sands Campground into a town conservation and outdoor recreation area. The 110-acre parcel was purchased by the town in January of this year after a year of negotiations with the former owners. The area includes about 6 acres of open fields in the front, which will be converted to soccer and baseball fields and a playground; a 15-18 acre pond and beach used for swimming and fishing; and woods with trails throughout. The entire parcel—renamed the Wason Pond Conservation & Recreation Area—will be protected by a conservation easement. Motorized vehicles are prohibited from the area's trails. Restoration of the pond's eroded shoreline and reclamation of campsites and some trails will be done with an eye to habitat management. Much work remains to be done, but already the benefits of this purchase are being realized by town residents through a town swimming beach, a community center made from an existing house, and the use of trails for biking and hiking. The area has in effect been "de-developed;" where once there were crowded and overused campsites, there is now quiet woods and trails and wildlife habitat.

Judi Lindsey (CC01) writes in with news from Candia, "It has been a busy time here. I'm very active with the Candia Conservation Commission, the Planning Board, and the Master Plan Committee. I'm learning a lot about zoning, how to read subdivision maps, and review surveyor plans. Through the Master Plan, we're trying to get public input about what the townspeople want to do to protect Candia's rural character. But most importantly, in August, I finalized a conservation easement [on my land], so now 30 acres here in Candia will remain forever undeveloped. Yipee! The accompanying photo is from the signing. That is me and my husband Jim on the steps of the Candia Town Hall after officially having BearPaw Directors Betsy Kruse and Cody Cramer sign the forms!"



Kathryn Nelson writes, "Nashua established a Land Conservation Committee that develops and oversees stewardship plans for each conservation land. The committee is appointed and reports to the conservation commission. Signage for the Northwest Conservation Land is on our fall 'To Do' list. An additional 100 acres of land was purchased by the city in August and added to the Northwest Conservation Land, bringing the total protected acres to about 400. The city was awarded an LCHIP and DES Water Supply Land grant and used the local Conservation Fund for the match and remaining costs."

Sheldon Pennoyer (CC02) writes, "My volunteer time has been dedicated to several tasks for the town of Greenfield. First, I have been providing pro bono services [as an architect] to design a new Historical Society Building which will be located in the center of town. Construction is scheduled to begin in two weeks. This work is a little far fetched to claim as efforts to promote open space and wildlife habitat. However, a strong downtown center as well as a place to display the town's history, is a very important issue in strengthening a community. In addition, as an appointed member [of the Greenfield Planning Board], I have been working with the board to write an Open Space Bylaw to bring before the annual town meeting. This bylaw is working toward more efficient development in order to protect the rural character of the town, and protect wildlife corridors and scenic views. Last, I have been applying much of what I learned through the Coverts Program on our farm to increase the wildlife habitat. This fall we received a grant from NH Fish and Game to reclaim

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an old meadow. The grass is growing, and it looks great! Also, the creation of trails for public use are ongoing. Public enjoyment of open space is important in building community support for the continued efforts to protect more land."

Andy Powell (CC95) writes with stories of wildlife on his land in Merrimack: "Interesting to read in the last issue of Making Tracks about Darrel and his encounter with a barred owl. We know the experience of seeing them up close and personal— as close as 20 feet away at times. We have a nesting pair back for the third year about 30 feet away from the house. They raised one this year instead of the usual two we have seen. We hear the adults calling, usually seeing them when they attract crows (up to 100 at one time), and then start seeing one nesting in a tree nearby. We listen for the young to start calling for food and shortly thereafter they will appear in the nest tree and start climbing higher up. Parents fly in food, often a rodent or squirrel....A great experience we truly enjoy, as they are seldom seen, but often heard, during the rest of the year. In other news, I continue to chair the Conservation Commission in Merrimack for another year. A year of work by 28 people, including myself, developed an 80-page Master Plan for a 560-acre site and it is now before the Selectmen for consideration. The plan calls for a subcommittee of the MCC be formed to manage the site. Also working on the Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee and we are just starting the process to develop a master plan for the river. Just to keep busy I am also involved in the study of a Souhegan River dam that has been place for over 100 years and is undergoing a study preparatory to possible removal."

Dick Rush (CC01) of Dalton, writes, "Dalton Conservation Commission has received a 'Moose Plates Grant' from the NH Conservation Committee to underwrite the detailed and digital study of a large wetlands complex called Chase Bog. We have hired 'Watershed to Wildlife, Inc.' of Whitefield (**Elise Lawson** (CC98)) & **John Severance** (CC2000) to do the study with us. We are at the halfway point in that exercise. On the wings of that, the DCC has also issued a contract to the same 'Watershed to Wildlife, Inc.' to help us do an expanded Natural Resources Inventory for the town. Busy, busy!"

Thanks to a recent heads-up from Land and Water Conservation Educator Phil Auger, we heard about a glowing article on Danville Coverts Cooperator **Betsy Sanders** (CC02), published in the Exeter News-Letter recently (August 29, 2003). The lengthy piece detailed Betsy's work creating the Danville Forestry Committee, her efforts to develop and implement a management

plan for the town's 477 acres of Town Forest, and mentioned Betsy's *many* other natural resource volunteer activities—I think I counted *seven* other volunteer efforts related to conservation and education. Wow! To view the whole article, look online at: <http://www.seacoastonline.com/news/exeter/08292003/currents/47417.htm>

New Coverts Cooperator **Nancy Spencer-Smith** (CC03) wrote in with a description of a new zoning proposal she's been working on: "Since we last saw each other I have been busy pulling together appropriate zoning amendments that will be debated by [the town of Wakefield's] Planning Board during the next two months. The one that most relates to our Coverts Program is "Open Space Subdivision". Basically the way I have drafted it (with much borrowing from the Gilmanton, Wolfeboro and Durham similar zoning provisions) the Planning Board in Wakefield (if this is voted in by the residents in March) may require an open space subdivision on land 10 or more acres if one or more special features exist on the land [such as agricultural land, TES species, river frontage, etc.]. 50% of the buildable area of the land must be set aside and permanently protected as open space."

The Quincy Bog Natural Area in Rumney has just completed a 3-year trail improvement project funded by a Recreational Trail Grant administered by the state's Trails Bureau (DRED). Volunteers, primarily directors of Rumney Ecological Systems, the non-profit that owns and administers the Bog, donated over 430 hours to build 770 feet of boardwalks and bridges along the 1-mile nature trail. **Betty Jo Taffe** (CC02), chair of the Trail Committee at the Bog, organized the trail work crews and Northam Parr, Grafton County Forest Resources Educator, served as the grant administrator. The biggest challenge was keeping ahead of beaver activity that flooded low-lying sections of the trail around the bog pond and buried the old bridge over the outlet stream with renewed dam-building. In a related effort, local Boy Scouts just finished building a new 40-foot bridge over the outlet stream to replace the one "consumed" by beaver activity. Constructed as an Eagle Scout project, the new bridge once more allows Bog visitors to circumnavigate the Bog pond without using public roads or crossing private property. Quincy Bog Natural Area is just off the Quincy Road in Rumney. A self-guiding trail guide is available for those wishing to know more about the history and natural features of the area.

Dave Tellman, (CC96) has been reappointed to the State Current Use Advisory Board for another two years. He is

a strong supporter of Current Use and was pleased to be asked to serve two more years as a member of the public owning forest land under current use assessment. In addition to a number of rule-making responsibilities, the CU Board holds public hearings around the State each year and listens to what people have to say about the current law - what is good and what needs to be changed. If you ever have a question or concern about this program which is vital in preserving open space within our state, you can contact Dave or any other member of the Current Use Advisory Board. **Tom Thomson**, (CC96) also serves on the Board. **Tanya Tellman** (CC95) has enjoyed being a NH Plant Conservation Volunteer for the New England Wildflower Society for the past four years. Always a wildflower enthusiast, searching for previously known sites of rare and endangered plants has resulted in some wonderful days spent in very interesting locations throughout the north country. If you are interested in joining the ranks, call Tanya for more information at 837-9764.

Tom Thomson (CC96) has been working to promote national legislation to improve low-grade wood markets to help ensure family forest owners continue to have access to these markets here in the U.S. Tom and his family also hosted a group of conservation professionals from Eastern Europe, South America and the Caribbean on their Tree Farm in Orford. The visitors, sponsored by the Quebec-Labrador Foundation, are professionals working with land trusts, resource agencies and universities to address critical conservation and stewardship issues in their own countries. As Tom is quoted in an article in the *Journal Opinion* (8/13/03), "By working together and sharing ideas, we can help each other find a balanced approach when working on conservation and stewardship issues that impact us all."

Jeffrey Timmons (CC97) of Greenfield writes, "We continue to work with neighbors and others in Greenfield to create conservation easements, and are close to preserving nearly 900 acres of contiguous land here when we combine us and our two neighbors, including Coverts Alumni **Sheldon Pennoyer** (CC02). We are finding our efforts are encouraging others in town to do the same and expect our total to continue to grow."



Jeff Timmons (CC97) discusses the wildlife habitat management on his Woodland Hill Farm in Greenfield.

Wildlife Management at the Frankestown Town Forest: Coverts Alumni Workshop, Aug. 2, 2003

by Betsy Hardwick (Coverts Cooperator, 2001)



Workshop host Betsy Hardwick (CC02)

The day started out on the damp side, but by the time lunchtime rolled around things had dried out and Coverts alumni and friends attending the Alumni Workshop in Frankestown enjoyed a pleasant picnic amongst the trees in the Crotched Mt. Town Forest.

The morning was spent in the town hall hearing from Ellen Snyder and Darrel Covell of UNH

Cooperative Extension who presented wonderfully helpful information on setting wildlife management priorities and managing for structural diversity in your forest. Jeffrey Tarr (CC02) shared history and information about "making it happen" on a town forest, talking about how the Frankestown Conservation Commission implemented their management plan, and generating some lively discussion. Brian Johnsen, forester and representative from Bay State Forestry Services (the professional forestry firm that helps manage the forest) was present to answer questions and help guide the field tour.

After lunch in the field, participants rambled through the 650-acre Town Forest, traveling over existing forest roads and some recently-created trails that

were partly funded by a grant from the NH Trails Bureau. Folks observed several wildlife habitat improvements that have been incorporated into recent timber harvests: snags, large oaks and other select trees were retained for wildlife, several small openings were created in the forest, and a newly constructed 3-acre field. Mast-producing shrubs have been planted throughout, and a beaver habitat improvement project initiated near the once abandoned beaver meadows shows freshly gnawed tree stumps, evidence that beaver are currently in residence.

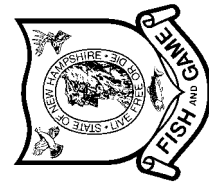
Local birder and Conservation Committee member Polly Freese has been working on a bird inventory of the forest. She helped lead the afternoon field walk and offered interesting anecdotes. Chipping sparrow, black throated green warbler, northern oriole, goldfinch and killdeer were amongst some of the bird observed, and Eastern wood peewee, hermit thrush, and a scarlet tanager were heard nearby. It was interesting to note that most of the birds were seen in or around the 3-acre field!

The various habitat projects in this forest have been funded or partly funded through NH Fish & Game's Small Grant Program, their Turkey Habitat Program, and through W.H.I.P. a federal cost-share program. Community volunteers led by the Frankestown Con Comm have donated countless hours to the many projects in the forest, and funds from the timber harvest have helped pay matching costs as well as provide additional income for stewardship and acquisition of conservation lands. An attendee at the workshop later communicated to us, "the positive work that your town has done is an inspiration to many small towns."



In the field at the Coverts Alumni Workshop in Frankestown.

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"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).

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UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Autumn Tree Identification Walk
Saturday, November 8 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Bellamy Wildlife Sanctuary, Dover, NH

Come learn how to identify trees even without their leaves at a field tour in Dover led by UNHCE Forest Resources Specialist Karen Bennett. New Coverts Cooperator Joyce El Kouarti (CC03) has organized the workshop as part of her work with the Dover Open Lands Committee. Co-sponsored by the Coverts Project, this outdoor workshop will teach participants how to identify common native trees by their bark, buds and branches. The walk will take place at the Bellamy Wildlife Sanctuary in Dover. From downtown Dover, go south on Central Avenue to Back River Rd. Turn left, continue south for 3 mi. Turn left on Bay View Rd, 1/2 mile to trail head (on right). To pre-register, call Wendy Scribner at 603-862-2512.

Introduction to ArcView 3.x
November 10, 12, 17 & 19, 2003, 6 - 9 p.m. (4 evenings)
225 Nesmith Hall, Durham, NH
Cost: \$200

This ArcView class offered through UNH Cooperative Extension will be offered over the course of 4 evenings. In this workshop, you will be using a geographic information system (GIS)—a computer-based technology that can be applied to mapping of community natural resources inventories, land use planning, and marketing. This hands-on training will walk you through the steps necessary to: bring data into ArcView (the software program), query and modify data, and make a map. Familiarity with Windows is recommended. Call Sharon at (603) 862-1029 for complete registration information or go to the web at <http://www.ceinfo.unh.edu/water/documents/ArcView.pdf> to print out the application.



NH Farm and Forest Expo: "Our Heritage, Our Future"
Friday, February 6, 2004 - Saturday, February 7
Center of NH Holiday Inn, Manchester, NH

The Coverts Project will sponsor a booth at the Farm and Forest Expo again this year. We will need help from Coverts volunteers to staff the booth during the Expo. In addition, we are planning an educational workshop and luncheon on Saturday for all Coverts Cooperators (more details coming soon).

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Beaver Brook Association in Hollis has a variety of volunteer opportunities available for trained Coverts Cooperators. Ongoing projects include trail work, brush-cutting, volunteering at events, and assisting with school programs. Alternatively, if you have a favorite subject—a species of wildlife, animal tracking, or another natural history subject—you might lead a thematic hike on one of the 35 miles of trails on the Beaver Brook property. So...if you are not shy about sharing a subject or activity that you love, they would be interested! You can call Celeste Philbrick Barr, Education Director at Beaver Brook Association, at 465-7787 or send an email to: education@beaverbrook.org

THE LAST WORD

As some of you may already have heard, we said good-bye to UNH Cooperative Extension Biodiversity Specialist Ellen Snyder in September, 2003. She leaves Extension after ten years, spending her first seven years as the UNHCE Wildlife Specialist. One of the programs she will be remembered for initiating is the NH Coverts Project. Based on the Coverts model started in neighboring states, Ellen brought the Coverts Project to New Hampshire, nurturing the Project for its first seven years, and developing strong working relationships with many Coverts Cooperators.

More recently Ellen has worked as a specialist in biodiversity. She has led an effort of New Hampshire public and private conservation organizations to maintain and protect important ecosystems through the New Hampshire Living Legacy Project.



Ellen is known and respected throughout the state and country for her technical excellence, her ability to convey complex ideas and her tenacity in bringing people together to address natural resource and biodiversity issues. She will continue in her quest to preserve and protect New Hampshire's natural world, including in her own community in Newmarket. She leaves a legacy of natural resource professionals, conservation groups, Coverts Cooperators, communities, and other individuals who now have a greater understanding and appreciation of biodiversity, ecosystems and what a great Extension educator can do for New Hampshire's future. That is Ellen's "living legacy."