

# MAKING TRACKS

Volume 8 No. 1

The Newsletter of the New Hampshire Coverts Project

June 2003

## A Cold Day In Coös Coös County Winter Wildlife Workshop

by Larry Ely (cc98)

On Saturday, February 15, 2003, a Winter Wildlife Workshop for Coös County Coverts was held at Shelburne, NH on what was likely the coldest day of the winter season. The record for coldest spot in the nation went to nearby Whitefield that day, based on its -37° morning temperature. In spite of the extreme cold, fourteen Coverts Cooperators, UNHCE staff, and guests attended the day-long workshop held at Coverts Cooperator Larry Ely's First Mountain Forest. Luckily, the schedule provided for all of the morning and early afternoon sessions to be held inside the cozy cottage at First Mountain. UNHCE staff members Darrel Covell, Ellen Snyder, and Sam Stoddard were there to offer information about the special needs and coping strategies of wildlife in New England's harsh winter landscape.

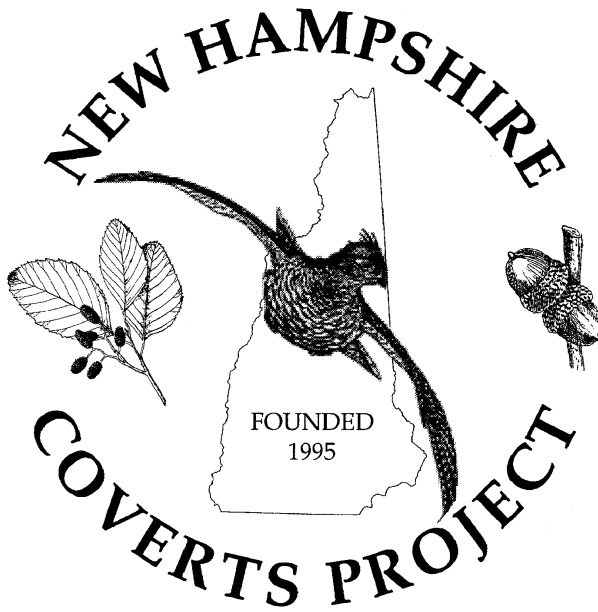


**Darrel Covell points out tracks to a well-bundled crowd at First Mountain Forest.**

Ellen talked about the wide variety of mechanisms adopted by wildlife to insure their winter survival, such as migration or hibernation and the myriad other methods used to balance the energy budget. She also highlighted some of the physical adaptations and prey/predator relationships that are critical to winter survival. Darrel followed with a talk about the not-often-observed subnivean world where many smaller species adopt a winter coping strategy of living their winter lives almost entirely under the snow pack in tunnels and burrows. This under-snow world is not only fascinating, but is also the prime engine that provides the food source for many of the above-snow predators. After learning more about the needs and lives of wildlife in winter, Darrel also presented practical information about practices that landowners can employ to aid wildlife in winter and also outlined the latest arguments for not feeding deer.



**Tracks left by the night burrow of a ruffed grouse showing finely etched wing imprints revealing its morning blast from the snow.**



**Snowshoes were the perfect way to get around First Mountain Forest – and the exercise kept everyone warm in the freezing temperatures of February.**

noon, participants bundled up and began a snowshoe trek through the lower elevations of First Mountain Forest to observe tracks and make other field observations based upon the earlier sessions. Despite no new snow during the previous five days, the cold had preserved the many tracks and signs in the woods.



**Workshop participants Dick Mallion (CC99) and Ollie the cat, keeping warm during the indoor sessions at First Mountain Forest.**



**Views of Mount Washington as seen from Larry Ely's (CC98) First Mountain Forest.**

Before lunch, hosted by spouse and First Mountain Forest co-owner Ginger Lawson, Larry outlined the boundaries of their 130-acre mountain forest and talked about the wide variety of forests types created by the nearly 1000 feet of elevation differential on their relatively small tract. He also talked about their management plan that stresses wildlife habitat above all other considerations and highlighted some of the practices they had employed to aid wildlife. Though not a winter topic, trail building is a subject of great interest to many Coös Coverts, so Dick Mallion of Whitefield demonstrated his pack kit of trail tools during a short break.

After lunch, Sam finished the indoor sessions by offering an informative power point presentation based upon Will Staat's draft proposal for a tracking guide specific to our northern New England wildlife. Then, when the temperature had finally reached zero degrees in the after-

First Mountain Forest is rich in wildlife. Tracks and sign were quickly found for red squirrels, ermine, deer mice or white-footed mice, bobcat, porcupine, abundant snowshoe hare, moose, coyote, numerous deer trails, and past signs of bear revealed in claw marks in beech trees; all found during a three-quarter mile loop hike. Particularly impressive was a night burrow of a ruffed grouse with detailed and finely etched wing imprints revealing its morning blast from its comfortable snow burrow (see photo). It was great to have the trio of UNHCE experts there to help interpret the signs

Grafton/Coös Coverts Dave and Tanya Tellman probably summed up most participants' feelings when they stated, "Thanks for a wonderful day on truly spectacular First Mountain Forest. The leaders were fearsome... Lots of information gained and shared." Coös Coverts hope to hold additional workshops this coming summer and fall.

# HAPPENINGS

In his work for the US Army Corps of Engineers, **John E. Asseng** (CC2000) has been working with The Nature Conservancy in an effort to make the Surry Mountain Dam more ecologically sensitive to the Ashuelot River, according to an extensive article about the project in the *Keene Sentinel* (1/27/03). "We're looking at regulating the water to really benefit the entire ecosystem. The key is managing the land and water and taking into consideration all the diversity that's there."

**Malin Ely Clyde** (CC98) says, "I had to include a note about our recent open space bond initiative in Durham. Working with a small group of folks in my town, we drew on the experience and success of other towns (and other Coverts) to publicize and advocate for the passage of a \$2.5 million bond warrant for protecting land in Durham. The measure passed with 78% of voters approving! This success came on the heels of the birth of our new baby boy, Taylor. It is so gratifying to think that the land we conserve in Durham now will still be there for him to enjoy when he grows up."

Once again, **Nancy Cowan** (CC98) wowed attendees at this year's Farm & Forest Expo with her raptors (see photo). Nancy also helped staffed the Coverts display, along with Cooperators **Larry White** (CC96), **Bruce Montville** (CC2000), **Nanci Mitchell** (02), **Tanya and Dave Tellman** (CC95, 96), **Kathleen Johnson** (CC97), **Peter Beblowski** (01), and **Camilla Lockwood** (CC98). Many thanks to all who were able to help!



**Nancy Cowan (CC98) and her hawks are always a great attraction at the Farm & Forest Expo.**

**Bill Elliot** (CC98) writes from Hancock, "I recently joined the 'Open Space Committee' in Hancock. Our natural resource inventory has been completed and I am working on compiling the total acres of land under conservation easement/open space category. Well over 7,000 acres fit this description, approximately 40% of Hancock."

**Larry Ely** (CC98) reports from Shelburne, "Snow is pretty much gone from the south slopes of First Mountain and I saw a half white/half gray snowshoe hare last week and heard the drumming of grouse just yesterday. We may also have a pair of Red-tail Hawks nesting in the forest. Veeries and thrushes will be sounding soon – the spring peepers and wood frogs are already beginning their clamor at dusk." Also, thanks to Larry's PR work on his Winter Wildlife Workshop (February – see article), John Walsh wrote a great article about the workshop and the Coverts Project in the February 20<sup>th</sup> edition of the Berlin Daily Sun.

**Fred Ernst** (CC2000) says, "Have outlined a field area and apple orchard to be done with WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program) funds. Am having difficulty finding loggers to do the work as well as improvement cuts already laid out."

**Helen Evans** (CC95) writes, "Not much happening at the Ponderosa Avenue Back Yard Tree Farm. The cold, sub-zero weather this winter brought the squirrels, blue jays, buntings, cardinals and mourning doves, plus several hungry crows to feed on peanuts, sunflower seeds and bird seed. And one squirrel doing acrobatics at the suet feeder. I am looking forward to the spring and to Coverts activities, and regretted having to cancel attending the February workshop due to the snowstorm. Did do several stints for various booths at Farm & Forest!"

**Blair Folts** (CC98) writes of the Green Mountain Conservation Group, "GMCG just celebrated our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting with black bear expert **Ben Kilham** (CC98) as our keynote speaker. **Susan Slack** (CC98) retired as president, but will continue to chair our Land Trust Committee. **Bill Piekut** (CC99) will continue as Vice President. GMCG just completed our first year of water quality monitoring, with reports available at the town halls in the Ossipee watershed."

**Jacob Friis** (CC97) got tired of biting bugs and has been building bluebird houses and bat houses. The bluebirds have already moved in, but the bats are more picky so far. He is also getting tired of ticks, so if anyone knows of a living creature that eats ticks, then please let him know.

**Steve Galpin** (CC99) recently moved from Gilsum to Loudon, and looks forward to checking out the opportunity of joining the local conservation commission.

**Dennis Huber** (CC97) writes, "On Saturday, May 3rd, a Vernal Pool Workshop by Patrick and Michael Seecamp of Seecamp Environmental Consulting in Newton, NH, was held in Exeter. I assisted the outdoor field session at Jude's Pond on property of Phillips Exeter Academy. The event was attended by children and adults. Salamander egg masses, bull frog tadpoles, newts, and various invertebrates were discovered and studied. Everyone had a good time learning the value of vernal pools and their inhabitants. The workshop was sponsored by The Exeter River Local Advisory Committee, The Exeter Conservation Commission, and Phillips Exeter Academy. And this morning at 4:15 in Kingston I heard two Whip-poor-wills."

**Betsy Hardwick** (CC02) writes in, "**Jeff [Tarr CC02]** and I just finished assisting the Frankestown Conservation Commission in planting 40 crabapples and 50 mast-producing shrubs in the town forest around the perimeter of a large field. These trees and shrubs were specially chosen for their ability to provide autumn and winter food for turkeys, grouse and other wildlife. Next weekend we will be fencing the crabapples to protect them from the deer...these fences will stay until the trees are fairly well established (probably at least five years)."

**Marge and Bill Jahoda** (CC96) write, "The cooperative wildlife research program with the Pittsburg School system on our Johnson Memorial Forest is beginning to shift into high gear. Darrel Covell, himself a Pittsburg graduate, is coordinat-

ing the effort. We have permission to use some of our US Fish & Wildlife Service grant funding for this, and emphasis will be on use by students of modern high-tech instruments such as GPS units to monitor wildlife populations and activities. **Brenda Dorman** (CC97) one of the Pittsburg science teachers, will also be involved. You can visit our Johnson Memorial Forest website at: [http://www.fs.fed.us/na/durham/legacy/text/legacy\\_places/nh/pdfs/nh\\_04\\_1996s.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/na/durham/legacy/text/legacy_places/nh/pdfs/nh_04_1996s.pdf).

**Dan Kern** (CC02) has been busy with many conservation projects, including coordinating three conservation workshops in Greenland (along with the Seacoast Land Trust and the conservation commission) and petitioning the town selectmen for 3 conservation-related warrant articles, including a \$4 million bond. He also ran for the town planning board, has been volunteering with the "Center for Wildlife" rehabilitation center, and is working with the conservation commission to put together an open space committee in Greenland. Whew!

**Betsy Kruse** (CC2000) writes, "Candia is in the throes of updating its master plan. We are creating a dynamic, innovative plan which will be used to revise zoning ordinances and as a frequently consulted reference for town boards. In addition to contracting a consulting firm for the update, Candia has been accepted for a Plan NH Charrette, an NROC grant, a social capital assessment by NHCF, and the services of Kate Hartnett through the Minimum Impact Development Project. All organizations are working together to complete the update."

**Jerry Langdon** (CC99) writes, "We have been very busy here in Epping. The latest has been managing the clean up of an illegal timber harvest on town conservation land and currently doing a harvest on two parcels of our town forest. That's all going very well. On May 17<sup>th</sup> we held a very successful fishing derby on our youth-only pond on one of these (multiple-use) parcels. We also just acquired a gift of 25 acres to add to our Tree Farm system."

**Elise Lawson** (CC98) writes, "**John Severance** (CC00) and I, along with forester Walter Wintturi were awarded a job to manage the newly-acquired Randolph Community Forest, a 10,000 acre forest adjacent to the White Mountain National Forest. We will be developing a Stewardship Incentive Plan and making recommendations for wildlife habitat improvements. There is also an educational component to the project. We have enjoyed listening to the arriving song birds, documenting several vernal pools, and seeing abundant wildlife."

**Judi Lindsey** (CC01) writes from Candia, "I'm part of the Master Plan Committee which will steer the direction Candia takes in the next five years. I'm also running for the Planning Board. Wish me luck! If I am elected, I'll be able to work within that committee to preserve open space for our town."

**Nigel Manley** (CC96) writes, "Last year was very successful with several bus tours from the UK as well as the US to our wildlife habitat talks. We just completed logging on about 30 acres, releasing

## Call of the Owl

by Ken and Dot Marvell, Dave and Linda Seager  
Sunset Tree Farm, New Boston

On Saturday April 19, 2003 there was no rain, snow, sleet, hail, and no bugs for the 'Bird Watch and Forest Tour' at Sunset Tree Farm, the property of Ken and Dot Marvell in New Boston. Fabulous!

About 25 others joined us in listening and watching for our feathered friends as we relied on Darrel Covell, the Wildlife Extension Specialist for UNH Cooperative Extension. He was able to pick up on the sounds of the birds and then call back to them. Over 35 different birds were seen or heard, from the American robin, a raven, doves, goldfinches, a pileated woodpecker, and the most exciting, a barred owl. We had walked through the wooded path on the south side of the pond to the far end of the pond when Darrel's ears picked up a call. He responded with his call. To the barred owl, it must have sounded like another owl, because the owl

flew to the top of a tree right above us, looked down at us, and we looked up at the owl. As we moved on up the path, the owl was still calling. Darrel has since remarked, "it was the best sighting of a barred owl I've ever seen!" We also saw a pair of hooded mergansers, and a beaver on one of the little islands in the pond. The Canada geese are nesting, but as we were saying our good-byes to our guests, the geese flew down to the small pond in the front yard to fill up on some cracked corn and quickly back to the nest they flew. She sits on the nest and he sits by a stump in the water keeping watch.

Jon Nute, the Hillsborough County Extension Forester, was also a wealth of information as he guided us through the forest paths explaining about tree growth, timber value, erosion control, and about the American chestnut. Early in the

1900's, this species of tree was hit with a blight that is still alive and killing trees. There has been one particular American chestnut that we have been watching. For the past three years, it has produced an abundance of nuts, but sadly now has been hit with this blight. These trees are struggling, but new shoots keep coming up, getting to be about 8-10 inches in diameter. Jon also explained reasons why and why not to "girdle" a tree. As we moved through the wooded path and uphill the view changed – we leave the pines and walk into a large area of beech trees. The bark resembles the hide of an elephant. The grove is beautiful. Come and see it!

On June 28, 2003 we are planning a forest harvest and a demonstration of the harvesting equipment. The demonstration is open to all so we hope to see you here.

# HAPPENINGS

about 80 apple trees. These will be pruned over the next 3 years."

**Kathryn Nelson** (CC99) writes, "Nashua was approved to receive an LCHIP grant for Round 4, to purchase 100 acres adjacent to our Northwest conservation land. Total protected acres will be 400 acres, and abuts 100 acres of Audubon land. I am working with the conservation commission, planning department, and the Nashua Regional Planning Commission to develop a stewardship plan for this area. I was also interviewed by the Forest Society for their 'Forest Notes' magazine article regarding Nashua's efforts to purchase land in the Pennichuck Watershed."

**Dick Rush** (CC01) of Dalton tells us, "I've been deeply involved in successfully helping to write a grant proposal that got us funding from the Moose Plate State Conservation Comm. for a local study of a large tract called 'Chase Bog.' I am also up to my neck in helping get our Natural Resource Inventory underway."

**Linda Seager** (CC02) wrote in over the winter to tell of the scene at Sunset Tree Farm, "We have managed to keep the walking path around the pond free of snow this winter, for us to get out there and walk most every day. In January we watched the trees for a couple of weeks struggling with such a heavy load of ice and snow. It is so amazing how they manage to withstand the weight and then to stand up straight and tall once again...Dad (**Ken Marvell**, CC96) was out pruning trees, standing on top of about three feet of snow. He knows that because at one point the top crust

let go and down to his hips he went and still didn't touch ground! There have always been many deer here, but for weeks now (February) there have been no signs of them except for one set of prints up in the pines near the beech grove. We have seen fox tracks, and of course squirrels. We see the weasel's sliding tracks, and before the snow covered the stone walls, we would see them running along the tops of them. In the coldest and worst weather, we have had dozens of goldfinches – a few times I counted at least seven dozen, all trying to feed in the bird feeder. That feeder sure did empty out fast. To hear a pileated woodpecker banging away is exciting, but to see those magnificent birds is really exciting – and I saw two out back in the pine trees...they've made some big holes in the pines by the pond. Dad has seen an owl a few times, as well."

The Hillsborough County Conservation District awarded **Jeffrey Timmons** (CC97) of Greenfield with the Cooperator of the Year award. The Timmons' own 470 acres of forest, field, and wetlands, which became a NH Tree Farm in 2001. According to the County's UNH Cooperative Extension Forester, Jon Nute, who nominated Jeffrey, he has many accomplishments to be noted. Jeffrey has "improved songbird and ruffed grouse habitat by completing more than 75 acres of group selection harvests, made two clearings to enhance the mountain views, maintained 53 acres of old field wildlife habitat and repaired old logging roads to prevent erosion and provide recreational access." The Timmons have worked with neighbors to "Keep the Green in Greenfield" and have proved that they have a love for the rural NH

landscape and will continue to educate and encourage their neighbors to conserve what nature has provided. Charles Koch, Jeffrey's forester, accepted the award on his behalf.

On February 19, 2003, the Governor's Council members voted on Governor Benson's reappointment of **Tom Thomson** (CC95) for another term to the New Hampshire Current Use Advisory Board, representing landowners.

**Francie Von Mertens** (CC99) continues to write her Backyard Birder column for the Monadnock Ledger (local newspaper). Topics range beyond birds to wildlife in general and land conservation and stewardship. She also writes an occasional "Conservation Matters" column, with road salt the current topic of research. A larger project is helping research and write an Open Space chapter for Peterborough's Master Plan update.

**Jan Woodbury** (CC98) writes, "I just completed another May visit, taking Mont Vernon Village School children studying beavers, to Ken Marvell's Sunset Tree Farm in New Boston. Ken has a symbiotic relationship with his beavers. He feeds them tree tops and then collects the debarked sticks and makes unique furniture. Ken's pond has 6 beaver lodges (truly amazing for its size!), a nesting Canada goose pair and oodles of turtles, birds, newts, etc. The children never want to leave to return to school – in spite of the terrible black flies!! Each goes home with a small beaver stick full of tooth marks. Ken & I met through Coverts (both being CC's) and he has been sharing his wonderful property with the Mont Vernon school children ever since I asked him 4 or 5 years ago."

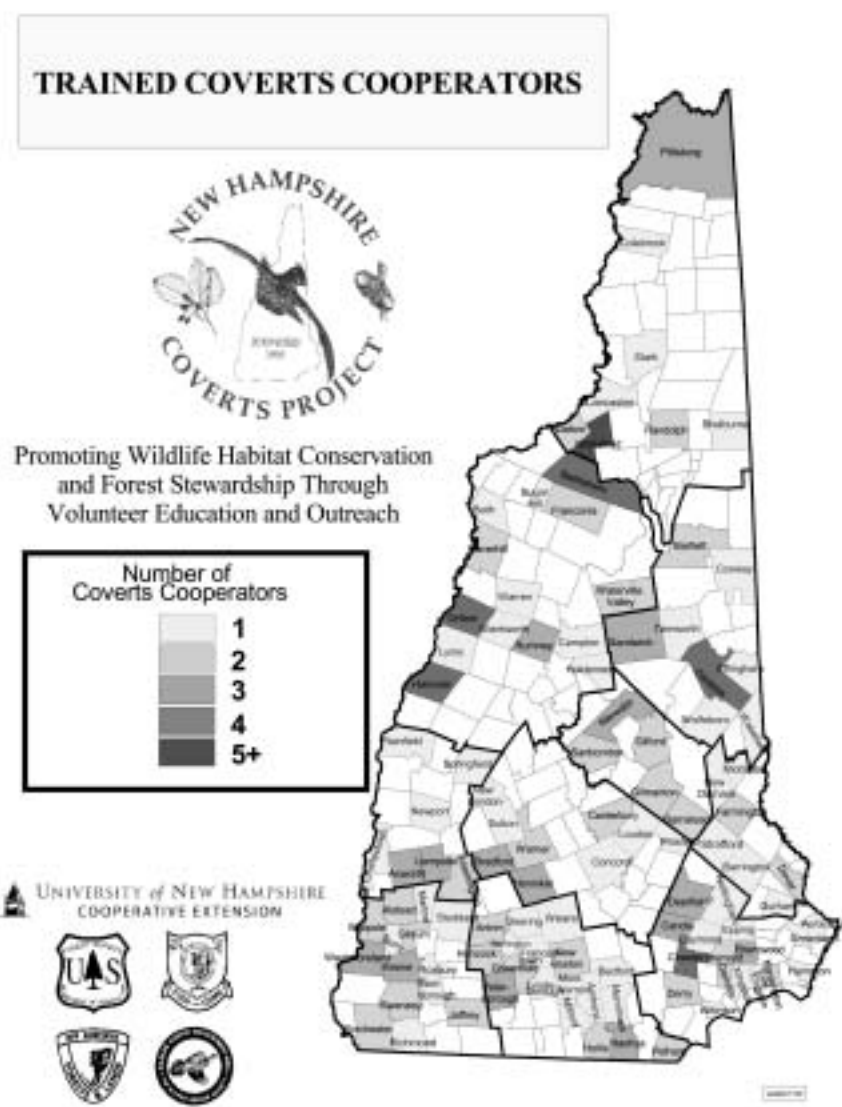
## Coverts Advisory Committee News

Seventeen members of the Coverts Project Advisory Committee, represented by staff, project partners and Coverts Cooperators, attended a meeting on February 8, 2003. The committee helps shape the Coverts Project by providing feedback and asking new questions about the progress and direction of the program.

This year, the committee discussed new guidelines for using the Coverts Listserv which have since been implemented. The policy includes a request to refrain from political advocacy and to maintain civility in participants' messages. We hope these guidelines can help keep the listserv forum a helpful, interesting, and genial outlet for Coverts Cooperators to communicate with each other about stewardship and wildlife. We also would like to thank those who wrote in to us with ideas about how to improve the listserv and its management.

Another major point of discussion involved the results of the Coverts Program Evaluation, completed last year, and how these results can shape the future of the program. Some recommendations by the committee include:

- CCs who have been involved for awhile may need updated resource materials.
- Even though CCs showed a low interest level in soils, knowledge of soils is fundamental to learning about forests.
- Grant programs need to be promoted for landowners to implement wildlife habitat projects (through *Making Tracks* and the listserv).
- The new map showing locations of Coverts Cooperators show some geographical gaps in the state – we want to work to solicit participation from people in these areas in future years.
- We should work on a 5-10 year plan to help seek and solicit new funding to support the Coverts Project.



**Coverts Cooperators are working in 107 different towns in the state. The Coverts Advisory Committee suggested a goal of having at least one Coverts volunteer working in each town in New Hampshire.**

## Town Conservation Measures Helped By Coverts Cooperators

Town elections this spring brought record-breaking funding for land conservation in New Hampshire, helped in no small part by Coverts Cooperators around the state. A total of 25 towns passed \$35,525,000 in bonds and direct appropriations for land protection measures.

Although Coverts Cooperators are sometimes shy about proclaiming their own successes in land conservation measures, we heard about several efforts spearheaded by Coverts volunteers. And I'm sure there are others that didn't hit our radar screen – to all those folks, send us your news!

**Howard Cadwell** put together an impressive document for the town of Brentwood, outlining the many advantages of conserving land. His effort paid off with the passage of a \$2 million bond for open space. In Dover, **Anna Boudreau** and **Brian Stern** stewarded a \$1 million budget appropriation for open space through the town council. **Gus Ruth** of Winchester worked for a direct town appropriation for the 257-acre Sunny Valley project – and was also instrumental in applying for LCHIP funds to protect this important farm from development. After many years of being inspired by the conservation efforts of other Coverts Cooperators, **Malin Clyde** decided to help spearhead a bond measure for land conservation in Durham. "We set up a signature booth on voting day in November where we collected over 1,200 signatures in order to get a measure on the March ballot (we only needed 750). Then, assisted by a grant from the Great Piscataqua Community Foundation, we published a series of town newsletters on the social and financial benefits of land conservation. It all paid off when the town voters passed the \$2.5 million conservation bond measure with a whopping 78% approving!" Finally, former Coverts Coordinator **Ellen Snyder** helped with the passage of a \$2 million bond initiative in Newmarket (in May of 2002). She is now chair of the committee which will locate, negotiate, and purchase conservation lands and easements on behalf of the town. They have already applied for – and received – matching funds from LCHIP, DES and other funders to successfully purchase several critical parcels in this fast-developing corner of New Hampshire.

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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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## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### Wildlife, Plants and Landform Diversity

Friday, June 20, 2003, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Pinkham Notch Visitors Center, Pinkham Notch, NH

Explore the relationship between geology, soils, topography and associated plant communities. We'll also look at how wildlife responds to varying landforms such as ridges, outcrops, and slopes. After classroom discussion we will head in to the field to explore these relationships first hand. Please dress for the weather. Sponsored by Appalachian Mountain Club. Fee: \$36 AMC members/\$40 non-members. For more information contact AMC at 466-2721

### Getting to Know: The Eastern Wild Turkey

Friday, July 11, 2003, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Pinkham Notch Visitors Center, Pinkham Notch, NH

Where did all the turkey's come from? The eastern wild turkey disappeared from New Hampshire in the mid-1800's. However, populations have increased and expanded dramatically since reintroduction in 1969. Find out turkeys are surviving well beyond their historic northern NH range, and what habitat management can be done to support a healthy turkey population. Sponsored by Appalachian Mountain Club. Fee: \$36 AMC members/\$40 non-members. For more information call 466-2727

### Summer Coverts Alumni Workshop

Wildlife Habitat Management - A Town Forest Case Study

Saturday, August 2, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Fracestown Town Forest

Join us in southwest New Hampshire for a detailed look at the wildlife habitat management projects conducted at the Fracestown Town Forest. Several local Coverts Cooperators have been actively involved in habitat projects such as field openings, forest clearings, timber sales, plantings for wildlife, and trails projects. We will explore these projects in this outdoor workshop, while also giving you a chance to catch up with old friends from your Coverts workshop- and meet new friends from other years! More information, including directions and schedule, to follow in the mail.

### Introduction to ArcView 3.2

Tuesday, August 19 & Wednesday, August 20, 2003

UNH, Nesmith Hall, Durham, NH

This two-day workshop will provide assistance to those interested in learning ArcView. We will cover many topics and will walk you through the steps necessary to bring data into ArcView, query and modify data, and make a map. Familiarity with Windows is recommended. Space is limited, please register early. Directions to workshop will be sent with confirmation letter upon registration. Sponsored by UNH Cooperative Extension. Fee: \$200 per person/ 1 person per computer. For more information contact Sharon Hughes at 862-1029 or email at sharon.hughes@unh.edu

## THE LAST WORD

### Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP)

The 2002 Farm Bill authorized the USDA Forest Service to launch a new forestry program to assist private forest landowners. Called the Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP), it replaces two previous conservation incentive programs: the Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP) and the Forestry Incentive Program (FIP).

The goal of the program is to ensure that the private landowners help provide sustainable forest products and safeguard the health of our water, air, wildlife, and other related natural resources.

Through FLEP, the NH Division of Forests and Lands and UNH Cooperative Extension can provide a wide array of educational, technical, and financial programs. Focus areas include: forest stewardship plans; forest stand improvement; water quality and watershed protection; wildlife habitat; forest health; invasive species; and risk reduction.

State Forester, Phil Bryce, and the NH Forest Stewardship Committee have developed a priority plan for the program. It describes the educational and technical activities and the cost share practices, including expected outcomes and the public value of the program.

Programs that are administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) were also re-authorized by the 2002 Farm Bill. We are working with NRCS to integrate the services provided to forest landowners.

For more information, contact Karen Bennett, Extension Forest Resource Specialist at 862-4861 or <karen.bennett@unh.edu> or your local County Extension Forester.