

MAKING TRACKS

Volume 7 No. 3

The Newsletter of the New Hampshire Coverts Project

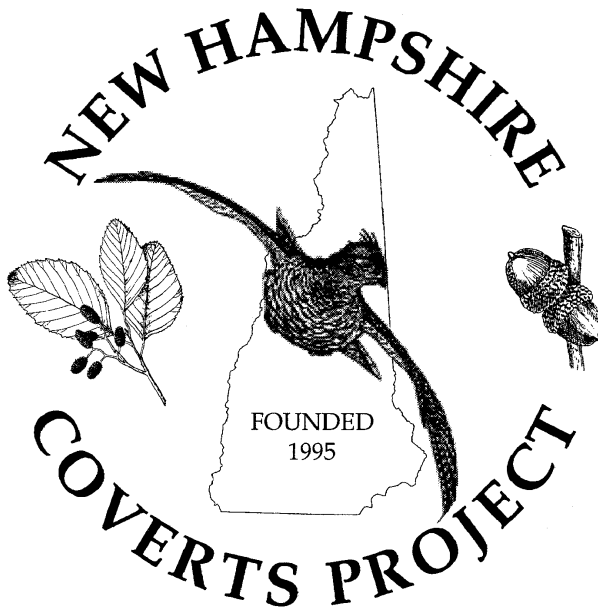
November 2002

Connections to the Land: Coverts Workshop 2002

by Luke Drake (CC02)

I am the second child of seven. Being the only boy, I used to take to the forest as a refuge. As a child of active imagination, I found myself galloping with King Arthur, searching for signs of hobbits, and creating any number of worlds. I walked, swam, climbed, crawled, burrowed, jumped and ran through those woods, blissfully ignorant of the wonderful and complex natural systems working around me.

Time passed, and I have been connected in different ways to many pieces of land, and I continue to find myself looking to the wild places. I am fortunate enough to own a farm near the heart of Weare, adjoining a fair piece of undeveloped woodland. A short while ago, I received a map of an adjoining piece of land that was being protected as conservation land. I have tried to maintain connection to the land through paying membership to organizations I thought supported similar interests. Now my family would directly benefit from the efforts of



Birding at Woodland Hill Farm.

From that point on, all that occurred remains something of a blur. In our time together, we experienced the highest caliber lectures, interesting exercises, graciously hosted and vastly informative site visits, abundant food and great conversations. All were aimed at increasing our (and the public's) awareness of the resources available to those interested in taking a more active role in land use issues. We met top-notch state and county employees who redefined our image of public service as well as exceptionally well-spoken advocates of intentional land use and conservation concerns from past classes and supporting organizations. We also enjoyed good company and the entertainment of Helen Evans' Privy Show.

When I accepted the assignment to write this article I emailed our class list and asked for input on what folks remembered from their experience. I found their words to succinctly capture many of my experiences and so am taking the liberty to include them:

Margie Ives

"I valued the discussions at Don and Lillian Stokes' land, the visit to the Harris Center, and the visit to the easement land on the farm overlooking Monadnock (Woodland Hill Farm). We heard about a determined focus on expanding easements successfully at the Harris Center, about bird migration and transitional habitat at the Stokes' meadow and about different logging concepts that promote biodiversity on the farm and at the Harris Center. Particularly revealing to me is the concept of selection cutting that opens a forest using one to three acres of cutting to allow for new growth where birds take cover and wildlife browse. I tend to be oriented to "leave it alone," so my awareness was raised. Woods I travel in now reveal themselves as providing cover or not. Finally, living in Southeast NH means dealing with sprawl by planning connectivity of our remaining open lands. We need to plan accordingly, especially with the expansion of I-93. The Forest Society's presentation on acquiring 1 million acres in 25 years ("NH Everlasting") is now a goal.



Hancock residents and nature writers Don and Lillian (above) Stokes provided a tour to showcase the habitat management on their land.

Greg Lowell

"The most encouraging thing I took away from the workshop was that there are many, many like-minded people from diverse backgrounds striving for the same thing — the preservation of open spaces and habitat. Many times we operate in our own little corners of New Hampshire, sometimes beating our heads against the wall trying to convince town residents, officials, and developers to help preserve the rapidly diminishing natural landscape. It's good to know we're not alone in this struggle."



Coverts class of 2002, back row l-r: Andrew Hadik, Gus Ruth, Sheldon Pennoyer, Jeff Tarr, Ken Wright, Lawrence Underhill, Rudy Carlson, Michael Glenn, Luke Drake, Howard Cadwell, John Robie, Darrel Covell. Middle row l-r: Linda Seager, Betty Jo Taffe, Betsy Hardwick, Dan Kern. Kneeling row l-r: Karen Bennett, Margaret Ives, Harmony Anderson, John Adams, Ed Fowler, Nanci Mitchell, Tom Osmer, Marilyn Bott, Galen Beale, Don Jackson, Betsy Sanders, Malin Clyde. Photo credit: Andrew Hadik

one such organization and I was moved to look further into the group. While researching the organization, I came across a pamphlet entitled "Volunteers Working for Wildlife" and discovered the offer of a free 3½-day session hosted by UNH Cooperative Extension. I must admit here that my last experience volunteering for any organization associated with "the government" had resulted in a four year commitment of which I will say only that it shifted the boundaries of what "wild" meant to me. But this UNH Extension pamphlet was so well-written that I found myself mailing in the application—and in September I found myself pulling onto the campus of Sargent Camp in Hancock.

The Mother of All Workshops

The Coverts Cooperator Class of 2002 "indoctrination" began on the evening of September 4th at the southern lodge. Here attendees received impressive (some said intimidating) stacks of reference and resource materials, our bunk assignments, and



Betsy Sanders, Karen Bennett, and John Robie at timber harvest field tour at the Harris Center.

instructions to return to the lodge at 7 p.m. for orientation. Many gathered outside the lodge a little early and talked, while conspicuously ignoring a pair of young women dancing about the end of an adjoining field in something that looked uncomfortably like ritual. New Englanders are a generally tolerant and tenaciously private people and so this curious display went unmentioned.

The appointed time arrived and the group gathered in the lodge where the dancers were introduced to us as Malin Clyde and Karen Bennett, two of our esteemed guides in this adventure. It turns out that the steps of their activity were choreographed to facilitate connecting to third parties on cellular phones rather than maintaining connection to higher powers.

Obviously sufficiently isolated, we were introduced to our fellow attendees. It seemed like the one thing the group shared in common was a concern for the landscape of New Hampshire and strong connections to it. Polite company might call our lot a "diverse collection." We had farmers and diplomats, loggers, hunters, and dyed-in-the-wool tree huggers, public representatives and private concern employees, landowners and tenants, and (as fireside conversations later revealed) a wide representation of nearly every viewpoint on the political, philosophical, and ideological spectra. One of the great wonders of that week was that such a swath of humanity could come together in the interest of a common good and part company not only without altercation, but with the added bonus of increased awareness and altered perspectives.

HAPPENINGS

New Coverts Cooperator **John Adams** (CC02) of Portsmouth writes, "Motivated by our workshop in September and inspired by the professionalism of foresters Marshall Patmos and Wayne Young during our field trip to the Harris Center, I decided to finally do something with my 100-acre woodlot in Keene. As a first step, I met with Wayne in October and walked the property with the idea of drawing up a Forest Stewardship Plan to include some plantings to enhance wildlife habitat. I expect to proceed with the plan this winter when we hope to have a better idea of what financial assistance will be available. In the meantime, I am participating in the small game hunter survey sponsored by NH Fish and Game, and I continue to volunteer with student and Scout groups at the Seacoast Science Center. I take every opportunity to espouse the principles of land stewardship and conservation which were so effectively presented at the Coverts Workshop."

Jeannie Arena (CC01) of Glen/Bartlett writes that she and Nancy Chandler are taking a tree and shrub ID course at the NH Tech College. "When we got to our first class, we met **Rita Chadwick** (CC01) there. "Rita and I are polishing up our skills to be helpful in our towns' natural resource inventory process and also for personal fun and knowledge. I'm also taking a dendrology and silvics class in hopes of changing my career path in the future." **Nancy Chandler** (CC01) also sent in an update: "I'm planning on changing the pictures and information at the kiosk/bulletin board at Thorne Pond soon. The tree ID course has been great therapy for me. I hope to be finished with chemo in November in time for the birth of my first grandchild and a girl at that. Can't wait! What a glorious fall!"

Anna Boudreau (CC95) has been very busy in the past few years, working on open space issues in Dover and working on the ground-breaking effort to put a conservation easement on the Stafford County Farm land along the Cocheco River. I am very happy to report that Anna's hard work has been recognized as she has been awarded the New Hampshire Municipal Association's Volunteer of the Year Award. The award is given to "a few



Award recipient Anna Boudreau

outstanding individuals whose effort and dedication to community service can serve as a model for the type of volunteer involvement without which town and city governments could not function." Anna was chosen for her educational outreach work with the Coverts Project and with the Community Tree Stewardship Program, for her efforts to create the "Growing Greener" educational workshop series in Dover last spring, and for her landmark work to get a permanent conservation easement on the Stafford County Farm. Anna will collect her award at the NHMA's annual conference on November 20th. Anna says, "I was very surprised and thought that everyone else on the [Dover Open Lands] Committee should have been in line to receive it too." Congratulations, Anna!

Nancy Cowan (CC98) writes, "This has been a very busy Fall, with lots happening. It was fun to do a program with **Jan Woodbury** (CC98) at the Peabody Mill Center at Amherst. Fun to see what Jan has accomplished there—tremendously interesting center building with her great exhibits, fascinating "connections" to the history of the site in the reconstructing of the original house, and lovely grounds. She should be very proud! We brought three birds, two falcons and the Coverts Cooperator Hawk, Injun. As usual, Injun did a great job of wow-ing the audience with his flight demo...although he really wanted to go hunting in the Peabody Mill woods! Jan had a good crowd, and I think everyone enjoyed the afternoon. I had my usual line up of school visits, then, unexpectedly, tragedy struck. I went into the news to bring Injun out for filming by the Chronicle TV crew, and found him dead. No trauma, injury or illness. The night before, I had him inside to change his anklets, and he was his usual chipper, irascible self. Hawks, particularly males, do not seem to age...they just seem to go out, like a candle flame. I had him 11 years, and he was like my right hand. He would probably say that I was like his right wing...we were partners. His loss was hard, but that is the way with raptors. What was to be his "understudy," a two month-old female Harris' Hawk named Jazz, has been with me for two weeks now and is beginning her flights to the glove. She has already participated in two school programs and will be the bird I will rely on for flight demos within a very short time. Pencil in Nancy and Jazz for the Farm and Forest date at the Coverts booth. The biggest accomplishment for me this year wildlife-wise was the training, conditioning and release of a juvenile wild peregrine female. "Crash" hatched on the Manchester Tower building and then was seriously injured on her maiden flight. She recuperated beautifully, and left here doing just great...and with a more than passing interest in TURKEYS (I told her to start small, but you know teenagers!). So far, so good. That means she has not turned up back here, and she would have if she was having difficulty out in the wild. And thank you to all the Coverts Cooperators who sent

me expressions of sympathy regarding Injun's death. I know he was only a hawk, but it made me feel better to know that others had thought him beautiful and impressive too. Thanks very much."

Peter Doyle (CC97) of Keene has been marking trees to delineate his woods' property lines: "Not very exciting, but it has to be done," he writes!

Fred Ernst (CC2000) has been busy on his property in Walpole. "We built two gates to our property and two wood duck boxes with grandchildren; cruised an additional 106 acres with a forester and made a management plan; laid out a 5-acre clearcut for grouse and 25 acres for an improvement cut."

New Coverts Cooperator **Ed Fowler** (CC02) of Candia writes, "I have been putting on some talks to historical societies based on what I learned at the Coverts workshop. I have entitled these talks "Historical Changes in Landscape and Wildlife" and have given one to the Candia Historical Society and will give another to the Auburn Historical Association on Friday, Nov. 8. Darrel has helped me by providing me with some slides to show."

Steve Galpin (CC99) writes in from Gilsum, "Just purchased 42 acres bordering my parent's 60 acres. I will be contacting the Cheshire County forester to set up a management plan. Wildlife habitat is my main goal."

New Coverts Cooperator **Andrew Hadik** (CC02) writes in from Chester. "Just received natural resource inventory maps of Chester from SPNHF today. It has been a long 2½ months (proofing, editing etc), but the net result is well worth it. They will really help us understand where we need to concentrate our land protection efforts. I plan to have these displayed at town doings from now on & wear my Coverts nameplate to drum up more prospects. My "ambassadorship" on our Strategic Land Protection Committee is finally bearing fruit. We just permanently protected (by easement) a beautiful 95-acre parcel that was up for sale to developers. I am working with another landowner on a 30-acre parcel with prime farmland soils. We hope to have that one also protected by the end of the year. On my own land, the 4 one-acre fields I had Bronto'd in April filled with lush new growth over the summer. Lots of good deer browse. Matt Tarr and I discussed brush-hogging them down before winter in preparation for planting as food plots next spring. Now, after Coverts, I am torn between leaving the new growth as browse through the winter rather than mowing it now. The grouse have moved in like crazy too. Can't wait for deer muzzle-loading season to start!"

New Coverts Cooperators **Betsy Hardwick & Jeff Tarr** (CC02) write about their activities in Frankestown, "Our Conservation Commission (of which Betsy is a member) just had some beautiful wildlife fields completed in our 650-acre Crotched Mountain Town Forest. These fields were partly funded through the NH Fish & Game Small Grants Program. There is one 3-acre field and two smaller fields totaling about 5 acres. Jeff and I also just finished girdling about 1.5 acres of large trees adjacent to an abandoned beaver meadow (in the same Town Forest) hoping to improve beaver habitat. This project is one of several projects funded through a WHIP grant. Most of the habitat improvements in our Town Forest are being done thanks to recommendations made by Ted Walsky of NH Fish & Game, and by Matt Tarr (when Matt was working as wildlife assistant for UNH Cooperative Extension). And, our conservation commission, along with several volunteers from the community, just completed planting about 20 crabapples along the fringe of one of these fields. The trees were provided through NH Fish & Game's turkey program (courtesy of Ted Walsky). These trees had to be protected from hungry deer with wire "cages." I am also just wrapping up a grant application for funds to protect about 64 acres of some very critical wildlife habitat in Frankestown. Also, recently had a goshawk land near my chicken pen!"

Dennis Huber (CC97) writes in about wildlife and management at Phillips Exeter Academy: "Not much new here. We did have Bobolinks and Meadowlarks nesting in the fields on Drinkwater Road this spring. We will be discussing the possibility of removing hedgerows and stone walls to make the existing fields more contiguous. We are part way through a thinning of white pine, hemlock, and low-quality hardwood on 50 acres located on Larry Lane. We completed a 7 ft x 30 ft bridge on one of our recreation trails using pipes and dock hardware. It is a real neat, easy system to install and has very low impact on the environment. We made it wide to accommodate an ATV type vehicle to do trail improvement work (see photo). We will be discussing forest management and land protection again soon."



New bridge at Phillips Exeter

Marge and Bill Jahoda (CC96) write in about the Johnson Memorial Forest in Pittsburg: "The USF&W Service has approved our request to make \$600 of our Partners in Fish & Game grant available to the Pittsburg, NH High School. We will be developing a school program of student involvement in wildlife conservation activities on our 480-

acre forest. Some of these activities will be wildlife population monitoring (including our ospreys), wild apple tree and hawthorn releasing and pruning, preparing drumming logs and brush piles for ruffed grouse, maintaining woodcock courtship conditions on a series of old gravel pits, placing wood duck nesting boxes along our beaver flowages, etc. Dr. Frank Melacci, the new High School principal, has a marine biology degree, and is very enthusiastic about the potential of the program."

"Bear-Paw Regional Greenways is growing fast—and how timely!" writes **Betsy Kruse** (CC2000) of Candia. "With the threat of additional development from the I-93 expansion, we'll need all the resources we can get. Candia Conservation Commission now has a 3rd Coverts Cooperator, Ed Fowler, who joins alumnae Judi Lindsey and me."

Judi Lindsey (CC01) writes from Candia, "My newest involvements include attending planning/zoning boards and speaking up on environmental concerns. I've started a conservation easement on my property, which I am very excited about. I became a director on the Bear Paw Regional Greenways board. Also, this past summer I put up a Coverts Cooperator sign on my property, near the road so it encourages dialogue with neighbors and others. I also made wooden signs (for fun) of the 'Lorax,' 'Deerfly Sanctuary,' 'Tick Crossing,' and 'No Oncelers.' If you've read *The Lorax* you'll understand the meaning of some of these!"

Margi Lord (CC01) reported in on a workshop she helped organize for the Warner Conservation Commission members: "This past summer, the Warner Conservation Commission hosted



Warner Conservation Commission member Rich Cook getting tips on using a GPS system from Karen Bennett

a training session for educating town officials in the use of Global Positioning Systems (GPS). Instructed by Sam Stoddard, Byard Mosher and Karen Bennett of UNH Cooperative Extension, the group learned the basic concepts of how GPS technology works to provide positioning information. GPS was developed for military use yet is now available for civilian use. Signals transmitted by satellites are received by GPS units (receivers), providing a fast, efficient means of obtaining location information. There are many applications for GPS in working with the town's resources: emergency management, fire and rescue services, planning, natural and historical resources inventory. GPS technology, along with GIS (Geographic Information System) technology, allows users to locate as well as map the information that is collected. These tools will prove to be valuable for exploring, analyzing and developing planning and protection strategies for our community."

New Coverts Cooperator **Greg Lowell** (CC02) writes, "The Chester Conservation Commission is scheduled to close on the purchase of the Silver Sands Campground to year's end. The Town of Chester purchased the 105-acre parcel with conservation bond money and with the overwhelming approval of residents at last May's Town Meeting. The site will be used for outdoor recreation, team sports, and water activities. About 60-70 percent of the property will be rehabilitated into wildlife habitat, including a 15-acre pond. The campground will, in effect, be "de-developed." Forty years of heavy use has left the ground compacted, shorelines stripped of vegetation, and other wise degraded the mixed hardwood and softwood stands and open field areas. Grants from the National Conservation Resource Service's Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP) and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Partners program will assist in the rehabilitation. **Camilla Lockwood, Maureen Lein, Andrew Hadik, and Greg Lowell** are the local Coverts Cooperators who will assist in the reclamation." On another note, Greg, Camilla, and Betsy Kruse were all featured in an extensive article in the Sunday Boston Globe (11/10/02) on the environmental impacts of the I-93 expansion (including a great photo of Greg!). Great quotes!

Francie Von Mertens (CC99) writes from Peterborough, "I started up a town community garden (12 plots this year, 24 next year) on land that had been up for rezoning for storage sheds. The Town said "no" to rezoning...the community garden is far more pleasing at the town entrance along the highway!"

The two Peters (**Peter Moore** and **Peter Beblowski** CC01) are working through the Antrim Conservation Commission to buy and create a town forest called Antrim Woods. They have raised half of the \$156,000 purchase price and are pinning big hopes on round four of LCHIP. "Stay tuned...and pray for the land!"

Joy Nalevanko (CC01) writes that she's been participating in the Alstead Conservation Commission's easement monitoring of their 600 acres. She's also removed an old barbed wire fence to enable wildlife to move more freely around her property, released crabapple trees, and removed downed trees and brush from the logging roads to allow for hiking and horseback riding as well. She's

HAPPENINGS

also been busy helping the Conservation Commission create a walking trail along Wellman Pond, a 320-acre conservation area in town.

Jeff Nelson (CC99) writes, "It makes sense to keep up with Coverts contacts. I had gotten to know Ellen Snyder, who was the director of the Coverts Program when I trained in 1999, and have since seen her in other meetings. So when I had the opportunity to find a speaker for the Bedford Land Trusts' annual meeting, Ellen graciously accepted our invitation. Now coordinator of the NH Living Legacy Project, Ellen tailored a presentation to our land trust, incorporating current data shown at the Landscape-Scale Conservation in NH conference (held earlier this year) with specific information about Bedford and the intense pressures on land conservation in southern NH. It was great working with Ellen, and our land trust members had an enjoyable and informative meeting. Thanks go out to Ellen and to Coverts for keeping the communication lines open."

Kathryn Nelson (CC2000) writes from Nashua, "Continued land purchases in the Pennichuck Watershed; as chair of the Conservation Commission, I've put together a wetland mitigation policy; also got article in the local paper about bluebirds and the Conservation Commission's donation of bluebird houses to the city."

Andy Powell (CC95) writes, "An attendee at our Danbury tree farm tour last year has decided to contract for long-term forest management as a result of what he saw and heard. Another 200-plus acres are coming under planned management! I saw Ellen Snyder recently, as she came to consult with members of the committee charged with planning for management of the recently-purchased 560-acre parcel here in Merrimack. I'm working with the committee as a representative of the Conservation Commission, of which I am now Chairman."

New Coverts Cooperator **Gus Ruth** (CC02) writes, "A few weeks ago, I submitted an LCHIP Proposal for [the town of Winchester] to acquire a conservation easement on 257 acres of land in Winchester. The land is made up of 135 acres of farmland, 57 acres of forestland and the balance in wetlands. The farmland has both prime agricultural soils and soils of local importance. The land holds two barns that are over 100 years old, and the view from the Route 78 across corn and alfalfa fields with the forested hills in the background is incredible! The Winchester Conservation Commission (WCC) has committed over 2/3 of its conservation fund for this project and is going to ask the town for more match money. We are also applying for money from the Farmlands Protection Program. The WCC is looking for money. It might help if you would all send us your loose pocket change, but if that doesn't seem practical, then please take ANY opportunity to put in a good word for this project, the Sunny Valley Project in Winchester!"

Lots of news from **Bruce Schwaegler's** (CC95) tree farm in Orford: "On September 20 we hosted a 'Thanks for all your hard work' event for about 40 volunteers of the Upper Valley Land Trust. These volunteers do baseline documentation when conservation easements are created

and also do follow-up monitoring of easements. The event included a buffet dinner and a presentation of his latest research by black bear expert **Ben Kilham** (CC98). On November 1, we are hosting a Timber Harvesting Council course for logger certification called 'Loggers and the Law.' Topics covered include wetlands and water quality. Half of the day will be indoor instruction and half will be in the field reviewing some of our recent forest management work. I continue my work on the Advisory Committee for the Wellborn Ecology Fund that provides grants for natural science education projects in our area. That group meets November 4 to decide who will be the recipients in the current grant cycle. On November 17 we are hosting the annual wrap-up meeting of the New England Wild Flower Society Plant Conservation Volunteers in our region. These volunteers take old records of where rare plants once existed and try to discover if they still exist in those locations. These are real treasure hunts!"

Susan Slack (CC98) sends good news from the Green Mountain Conservation Group in the Ossipee region, "The GMCG has accepted a donation of its first conservation easement. At least three Coverts graduates are actively involved with GMCG—Susan Slack, president; **Bill Piekut** (CC99), vice president; **Blair Folts** (CC98), executive director. The Wonalancet Nominee Trust donated the conservation easement on 405 forested acres off Route 113 in Tamworth. The property includes significant groundwater resources, fields and frontage on Route 113, scenic views of and from the summit of Mt. Katherine and hiking trails long maintained by the Wonalancet Outdoor Club. The GMCG is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the natural resources of the Ossipee Watershed. Through education, research, advocacy and land protection, we strive to enable the public to make informed land use decisions that conserve our groundwater, forest and wildlife habitat resources."

Andy Stowell (CC98) of Barnstead writes, "I hosted a Girl Scout kick-off event during which the girls experienced our trail system, various wildlife habitats, and panoramic views of local mountain ranges."

New Coverts Cooperator **Betty Jo Taffe** (CC02) writes from Rumney, "During October I led two half-day field sessions at the Quincy Bog Natural Area. One was for the Thornton Elementary School third grade and the other for the Russell (i.e. Rumney) Elementary School third grade. We identified various trees and shrubs, talked about the wildlife that use them for food and shelter, and observed the results of recent beaver activity at the bog. Grafton County Forester Nory Parr co-lead the Russell School field trip."

Tom Thomson (CC95) sent in an article he wrote that was recently published in Forest Landowner magazine titled, "Wildflowers Take the Edge off Timber Harvesting." Tom wrote of his experiences seeding log landings, logging roads and skid trails on his Tree Farm with lupine and other wildflower seeds. The esthetics of the flower-covered open areas, along with the slope-stabilizing benefits provided by the long taproot of the

lupine, make this practice a beneficial one for landowners. Tom writes, "If anyone would like lupine seeds (collected on my property), I have some I will be happy to share. Call me at 353-4488." In his service as Chair of the National Tree Farm Policy Committee, Tom sent news of meeting with Bruce Knight, Chief of the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and shared a letter of commendation from President G.W. Bush about the American Tree Farm System.

Lots of news from **Gerry Tilly** (CC95): She assisted with bird banding (as a "Band Aide") on Appledore Island and closed the banding station after spring migration. She summered on Great Bay, watching for osprey, but didn't see one this year (though her neighbors spotted one with a fish in its talons). In October of this year, she presented a program on NH's Owls at The Rocks Estate as part of their Halloween Tradition Program (Gerry is becoming quite a tradition there herself!). Gerry also rescued a crow who got into a fight with a hawk, and rescued a baby squirrel (eyes still closed) who fell from its nest; brought them both to the Center for Wildlife in York, Maine. Although the crow did not survive, the squirrel recovered, opened its eyes, and was released.

New Coverts Cooperator **Lawrence Underhill** (CC02) of Lancaster writes, "Just a note to mention the Heritage Trail in Lancaster. The local trails committee has been working hard to maintain and "upgrade" parts of this trail. Much of it runs through wild land, forests and wetlands, even though it is an easy walk from downtown Lancaster. This affords an opportunity for hikers who do not have a lot of time, have small children, or perhaps have physical limitations to enjoy a real outdoor experience. We have spent many hours draining and installing bob bridges in the beaver pond section which has greatly improved the access. This trail is a well kept secret in the area and should get a lot more use! This will also take some of the traffic away from the highly used trails in the area."

Deb Waters (CC01) of Pelham has put the hemlock woolly adelgid information mailed by Karen Bennett to good use in her town. She writes, "Many thanks for Karen's recent letter and material on HWA. Recently, Pelham finished a complete update of the town's Master Plan. I worked on the natural resources chapter. That chapter contains a recommendation that the town 'initiate a long-term insect monitoring plan for hemlock woolly adelgid...' I discussed the recommendation with some members of the Planning Board and Conservation Commission." They will be circulating copies of the HWA literature at Pelham town hall, the library, and the town website. On the land protection front, she also writes, "The Con Comm is very excited about a project in Pelham which will conserve 23 acres of land near Little Island Pond. The conservation land looks amazing...we hope to close by the end of the year. You'd be proud of me...the land is in dire need of good stewardship and I recognized it! Among other things, there is a great stand of black tupelo being shaded out by some tall pines. Someday, I hope the pines can be removed to let the sunlight in to revitalize the stand."

WORKSHOP NEWS

Getting Our Feet Wet in Ossipee: Coverts Alumni Workshop 2002

by Malin Ely Clyde

"See, we've got muck here," Mark said, holding up orange mottled soil dug from beside the boardwalk. "That explains some of these plants we're seeing—red maple trees, high bush blueberries, northern wild raisin, winterberry holly, and tussock sedge." Mark West, a wetlands biologist who runs West Environmental Inc. out of Lee, NH, was showing us how to delineate a wetland as we stood along a plank boardwalk in Constitution Park, near Ossipee Lake. Over 40 Coverts alumni and friends were gathered for the 2002 Coverts Alumni Workshop on August 3rd, 2002, held at Camp Calumet on the north shore of Ossipee Lake.

The day started with Ned Beecher, a local birder, lead an early morning hike where walkers where treated to



Mark West (right) describes wetland delineation techniques in a wetland in Ossipee.



Intrepid Coverts hikers in the Ossipee Pine Barrens Preserve.

the sounds of Eastern Towhee, Prairie Warbler, Savanna Sparrow, and Least Flycatcher, among other birds. Morning presentations with The Nature Conservancy's Jeff Lougee and Mark West covered an orientation to the pine barrens region and wetlands delineation and evaluation. Heading out into the field, Pam Hunt of the Audubon Society of New Hampshire joined us to chime in with information about the birds, mammals, and insects found in the wetland communities we visited. A (sweltering!) field



Audubon's Pam Hunt at Heath Pond Bog.

trip in the afternoon to the TNC Pine Barrens Preserve finished off the day. Mark West later remarked, "It is refreshing and energizing to work with a group of people who have such deep concern for the natural world in New Hampshire."

2002 Tree Farm Field Day and Forest Festival

by Elisabeth Sanders (CC02) of Danville, NH

On the morning of Saturday, October 5, 2002 the mist was covering the grounds of the Isobel Parkes Tributary Farm in West Epping - the 2002 New Hampshire Outstanding Tree Farm. The weather turned from mist to a glorious day for all 100 of us who had come to celebrate on this outstanding property and to congratulate Isobel Parke for her contribution to making New Hampshire forests a place of pride.

Isobel Parke's property now covers 186 acres. She started with 61 acres of land and purchased an additional 125 acres adjacent to her property - saving the land from possible development. Isobel spoke to the audience about being involved with land protection efforts. Her own forest stewardship objectives focus primarily on timber stand improvement and wildlife habitat improvement. Isobel Parke gives credit for her award to a long list of professionals, volunteers, trainees, and employees.

continued on back page

UNH COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
NH COVERTS PROJECT

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UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE
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).

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CALENDAR

SPECIAL WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT

Wildlife Habitat and Monitoring Retreat

Tuesday, December 17, 2002, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 a.m.

Fox Forest, Hillsborough, NH

Cost: Free, lunch and snacks provided

Reply: Call Deb Anderson at 862-1028 or email at debra.anderson@unh.edu to indicate attendance. **Space is limited—we can only accept the first 30 respondents**

UNH Cooperative Extension is creating a new public publication entitled, "How to Inventory and Monitor Wildlife on Your Land," supported in part by a grant from the Samuel P. Pardoe Foundation. We would like to hear from you about what you would like to see in such a guide. This retreat/workshop will be your opportunity for input. Also, we will provide you with some practical tips on how to inventory and monitor your property's wildlife. If you can not make this workshop, more workshops will be scheduled upon completion of the guide, so you won't miss out! Hope you can join us. - Darrel Covell and Malin Clyde

Using Fire to Control Invasive Plants: What's New, What Works in the Northeast?

Friday, Jan. 24, 2003 8 AM - 4 PM, Urban Forestry Center, Portsmouth, NH
This is a workshop designed to share the latest research results, and hear from fire managers whose observations might not have been summarized elsewhere. Cost is \$45, includes lunch. For more information, contact Karen Bennett at 603-862-2166 or karen.bennett@unh.edu.

NH Farm & Forest Expo - SAVE THE DATE

Friday, Feb. 7, 2003 (9 AM - 9 PM)

Saturday, Feb. 8 (9 AM - 4 PM) in Manchester, NH

We'll be looking for volunteers to help staff the Coverts display and wildlife activities kits for this popular annual event.

Managing for Biodiversity (associated with Farm & Forest Expo)

Friday, February 7, 2003, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

NH Fish and Game Department, Concord, NH. Space is limited. Pre-registration required by January 31, 2003 (call Deb at 862-1028).

How does your property fit into the bigger biodiversity picture? At this workshop for Coverts Cooperators presented by Darrel Covell and Ellen Snyder, you will learn about new tools and techniques to better manage the biodiversity of the Granite State, starting with your property. We'll go online to explore the new "Conservation Lands Viewer" and access the Natural Heritage Inventory website to see what information is available to you. You'll also learn how to manage for those rarer elements (wildlife and habitats) in your community.

THE LAST WORD

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Alert

by Karen P. Bennett, UNHCE Extension Specialist, Forest Resources and Jen Bofinger, Forest Health Specialist, NH Division of Forests and Lands

The hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) has been found in New Hampshire. It is a serious pest of hemlock trees. We need your help in locating new infestations.

Before 2000, HWA was found on imported nursery stock, which was killed before an infestation spread. Since then, infestations have been found in natural trees in Portsmouth, Peterborough, Bedford and, most recently, in Epsom. We believe HWA has been eradicated in all but the Portsmouth case. To control new infestations, the NH Division of Forest and Lands uses a combination of tree removal, treatment with horticultural oil and insecticide, and cultural actions such as trimming and removal of weakened trees to improve the vigor of the remaining trees. For large infestations (so far only in Portsmouth), the only extensive treatment is the release of predacious beetles. It will take some time before the effectiveness of the beetles will be known.

What does HWA mean for our forests? While it is still too early to tell, there is laboratory evidence that cold winters may control HWA. Observations in the field also support this theory. Specifically, there have been significant HWA populations south of Keene that haven't moved north. Speculation is that weather is limiting movement.

An action plan developed by the Forest Pest Advisory Group (FPAG) is being followed. FPAG is an advisory group to the State Forester and legislature. Part of this plan involves public notification and enlisting the help of the public to look for HWA. Be alert around hemlock and report field findings to the Forestry Information Center (see below). In addition to alerting key people like yourself, we communicate with the general public through the media. Colored post cards showing HWA were mailed directly to homeowners in Portsmouth, Bedford, Peterborough and Epsom. If you would like to share copies of these cards with neighbors or town officials, please contact the Forestry Information Center (1-800-444-8978) for a supply. To check up-to-date information on HWA, including identification photos, visit the NH Division of Forests and Lands website at http://www.nhdf.org/protection_bureau/fp_hwafaqs.htm. Thank you for your assistance!

2002 Tree Farm Field Day and Forest Festival

continued from page 3

Attending this 13th Annual Tree Farm Field Day was an educational and recreational event for me. I got to talk with new and experienced tree farmers, with Isobel about her work on the farm, and with other Coverts folks including Linda

Seager (CC02) and her father Ken Marvell (CC95). It was a great day that became an extension of my Coverts training by giving me more hands-on information to help me make a better contribution as a "Volunteer Working for Wildlife!"