

MAKING TRACKS

Volume 7 No. 1

The Newsletter of the New Hampshire Coverts Project

February 2002

How Did I Get Here? My First Seven Years as a Coverts Cooperator

by Anna Boudreau (CC95)

As a veteran Coverts Cooperator, I truly enjoy visiting, when possible, the annual NH Coverts training workshop in the fall. It's great to meet with the new Coverts Project graduates and witness their enthusiasm and energy. The mix and variety of personalities is always intriguing. One question that I consistently heard last fall was, "How did you get started? What was your first project after you graduated?" I actually can't remember my first project, it was so long ago! I attended the first NH Coverts Project Training Workshop in 1995 at the Barry Conservation Camp in the White Mountains National Forest. I was already a NH Community Tree Steward, (or Earth Team Volunteer, as they are called now) so I had a couple of projects in the works. My first project as a Coverts Cooperator may have been staffing the Coverts exhibit at a Farm & Forest Expo or perhaps it was sharing the animal pelts with my daughter's class. I do remember leaving the 3½ day training session pumped up and ready to roll. I was "peeling rubber" out of the parking lot, as someone put it, but when I got back home I wasn't quite sure what my next step would be.

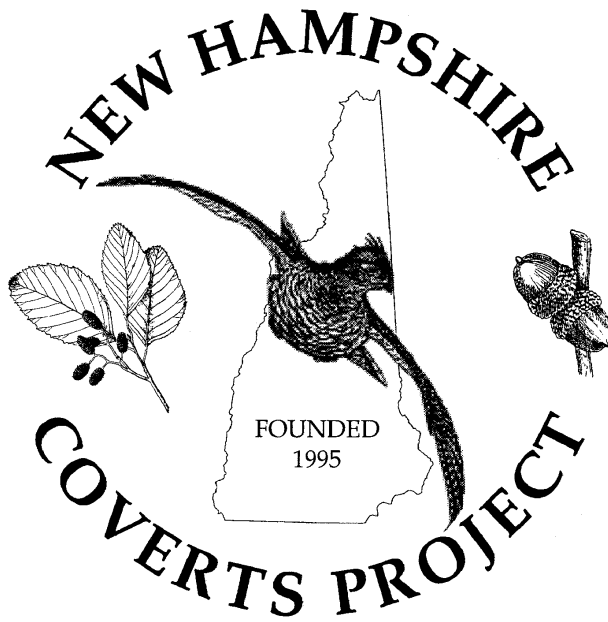
My Initial Efforts

Over the next few months I received various requests from UNH Cooperative Extension educators to help out on a variety of projects. My "buddy," Don Black, Forest Educator for Strafford County, needed help clearing land on the County Farm land near the Cochecho River for a trail that he was creating along the river. While helping out with that project, I met Lori Chase, Coordinator of the Cochecho River Watershed Coalition (CRWC), and she later asked me to join their organization. I joined the CRWC during the exciting early stages of development, and I have since become one of their volunteer water quality monitors. Then, Don Black again requested assistance with a project. This time he was holding a bluebird box-building workshop at the UNHCE office so my daughter, Maria and I had great fun helping out with that. Later in the season, we helped when the 25 bluebird boxes needed to be installed along the trail on the County Farm land. Since then, another 20 boxes have been installed and because the trail is located so close to my house, I volunteered to monitor the boxes, which I did for several years, along with fellow cooperator, Tom Chase (CC'99).

Another project that I participate in and thoroughly enjoy is the Annual 4-H Spaces Conference that is held each spring. 1997 was the first year that a handful of us presented a "Wild Over Wildlife" workshop to fifteen 12-15 year olds. Coverts Program Assistant Gerry Tilley (CC'95) organized the wildlife kits and we used portions of them in our presentations. Over the years, several Coverts Cooperators have graciously helped out with the conference. Along with Gerry Tilley and myself, there's been Roger Brown (CC'95), Freddie Olson (CC'96), Ed Berry (CC'96), Dennis Huber (CC'97) and Malin Clyde (CC'98). I'm sure we'll be doing it again this year, so contact Malin if you are interested!

Working with Youth

In addition to these projects I also visit my daughters' classes and Girl Scout troops a few times a



year. I share the animal pelts with them along with other aspects of the wildlife kits such as the buzzer boards, the tracking mats and the plaster of Paris track-making kits. Sharing the knowledge I have learned from my Coverts training with my children (ages 5 and 9) has been particularly rewarding. Maria, my nine year old, has helped check for bluebird eggs on the Cochecho River Trail and has assisted me during two 4-H Conferences. Julia can recite the identity of each animal pelt to her kindergarten class and comment on their respec-



Anna Boudreau (CC95) working with the mammal pelts.

tive habitats. Both girls have done water quality monitoring with me and have spotted herons and turtles near the river. They accompany me as I attend many meetings, including the CRWC meetings, Strafford County Advisory Council meetings (I became a council member about 3 years ago) and most recently, the City of Dover Open Lands Committee meetings.

Dover Open Lands Committee

In 1999 I was asked to join the Dover Conservation Commission but I declined (yes, I had finally learned to say "No"!). Later that year, however, the Chair of the CC asked me to attend the first meeting of the Open Lands Committee (OLC) and I couldn't resist. Covert cooperator Brian Stern (CC'00) is also on this committee. The goals of the OLC tied in beautifully with the message of the NH Coverts Project. The group of volunteers wanted additional members with a natural resources background, so I decided to stay on as a committee member to offer my limited knowledge in that area. Later, Ann Reid of the Great Bay Coastal Watch also joined the OLC and that added another dimension to the group as well.

Today, most of my Coverts volunteer hours fall under work done for the City of Dover OLC. For almost a year we met once a month, to hash out our goals, outline our objectives and draw up our mission statement. We began identifying parcels of undeveloped land (the few pieces that are left) that are critical to the protection of our water supply and other natural resources, and then we developed plans on how to go about protecting them. We didn't really know what we were doing but we learned a lot in that first year. Occasionally we met with landowners who were interested in information regarding conservation easements and estate planning and hope to have a success story or two in regards to those folks very soon. Then this past fall, we received the "shot in the arm" that we needed when the Natural Resources Outreach Coalition (NROC) met with us and agreed to present a workshop on "Dealing with Growth in Dover." NROC is coordinated by Amanda Stone from UNHCE but consists of experts from the Office of State Planning, Strafford Regional Planning Commission, and the NH Department of Environmental Services as well. They did an amazing job. The workshop was presented on September 19, 2000 with a follow-up meeting held one week later. They were both very successful with the room full to capacity, and citizens watching at home on our local cable station here in Dover. As a result of the two workshops, more concerned citizens from Dover have stepped forward to help on the OLC with the many tasks at hand. NROC continues to help us in the process today. The next thing on our agenda is to organize a Land Conservation and Estate Planning workshop. Phil Auger has done many of these workshops throughout the state and I'm excited to have him coming to Dover in March.

Exciting Action on Strafford County Farm

While working with NROC, it came to our attention that the 288 acres of Strafford County farm land is designated as "conservation land" on all the maps that we came across, when in fact it really isn't. The current county commissioners have done an excellent job over the past ten to twenty years of keeping the land from being developed, but there is nothing on the books to insure that it is permanently protected. Ellen Snyder wrote a wildlife management plan several years ago so we knew that the commissioners were aware of the natural resource benefits of keeping the acreage as open space. We were

concerned, however, that when this enlightened group of commissioners moves on, and others are faced with the same pressures to develop, we may not be as lucky. Instead of relying on luck, we decided to ask the commissioners for a 10-minute audience and they agreed. Bob Lewis, Chair of the OLC and I, along with Phil Auger and Lori Chase sat with them for nearly an hour (Don Black would've been there had he not been on his honeymoon!). It was an excellent meeting. We didn't have to change their mind set, as their ideas already coincided with ours. We just happened to come along at the right time to get these ideas in writing and try to preserve what is left of the County Farm land for future generations. If this is successful, it will set an historic precedent for other counties to follow when trying to protect their dwindling natural resources. Stay tuned for more news about this endeavor!

As Coverts volunteers, we're supposed to dedicate at least forty hours back to our community? No problem! Get out there and have some fun. Six and a half years after my Coverts training, I feel like I'm finally hitting my stride and have no plans of stopping anytime soon!

HAPPENINGS

Caroline Baldwin (CC99) writes of good news for the town of Gilmanton: "Gilmanton Land Trust has worked with landowners and SPNHF to preserve 300+ acres of woodland and wetland in town."

Peter Beblowski (CC2001) writes that he has been very busy since the September workshop: "In September the Zoning Board of Adjustment had a request from a landowner to site two houses inside the buffer zones of the town's lake recreation district. [Peter testified about the need for buffer zones to protect biodiversity]. However, after some wrangling, one request was dropped and another granted. In October I was asked by the Planning Board to investigate the intricacies of 155E (State's Excavation Laws). I'm still working with the Planning Board on some new zoning regulations for gravel and sandpits. In November and December, I have been working on helping the Southwest Regional Planning Commission update its database for conservation lands in the Town of Antrim. Also in this time, I took a speaking and singing role in the Antrim Players musical adaptation of "It's a Wonderful Life." Oh, yes, and I am a major collaborator in the construction of the sets!"

Ed Berry (CC96) writes, "I was appointed selectman in the town of Brentwood, to fill the seat that was vacated when Don Summers moved. This is until March, when I plan on running for a permanent seat."

Brenda Bhatti (CC97) writes: "I'm involved in several things linked to the Coverts Project: 1) Neighborhood Nature Outings – monthly casual (free!) nature walks through my neighborhood. Participants come up with the topic and we learn together about wildlife, winter botany, tracking and sign, habitat requirements, etc. 2) I've been sitting on the Jaffrey Conservation Commission for about 6 months now (along with **Bill Elliot** (CC98) and three other commissioners). 3) I've prepared a Powerpoint slide presentation entitled "Animal Tracking and Sign" to be presented to my colleagues/guests here at ENSR January 11, 2002. I also continue to maintain ties with the Piscataquog Watershed Association, Keeping Track program, and various other wildlife-oriented organizations. I intend to become a Certified Wildlife Biologist this year (The Wildlife Society). Also, I will be presenting some research at the upcoming 58th Annual Fisheries and Wildlife Conference in April. As always, as a consulting Environmental Biologist, I try to educate my clients on the value of wildlife and habitat and how to, at the very least, follow the laws concerning these important natural resources. I encourage them to conserve habitat resources whenever possible."

Bill & Sally Bickford (CC2000) write in, "We just completed the task of having a forester and loggers log out all the mammoth pines that were choking our sugar bush. This was 60 acres of an 80-acre property we manage. Please come see us if you would like to view what has been done – we are very excited for sugar season this year, and to watch our sugar bush flourish! Lots of fine-tuning left to do."

Nancy Chandler (CC2001) writes in with news of activities in Bartlett, "**Jean Arena** (CC2001) and I met with Peter Pohl, Carroll County forester, and did an informal survey of Thorne Pond Conservation Easement. Apple trees have been freed in several locations with brush piled for animal shelter, and we are working to update the information kiosk. Students have been involved in the process, and the Mammal Wildlife Kit should be available for our use in February (hooray!). We've met with the CEO and the Communications Director of Attitash to discuss plans, applying for grant money, and publicity, and Jean was recently appointed to the Conservation Commission."

Larry Ely (CC98) has been spending his time the past year alternating between his Maine community and Shelburne, NH forest home, encouraging wildlife and habitat protection efforts in both states. As chairman of the Falmouth Conservation Commission in Maine, he helped persuade the town council to appropriate \$380,000 to aid in a conservation organization's purchase of 257 acres of forestland in town. Linked to an existing town-owned conservation area, the newly protected area will exceed 500 acres and protect a significant block of forestland in one of Maine's fastest developing coastal towns. Larry also spearheaded the effort to develop and implement zoning measures to protect Falmouth's wetlands not already protected by Shoreland Zoning or other state regulations. After 18 months of study, the town council unanimously adopted the conservation commission's proposed ordinance to provide a 50' buffer and 75' setback around all high value wetlands, streams, floodplains, and vernal pools. In preparing the ordinance, the conservation commission found the Coverts-supplied

publication "NH Buffers for Wetlands and Surface Waters" to be the single most valuable resource used. Falmouth now has one of the most stringent wetlands protection measures in the state of Maine and has subsequently preserved a vast network of wildlife corridors linking the town's undeveloped forest tracts and shoreland marshes. Not neglecting New Hampshire, Larry also participated in the Shelburne and Gilead, Maine portion of the "Androscoggin Source to the Sea" canoe trek in the summer and was able to interact with natural resource officials from both states at the same time. In the fall, he participated in a regional Androscoggin River Recreation Management Meeting at Sunday River, Maine to discuss growing use of the Androscoggin River by recreationists and methods to reduce their growing impact on the river's natural resources. Fall trail work in the First Mountain Forest included creation of many new wildlife brush piles to encourage small mammals and increase the lower rungs of the food chain. Looking for a long-term protection measure for the forest, he met with officials of the Mahoosuc Land Trust to help identify an organization best suited to insure that the prime management focus will always be enhancement of wildlife habitat.

Blaire Folts (CC) had the good fortune to spot a mother bobcat and her 2 babies in October – Wow! Also, the Green Mountain Conservation Group, coordinated by Blaire, has moved into an office in Freedom, NH (phone number 539-1859). The group recently co-partnered with UNH Cooperative Extension on a natural resources inventory for the Ossipee Watershed, and they are now working with towns and town officials to incorporate this NRI data into master plans.

New Cooperator **Yorick Hurd** (CC2001) writes in, "Forester **Karla Allen** (CC2001) came to Lempster and we have walked over my son's and a friend's property, in preparation for her preparing management plans. Also, I made a motion at a Conservation Commission meeting that 2 lots given to the town be given to the Conservation Commission. I've continued work on my land to make trails, and worked on the Conservation Commission's "Duck Pond" trail with 4-H and boy scouts."

Bill and Marge Jahoda (CC96) report, "We have purchased a 45-acre wetland parcel along Back Lake Brook in Pittsburg, to add to our Forest Legacy easement land. This gives us total control of the approximately 1.5 miles of prime wildlife wetland along the brook from Back Lake Road to Rt. 3, and links with our four other Pittsburg Legacy parcels into a single approximately 400-acre unit. This new parcel, which is a prime deer & moose winter yarding area, borders some old gravel pits on one of our other parcels that have been restored to prime woodcock territory by support from a US Fish & Wildlife Service Cooperators in Fish & Game grant."

Ginger Jannenga (CC99) reports, "Over Christmas, my son & wife walked our 'Lyman Forbes Mem'l Nature Trail' and were impressed – first time they'd seen it since **Dick Mallion** (CC99) and I and others got it made. I've been skiing it every 2 or 3 days, too – now that we've got snow. It's as pretty as ever – and lots of critter tracks!"

Kathleen Johnson (CC97) designed a sustainable native plants landscape for the new AES Granite Ridge Co-generation Power Plant in Londonderry, in December 2001.

Ben Kilham (CC98) had a new book manuscript, "Among the Bears," accepted for publication in March of 2002 by Henry Holt. Congratulations, Ben!

Betsy Kruse (CC2000) writes in, "I continue to serve on the Candia Conservation Commission and as secretary of Bear Paw Regional Greenways. Our October 2001 Community Profile was successful and has spawned renewed civic activity."

Jerry Langdon (CC99) reports on a creative fundraising approach in Epping: "The Epping Conservation Commission members selectively cut 3 cords of hardwood off town forest lands and then raffled them off, with proceeds going to our Easement Monitoring Fund."

Judi Lindsey (CC2001) is writing a monthly column on the activities of the Candia Conservation Commission for the local paper, and trying to document any interesting events in other articles. To start, Judi wrote an article about the Coverts Training Workshop, published on November 21st in The Banner. She also writes that she is taking definite steps to put her land into a conservation easement through Bear Paw Regional Greenways.

Peter Moore (CC2001) of Antrim writes, "Coverts are cookin' in Antrim! **Peter Beblowski** (CC2001) and I, as Conservation Commissioners, have introduced warrant articles for this spring: 1) Current Use Change Tax Allocation for our Conservation Fund, and 2) Met LCHIP Round 2 with application for 'Antrim Woods,' a 58-acre natural resource in 'downtown Antrim.' Now we just have to raise our half of the \$150,000!"

Joy Nalevanko (CC2001) sends news of her activities in Alstead, "After a few rainy days in late September, I invited a neighbor who is a wild mushroom enthusiast for a walk with me through some of the 90-acre woods on our property. Along with a bag of identifiable mushrooms and another of questionable ones, we picked up several bags of colorful red and sugar maple leaves, beech, aspen, birch and oak to decorate our homes. She did find a death angel mushroom, which we avoided! In another vein, I posted flyers inviting Alstead residents to a trail cleanup day at Pratt's Rock on Sat. Oct. 13th. Eleven willing volunteers brought pruners, clippers and loppers to clear saplings and brush from the trail which leads up to a huge granite ledge where we enjoyed a picnic lunch and enjoyed the view to the mountains in Southern Vermont."

Jeff Nelson (CC99) tells us, "I wrote an article for the Bedford Land Trust's newsletter last spring about animal tracking and other sign, and the importance of suitable habitat. The newsletter went to every household in town, and was well received. This winter I am leading field trips on our conservation land for those interested in animals and their habitat."

Robert Potter (CC2000) writes in about exciting events in Randolph: "The 10,200-acre Randolph Community Forest is now a reality, with 3,000+ acres additional National Forest land. The Conservation Commission is now working on inventory, mapping, and a wildlife and plant conservation plan."

John Schlim (CC01) a new Coverts Cooperator from Kensington, writes in, "First, I have signed on as a participant in the NH Fish and Game's Reptile and Amphibian Reporting Program. I received my bundle of paperwork—including my official RAARP reporting cards—and can't wait for spring. I know, I know, that's a lo-o-o-ng way away. Second, I was just sworn in as the new Kensington representative on the Rockingham Planning Commission after being voted on by our board of selectmen. If you are not familiar with the organization, the primary function of the Commission and its staff is serving the needs of constituent local governments by providing technical planning assistance. They do such things as prepare land use and natural resource inventory maps, prepare water resource plans, provide circuit rider planner services, help towns develop master plans and capital improvement programs, inform towns about federal and state dollars that are available, and assist them in applying for grants. Equally important, the Commission is involved in regional planning programs in such fields as coastal resources management, transportation, housing, water quality management, water supply, conservation land protection, and public education. Another aspect of my role will be very similar to that of Coverts Cooperators, in that I will serve as a liaison and information conduit between the Commission and the town of Kensington. I'm very excited about this opportunity to participate in responsible planning and conservation for my local community and surrounding region."

Henry Spencer (CC2001) sent in news of his recent activities: "I have been working with the Effingham Conservation Commission to clear some roadside land the commission has title to so that we can open up the view into a large wetland/meadow for those driving by. The next step in this project is to build a deck with a screened in area so residents and visitors can do some bird watching without feeding too many bugs. It is the Commission's hope to build a wheelchair-accessible board walk out over the wetland to a small, high ground, tree-covered island about 150 yards out in the meadow. Also, on another piece of Conservation land, we are planning on going ahead with some deep woods land-clearing to establish a small meadow in which crab apple trees supplied by NH fish and game can be planted. It looks to be a two year project."

Dave (CC96) & **Tanya** (CC95) **Tellman** write, "We hosted one of the SPNHF's 100th Anniversary celebration tours in September to demonstrate timber harvesting practices and wildlife habitat management while hiking the trails of our Tree Farm."

HAPPENINGS, continued on page 3

Investigating Invasives

by Francie Von Mertens (CC99)

Invasive plant species – they are increasingly difficult to ignore, whether in our backyards or farther afield. Forty-two percent of all species on the endangered species list have been put there by invasive species crowding them out. And then there is the economic impact – some \$37 billion a year nationwide in damages, mostly to agriculture and waterways.

Many Coverts Cooperators were participants in a “Non-Native Invasive Plants – Identification and Control” workshop this past fall, put on by UNH Cooperative Extension and offered to Coverts folks at a discount. Coverts volunteers present included Brian Stern, Dennis Huber, Deb Hinman, Malin Ely Clyde, Jerry Langdon, and Ruth Schenck.

Chris Mattrick from New England Wildflower Society primed us on the deadly dozen worst invasive offenders – including burning bush (a.k.a. winged euonymus), which was just coming into its full fall glory. For the next month

after the workshop, I tried to find a commercial complex landscaped without it, or three residential yards in a row. It’s everywhere!

Typically, an invasive plant stays put for a good while, apparently non-invasive, and then it bursts loose on the landscape, hogging light, nutrients and space. Chris said that in 20 years, burning bush will likely be a nightmare forest invasive.

Most introduced plant species fit into their adoptive landscape without becoming invasive, but a small percentage of the many non-natives or “exotics” seemingly defy the laws of the natural world. They are plant generalists, thriving in wet or dry conditions, in sun or shade, and seem to defy the rules of succession by regenerating themselves in perpetuity. Many invasive plants also secrete toxins to help them out-compete their neighbors, or distribute a multitude of seeds and runners to unbelievable depths and breadths. Many are the first to leaf out in spring and the last to drop leaf in fall, thereby maximizing growth. Some are nitrogen-fixers, able to thrive in poor soils. And as newcomers, they have few predators or diseases to keep them in check. In their native lands, most of our invasives do not run rampant, but when brought here, become a problem.

To add insult to injury, some invasives offer little or no food value to wildlife. Buckthorn’s dark, juicy, inviting berries actually are cathartic, and don’t linger long in the birds that flock to eat them and then spread their seeds far and wide. Many invasives are often favored for landscaping and by commercial nurseries because of their ease of adaptation – Norway maple, burning bush, autumn olive, barberry, privet. As a result, Nor-

way maple could in time replace New Hampshire’s glorious, celebrated sugar maple.

As the brutal bottom line, next to habitat destruction through development and the bulldozer, we learned that invasive species are the number one threat to natural communities.

Lionel Chute from NH Natural Heritage Inventory debunked an optimistic thought: that New Hampshire might be inhospitable to many of the invasives taking aggressive root in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Not true. Most invasives are fully cold tolerant, and it is only a matter of time before even more voracious species show up locally.

What is to be done? Prevention works better than the labor-intensive and rarely successful job of eradication once a species has dominated a site. New Hampshire is ahead of some states, having outlawed sales of 15 species (14 aquatic invasives

plus purple loosestrife), and established a committee (in 2000) to publish an annual list of invasives and advise the Commissioner of Agriculture. As a possible model for New Hampshire towns, some planning boards in Massachusetts prohibit planting of invasive species in subdivisions.

With early detection the key to prevention, Andrea Alderman

from the Society for the Protection of NH Forests showed how invasives can be inventoried and mapped on a property, and Chris Mattrick described the protocol for the White Mountain National Forest inventory now underway.

An afternoon walkabout on the grounds of the Urban Forestry Center, Portsmouth, site of the workshop, found abundant invasive species including black swallow-wort, a creepy vine that Chris Mattrick said “might be the scariest” kudzu of the north, and which crossed into NH from MA or VT only recently. We then took turns pulling up glossy buckthorn with a “weed wrench,” a hefty tool that all conservation commissions should own and offer as a loan to townspeople (available through the New England Wildflower Society, Framingham, MA).

The workshop ended with a demonstration of herbicide applications, an effective process for many invasive species that should be undertaken only with safety precautions in place. We learned that fall is the time for application, when a plant’s energy is returning to its roots. The protective gear and applicator paraphernalia were daunting!

Invasive species – hard to ignore, and a ready opportunity for Coverts Cooperators to pitch in locally with important education, outreach and good old-fashioned, hands-on work.



Chris Mattrick of the NE Wild Flower Society with burning bush, an invasive shrub, behind.

Strange Beaver-havior at Sunset Tree Farm

by Ken Marvell (CC95), New Boston, NH

Each morning my daughter, another person, and myself go for a walk around the beaver pond on my land, which includes going through a grove of beech trees and through many white pine trees. The trail is about one mile long. During the walk, we see many interesting and unusual things and are always watching for the beaver.

On September 30th of last year, we noticed a maple tree that was being worked on by the beaver. Every morning we would watch expecting to see that the tree had fallen into the pond. We would have to wait! A week later, the beaver had succeeded in chewing through the tree, but instead of falling over, it dropped beside the stump, still standing. The upper branches were caught in the other trees.

Several nights of the beaver chewing on this tree and the tree dropped again, still standing, but getting shorter. The branches were still caught in the other trees.

Every day we would check out the work the beaver had done during the night. This went on day after day, week after week until finally, on November 7th, we found the tree felled into the pond. Six times the beaver had chewed through the trunk of this maple tree, leaving behind a chunk of the tree trunk about a foot and a half long. I left it there for more than a week, but the beaver did not work on the tree or its branches, so I pulled it out of the water so it wouldn’t dam up the pond more. I was determined to save these pieces of the tree trunk to show what the beaver had done! I took the sections and laid them end to end and attached them to a



Top: the work of the Sunset Tree Farm beavers. Bottom: Ken and Dorothy Marvell, fall 2001. (Marvell family photos)

black birch tree that the beaver had previously de-barked. It stands tall and secure near where the original maple tree stood, so those who come to visit and walk the trails can see the work of the “busy beavers!”

HAPPENINGS, continued from page 2

Tom Thomson (CC95) sent in news of his trip to Washington to press for Federal legislation aimed at preserving open space and preventing urban sprawl. Meeting with Agricultural Secretary Ann Veneman, Chief of the Forest Service Dale Bosworth, and members of Congress, Tom sought support for the new Farm Bill provisions now before Congress, including incentive and education programs to help family land owners keep their forests intact, healthy, and growing for future generations. “The Farm Bill isn’t just about farming,” Tom says. “It’s about the kind of landscape and legacy we’ll leave our children and grandchildren.”



Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman and Tom Thomson.

Jeffrey Timmons (CC97) writes: “At the end of December we became the first in Greenfield to execute a conservation easement on most of our 470-acre Woodland Hill Farm as part of the “Keeping the Green in Greenfield” initiative that we began with a neighbor two years ago. The Monadnock Conservancy in Keene will guarantee and enforce the easement in perpetuity. This and two other contiguous neighbors who are doing the same will bring the total to nearly 1000 acres of abutting, forever-protected land, which we are all very thrilled about. We expect others in town will join us in 2002-2003. Greenfield will live up to its name forever, and remain one of the greenest towns in southern New England with proportionately more conservation land than just about anywhere. We are happy to serve as a resource to Coverts Cooperators who may be inter-

ested in encouraging such efforts in their own towns. There are no public announcements until this Spring, when our other neighbors complete their easements. The Coverts Program was an important impetus in shaping both our Land Stewardship and Wildlife Habitat Plan, and our decision to create a conservation easement on our land. Merry Christmas citizens of Greenfield and of New Hampshire!”

Gerry Tilley (CC95) reports about a program she put on in October in Bethlehem: “Spiders were introduced to participants at The Rocks Halloween Tradition this year. I had a wonderful time sharing the importance of our 8-legged friends and the conservation of their habitats. Looking forward to next year’s presentation on owls!”

**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

Current Use Tax Workshop

Monday, April 1, 2002 at 7 p.m., Milford UNHCE office

Jon Nute, Hillsborough County Extension Forester, will be offering this workshop at the Milford office of UNH Cooperative Extension. He will explain the Current Use regulations from A to Z and answer any questions on unique circumstances. For more information, call Jon at 673-2510.

20th Anniversary Sunset Tree Farm Tour

Saturday, April 27, 2002, 9:30 - Noon

This year marks the 20th year of tours at Ken (CC95) and Dorothy Marvell's Sunset Tree Farm in New Boston, New Hampshire. Back in 1982, Ken had his first tour, and then County Forester John Ferguson planted a few Christmas trees as part of the event. Now, 20 years later, you can see those same trees, tall and beautiful, marking the passing of time on Ken's land. Ken & Dorothy invite everyone to this special event, where the Marvell's and a large group of resource educators will be on hand to lead tours of the property. You can check out the remarkable beaver work too (see article)! For more information, contact County Forester Jon Nute at 673-2510.

Habitat Tour of Phillips Exeter Academy

Saturday, May 18, 2002, 9:30 - Noon

We've heard lots about the wildlife habitat management going on under Dennis Huber's (CC97) direction at Phillips Exeter Academy. Now is your chance to see it for yourself! Breeding birds should be present and spring green-up will be well underway for this special tour in the Seacoast region.

Coverts Alumni Workshop

SAVE THE DATE - Saturday July 27, 2002

Location and speaker topics to be announced. Let us know if you have any promising ideas!

RESOURCES

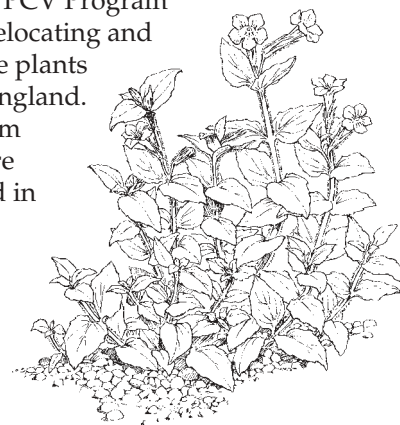
Case Study Reports on the Web

The stories of landowners and Coverts Cooperators **Helen Evans, Andy & Jeanne Powell**, and **Jerry Langdon** are all on the UNHCE website in the form of UNH Cooperative Extension Case Studies. Color hard copies are available through Karen Bennett at 862-4861. They are being distributed to partners, funding sources, and landowners interested in working with Cooperative Extension.

HELP WANTED

Amateur Botanists - The New England Wild Flower Society is currently seeking applicants for a plant conservation program in NH called the Plant Conservation Volunteer Program (PCV). The PCV Program puts the skills of amateur botanists to work relocating and collecting data on populations of selected rare plants for the heritage programs throughout New England.

The information collected by the PCV Program enables state heritage programs to update rare plant records that often haven't been updated in decades and is also finding many previously undiscovered rare plant populations. PCV's participants participate in habitat management projects that benefit rare plants and conduct surveys for invasive species in minimally managed natural areas. The PCV Program is active in every New England state and currently enrolls just over 300 volunteers. Candidates should ideally be committed to the conservation of the native flora of NH and knowledgeable about plants. However, we will train enthusiastic amateurs. We ask all potential volunteers to complete an application. If you or anyone you know is interested, we recommend that you return an application to us as soon as possible, as the required training session will be held in mid-March. Please contact either Chris Mattrick or Brandon Mann to receive an application (NE Wild Flower Society, 180 Hemenway Road, Framingham, MA, 01701-2699, tel (508) 877-7630) or check out our website at www.newfs.org.



Mimulus moschatus, or musk flower, one of the 100 rarest plants in New England
(G. Morrison, NEWFS archive)

REMINDERS

Thanks to all who sent in the (bright green colored) Coverts Questionnaire in January. For those who still have it sitting on their desk, *please send it back in the postage-paid envelope*. We want to hear from as many people as possible, please!

If you know of people who would be good candidates for next year's Coverts class, please contact Malin (862-2166) with names and addresses so we can send them a brochure or application this spring.