

MAKING TRACKS

Volume 7 No. 2

The Newsletter of the New Hampshire Coverts Project

June 2002

In Your Own Words: Coverts Cooperators Provide Program Feedback

by Malin Ely Clyde

You, the volunteers, have spoken. And what have you said? Lots of great things, included in your responses to a 12-question survey sent out in January 2002.

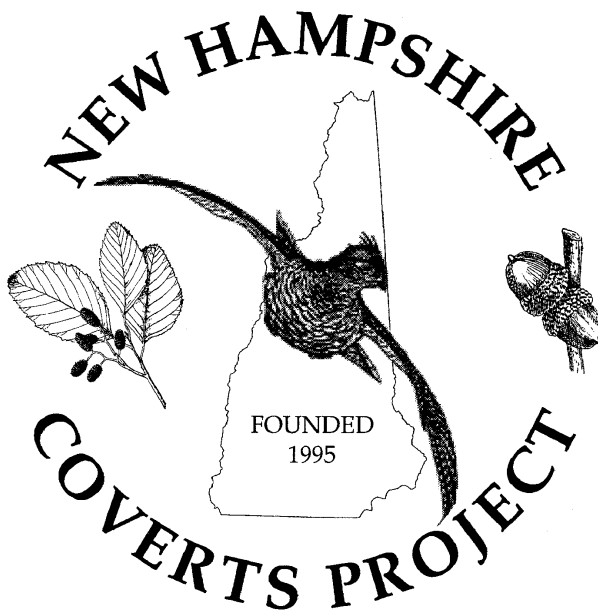
We've finished compiling the results from the 1995-2001 Coverts Project Evaluation, and would like to share with you what we've learned about you and your fellow Coverts Cooperators. We heard from over a hundred Coverts Cooperators. We heard about your thoughts on the Coverts Training Workshop, benefits you have gained from Coverts (or critiques!), and what you would like to see happen with the program in the future.

The Evaluation

After seven years of the NH Coverts workshop and over 160 trained volunteers working in all parts of the State, UNH Cooperative Extension embarked on an evaluation of the whole Coverts Project, funded by a grant from the USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry Program. We asked questions about the Coverts workshop topics, about communication with the Coverts Project office and with each other, and about continuing education workshops, including preferences for format, timing, and topics. Then we asked a final, open-ended question, where lots of people took the time to tell us their thoughts and ideas for the future of the Coverts Project. I had great fun reading these!

The Results

The survey had a 63% response rate, and several tests show that the sample was representative of Coverts volunteers as a whole. We heard from a wide range of volunteers, from those who see themselves as "very involved" (15% of respondents), to those who see themselves as "not involved" (6% of respondents). We heard from large



landowners and people who do not own land at all, and we heard from over 50% of each of the seven classes of Coverts Cooperators (Fig. 1).

Looking back at the Coverts workshop and reference materials, the most useful topics to Cooperators, in order, include:

- Wildlife Habitat Specifics (first by a large margin)
- Forest Management Techniques
- Forest Ecology
- Biodiversity and Threatened Species
- Wetlands and Riparian Areas

Most of these topics have traditionally been the focus of the workshop, and form the basis of the Coverts Project's goals of enhancing wildlife habitat and promoting sound forest stewardship. The fact that "wetlands" came out high on the list (when wetlands are not a major focus of the training

session) suggests that this topic is particularly important to participants, and that we should, perhaps, enhance this part of the workshop.

We were pleased to hear that so many of you (82%) consult the Coverts resource notebooks on a regular (monthly or yearly) basis – it makes putting together this mountain of material worth it! Almost everyone found the amount of reference materials adequate, although there was a slight lean towards the "I was overwhelmed by so much stuff" end of things.

Most of you indicated that you would like to hear the same or *more* from other Coverts Cooperators. These results, combined with results showing that most of you would also like to attend programs in your local area, and that the most popular form of continuing education program is "programs on other Coverts Cooperators' lands," point towards a good opportunity. It sounds like more local programs, hosted by Coverts Cooperators on their own lands, will be well-received by other Coverts volunteers, especially if the focus is on specific wildlife habitats, as this was the preferred topic for continuing education programs (by a wide margin, see Fig. 2). So if you were thinking about hosting a tour, please give a call to either your County Forester or to the Coverts Project office. We will help you!

Final Comments

In the last question of the program survey, you were asked an open-ended question about how the Coverts Project may have affected you, your ideas, or your actions. Although summarizing these comments is difficult, general themes did emerge. The most consistency came in the form of comments about the benefits of the Coverts Project, including:

- Networking – Coverts connected me to other Coverts Cooperators with similar interests and concerns (26 responses)
- Coverts connected me to resource professionals (24 responses)
- Coverts motivated me with the management of my own land – apply new practices, do more, etc. (20 responses)
- Coverts made me more effective in my town Conservation Commission and/or helped me communicate more effectively in my community (18 responses)

Some of you also used this space to tell us your ideas or critiques. We heard, for example, suggestions on Coverts workshop presenters' use of Power Point (too much!) or recommendations for conserving paper in mailings. Other suggestions included to provide updates to resource directories for those of you whose notebooks are out of date (we'll work on this), and having county meetings of Coverts Cooperators to work collectively on volunteer projects (like the new initiative to have "county liaisons" working on local programs and gatherings).

If you would like a copy of the final report, please contact Malin at the Coverts Project office (862-2166), or check out the Coverts website where you can link to a digital form of the full report. Thanks to those who participated in the survey, and we look forward to enhancing and updating the Coverts Program as a result of this effort.

News from Bath, New Hampshire

by Russell and Carol Thompson (CC 2001)

I was very excited when I found that I would be participating in the 2001 Coverts Workshop. Habitat and wildlife management, endangered species management and environmental education have been a focus of my activities for the last 13 years as a volunteer and seasonal employee of the Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex in Rhode Island.



Carol Thompson (CC01) at the Coverts Training Workshop last September.

The opportunity to attend the Coverts workshop has enabled me to enhance what I have learned in Rhode Island. I will now be able to apply that knowledge as my husband and I develop a good forestry plan for our property in Bath, New Hampshire. Our property in Bath consists of 3 parcels of land, two of which are contiguous. Our house is on about 1½ acres and abuts a 14-acre parcel which is the "open space" land in the Deer Run Acres subdivision. The third piece of land is just under an acre and is the "pond lot" on the subdivision and was originally dug out as a fire pond and is currently more of a vernal pool where tadpoles and salamanders hatch each spring.

One of our objectives in managing the open space is to inform our neighbors about good habitat management and to involve them in actively using

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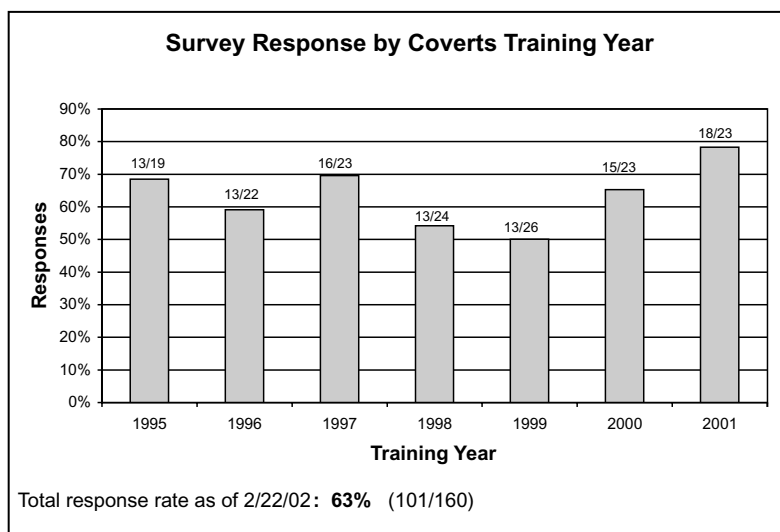


Figure 1. Results show that at least 50% of Coverts Cooperators from each of the seven Coverts classes responded to the survey.

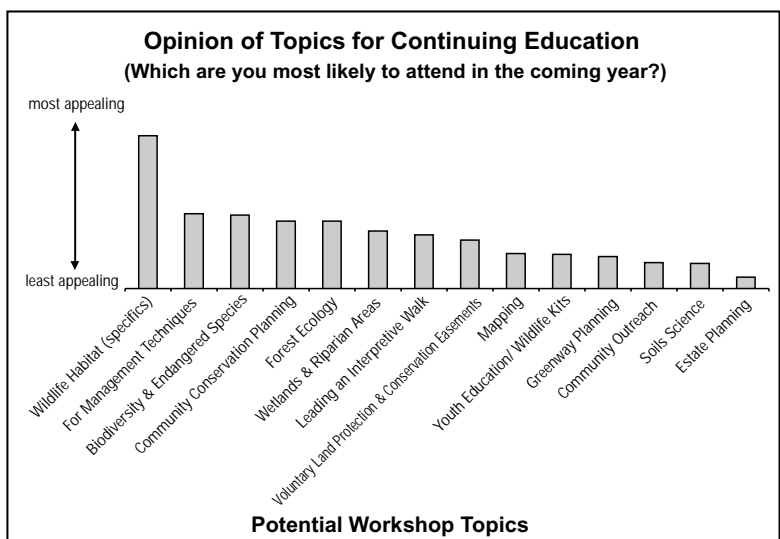


Figure 2. Coverts Cooperators are interested in a variety of continuing education topics, but "wildlife habitat-specifics" tops the list.

HAPPENINGS

Jeannie Arena (CC01) should get a “Pinch Hitter” award when, a mere two days before the event, she agreed to help with the Carroll County Conservation Field Days program. Jeannie, along with **John Magee** (CC96), gave programs on wildlife habitat to almost 100 seventh graders over the course of the day. A great feat, much appreciated by the coordinators at UNH Cooperative Extension in Carroll County!

Brenda Bhatti (CC97) writes in, “I’m slated to teach a graduate-level wetlands flora class at Antioch New England Graduate School this summer. I’m presenting a bat program at the Sandy Point Discovery Center (Seabrook) on July 31, and presenting a wildlife tracking program (as a Coverts Cooperator) as part of the Granite State Woodlot and Wildlife Course at Beaver Brook (Hollis) on September 19th. Happy Tracking!”

Anna Boudreau (CC95), featured in a story in the last installment of *Making Tracks*, has been busy with the Dover Open Lands Committee, sponsoring and organizing a series of 4 conservation planning workshops, including a workshop by Randall Arendt, renown conservation planning expert, which drew more than 150 people. In other great news, for the last year, Anna has lobbied steadily and quietly for the creation of a conservation easement on the Strafford County Farm lands. The county farm borders the Cocheco River and contains excellent farmland, a tree farm used for demonstration purposes, and trails used by many local residents to access and appreciate the river. This spring, the County Commissioners and County Delegation approved the measure, along with the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, which will hold the easement. This conservation move sets a promising precedent for other ecologically and recreationally valuable county—and local—lands around New Hampshire which many assume to be conservation land, but which do not have any permanent protection. Congratulations on all your hard work, Anna!



photo credit: Bambi Miller

Aerial photo of Strafford County Farm, including the Cocheco River along the right side of photo.

Sam Doyle (CC95) of Hanover reports that he’s had Brontosaurus work done on 10 acres, and clearcut 7 acres for regeneration habitat. In April he was in the process of planting food plots, and he’s hosted several tours by local bird-watching and conservation groups on his land.

Malin Ely Clyde (CC98) has been appointed chair of a group in Durham working to protect land through the passage of an open space bond, hopefully put in as a ballot measure next spring. “We’re inspired by the success of other communities who have passed successful measures, including neighboring Newmarket, where they passed a \$2 million open space bond measure on May 15th (with the help of local resident Ellen Snyder!). Ellen and I are also both members of a new conservation group called the Three Rivers Land Coalition, created last year to help protect land in the towns surrounding the Lamprey, Oyster, and Squamscott Rivers, and including Durham, Epping, Lee, Newfields, and Newmarket. We’ve created some great maps and have held a land protection workshop on Great Bay, with more public workshops planned for the summer and fall.”

Fred Ernst (CC2000) writes, “spent the day with [wildlife biologist] Paul Karczmarczyk of the Ruffed Grouse Society. Plan to build wood duck boxes for beaver ponds.”

“Back to spring clean-up time at the Ponderosa Backyard Tree Farm,” writes **Helen Evans** (CC95). “Any new birds? Yes—a family of crows. To cut or not cut the grass, which produces wild flowers and

cover for the tiny red squirrels? Time to put up the two nesting boxes stored in the storeroom, and the bat box on the south side of the storage shed. To plant bulbs in the back door steps planter, or risk having some 4-footed critter steal them again? I was disappointed that Andy Powell had no luck getting the Hillsborough County Coverts Cooperators together this spring...but congratulations to Andy and his Conservation Commission (Town of Merrimack) for their successes in land preservation this year.”

Barbara Fales (CC98), who works for the NH Dept. of Environmental Services, writes, “I will be working on a Project Wet (Water Education for Teachers) workshop with NH Audubon’s Alan McIntyre at Kidworks Learning Center in Meredith. Workshop date is June 1st. I also have a Power Point presentation on air quality issues in New Hampshire, if conservation commissions or other local groups are looking for programs/speakers.” You can contact Barbara by email at bfales@des.state.nh.us.

Marge & Bill Jahoda (CC96) write in with news of Pittsburg’s Johnson Memorial Forest: “We are working on an easement with DRED to place our Back Lake Brook wetlands parcel into a permanent ecological reserve, dedicated to the concept of sustained biodiversity. This parcel is contiguous to our other Forest Legacy land, and forms a permanently protected area of almost 500 acres that borders the several thousand acres that the NH Water Resources Council controls around Lake Francis. Also, our osprey’s are back [as of May 1, 2002]. They haven’t missed a year since 1995, and have so far fledged nine young. Their 1995 arrival was the first osprey presence since DDT wiped out the NH Connecticut River osprey population in 1970. But what is like frosting on the cake, is that this year another pair also is nest-building on our forest. One of these pairs, or at least one of the birds, may be the returning young of a previous year’s nesting. Finally, as US Fish & Wildlife Service cooperators in their Partners in Fish & Game program, we received a \$2,200 grant to do wildlife habitat work over the next two years on our Pittsburg conservation easement lands.” Great news!

“I have bought 90 acres of fields and forest in Colebrook, adjacent to many Christmas tree farms,” writes **Kate Kerivan** (CC96). “Eventually, we hope to create a model farm managed for wildlife and conservation. We have sold our Bed & Breakfast in Easton.”

Betsy Kruse (CC00) writes, “Working with Bear-Paw Regional Greenways, Candia Conservation Commission, and Deerfield Conservation Commission, we sponsored two estate-planning and land conservation workshops. At the Candia town meeting, I presented a resolution to foster open space through Master Plan and zoning revisions (which passed overwhelmingly!).”

Jerry Langdon (CC99) and wildlife biologist Tracy Tarr conducted a tour of Jerry’s Tree Farm on April 18th, 2002. The emphasis was placed on the value of vernal pools and the animals that live in them.

“I’ve been attending most of the Candia conservation commission meetings and writing articles for the local newspaper, *The Banner*,” reports **Judi Lindsey** (CC01). “We set up a table at our town meeting and shared Coverts as well as general town conservation information. I attended the Coverts Wildlife kit training workshop, and more recently, the New Hampshire Environmental Educators conference. I am also in the process of putting a conservation easement on my own land, so I’m learning a lot about that as well. I continue to enjoy my piece of paradise and keep a journal on plant/animal sightings. Most recently I saw two turkeys mating and found a dead baby otter in my pond, which I have preserved in a jar of rubbing alcohol. I saw two pileated woodpeckers courting!”

Margi Lord (CC01) writes in about progress made in protecting the Mink Hills, which extend from Warner to Bradford, Henniker and Hopkinton: “The information night at the Main Street Bookends held this spring has blossomed! It is becoming a big project, not just a topic of discussion around town. You may have already heard that the Warner Conservation Commission [on which Margi serves] received a grant from the NH Conservation Number Plate Program to prepare a Mink Hills Conservation Plan. We are in the process of putting together a planning group and I would like to put a message out to Coverts folks for anyone interested in participating in various phases of the project. Conserving the Mink Hills was a special feature in the Warner News Paper ‘Conservation Corner’ this month.”

Dick Mallion (CC99) wrote in this spring that the bog bridges into Little Cherry Pond that we heard about at last year’s Alumni Workshop at Pondicherry Refuge are complete now, making that walk a lot easier and no longer requiring hip waders to navigate the trail.

Joy Nalevanko (CC01) writes in from Alstead: “One goal that I set for myself was to have minutes shared between the Conservation Commission, Planning Board, and Selectmen. It is now happening and we’ve gotten positive feedback from the chair of the planning board. A forestry stewardship plan has been done on 90 acres of our own property, filed with the town and we’re now assessing the recommendations to make our forest healthier. It’s exciting to trek the old logging roads with map in hand and understand what the forester has plotted out. I’ve been involved with creating a map of Alstead depicting historical sites, parks, conservation land, recreational areas as well as roads, rivers and wetlands. I took digital photos to be incorporated into a color-formatted map produced by SWRPC. It is now near completion and will be available to residents and visitors so that they might know and appreciate the resources that we have. I’ve been working with the Fall Mountain Regional School District and Conservation Commission to apply for funding to create an interpretive trail and map on a 3/4-mile section along Wellman Pond. This is a 270-acre nature conserve, to be used to educate students and residents about the value of the water and wetland habitat of this area.”

Kathryn Nelson (CC2000) writes of good news out of bad news in Nashua: “The Nashua Conservation Commission asked a landowner who had cut trees in the wetland buffer to consult with [Hillsborough County Forester] Jon Nute for advice. The landowner has agreed to plantings recommended by Jon to enhance the forest area for wildlife. We’ve requested the Nashua Airport limit mowing in order to enhance grassland bird habitat. They have agreed to limit mowing and mow in the fall.”

“We are having all our trails on about 200 acres mapped by the local Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust and opened to the public,” writes **William Pinney** (CC96) of Sugar Hill.

Tanya and Dave Tellman (CC95,96) report, “we were recognized as Forest Stewards of the Year for 2001 by the Grafton County Conservation District. I am quite sure that Nory Parr had a lot to do with this—he had some very nice words at the presentation! Anyway, we were pleased and excited. We were also presented with a ‘Soil and Water Conservation Practiced Here’ sign by the District Board of Supervisors of the Coos County Conservation District. This was primarily for our ongoing work with the WHIP grant.”

Edith Tucker (CC99) writes, “I was appointed by the Selectmen to be a member of the 5-member Randolph Town Forest Commission which has major oversight of the new 10,000 acres town forest, north of Route 2 in Jefferson & Randolph. The Coverts Program is a great background as our newly-formed commission draws up a contract for a forester or foresters and plans for the resources in this workshop forest. UNH Cooperative Extension’s Sam Stoddard is providing lots of help.”

Francie Von Mertens (CC99) from Peterborough is starting an organic community garden on a 6-acre hayfield that will otherwise be managed for wildlife. She reports, “commercial storage sheds had been one possibility for the field, but now the only shed will be for donated tools!”

Bobbie Jean Weiler (CC01) reports that she has been reviewing her outdated forestry plan for the 400 acres her family owns in Sullivan County. She has walked some of the property with a wildlife biologist, with a goal of forestry practices which will increase habitat for deer, turkey and partridge. Having completed crab apple plantings a few years ago for turkeys, they have more planned for the future. In the town of Durham, Bobbie is a new member of the Conservation Commission where her expertise on wetlands and the permitting process are being put to good use.

Jan Woodbury (CC98) writes, “I have been writing grants recently for the Peabody Mill Environmental Center, since we are self-supporting. Three successful, one refused, and two we are still waiting for results. The more I write the easier it gets! Grants have funded a new furnace, binoculars, microscopes, skeleton models of some creatures, restoration of Sawyer’s Cottage, and hopefully a future addition to the P.M.E.C. We welcome visitors to the 12-miles of well-marked trails within 600 acres of surrounding land, plus the opportunity to see a logging operation that was completed last fall.”

WORKSHOP NEWS

Farm & Forest - February 1-2

Way back in February, right as the last issue of *Making Tracks* was in press, Coverts had a flurry of activity surrounding the annual Farm and Forest Expo, held in Manchester on February 1-2. As usual, Coverts Cooperators stepped up to the plate to help sponsor a booth. Thanks to **Judi Lindsey, Peter Moore, Becky Whitmeyer, John Schlim, Bruce and Nancy Montville, Caroline Baldwin, Bill & Sally Bickford, and Helen Evans** for helping at the booth during this outreach extravaganza!

Wildlife Kit Workshop - February 2

Held at the Farm & Forest Expo, this popular workshop (attended by 21 Coverts Cooperators and friends, despite the dismal weather)

showcased the many hands-on resources available to assist volunteers in their outreach efforts. We tried mammal furs on our heads, raced to pick up "food," only to be devoured by raptors, and practiced using the many curriculum guides accompanying the kits. For those interested in using the kits, you can contact the Coverts Project office for a list of the materials and the location where they reside.



Judi Lindsey (CC01), Coverts Coordinator Malin Ely Clyde (CC98), and presenter Esther Cowles of Project Learning Tree at the Wildlife Kit Workshop in February, 2002.

Coverts Advisory Committee Meeting - February 2

The Farm & Forest also provided a forum for the Coverts Advisory Committee to gather and discuss the direction of the Coverts Project. Members came up with a variety of suggestions for enhancing county liaisons' efforts including using the Cooperative Extension county newsletters, directly contacting new Coverts trainees, and getting the Coverts County liaison names to the UNHCE Family Home & Garden Information Center. We also discussed the format and use of the Annual Accomplishment survey data, and sharing the results of the Program Evaluation, including an article in *Making Tracks* which presents the data (see cover page story). Finally, the committee suggested that the notes from the Advisory Committee be shared with other Coverts Cooperators via the Coverts website, which is now done by visiting the site at <http://ceinfo.unh.edu/Forestry/Documents/nhcovrts.htm>

4-H Spaces Conference - April 13

Working with Coverts volunteers **Carol Thompson**

(CC01) and **Malin Ely Clyde (CC98)**, the 4th-7th grade participants of this annual event, held in Stratham, took to the subject of "Wild About Wildlife" with gusto. After a slide show of New Hampshire's Wildlife, the 10 youth participants got a chance to make tracking guides using mammal footprints, test their knowledge on a track way, and then get up close and personal with the mammal furs. Thank you, Carol, for coming all the way from Rhode Island to help!

Sunset Tree Farm Tour - April 27

This was Dorothy and **Ken Marvell's (CC96)** 20th Annual Tree Farm tour at their land in New Boston. Virtually all of the foresters and natural resource professionals from the original tour were on hand to honor Ken for his outstanding and on-going outreach in his community. There were also lots of townspeople and neighbors present, including eight Coverts Cooperators. The Coverts folks did a great job dispersing among the crowd, answering questions about wildlife and stewardship, and generally making themselves useful. Nice work!

Field and Forest Tour at Phillips Exeter - May 18th

A few intrepid locals (including **Roger Brown (CC95)** were the only ones brave enough to venture out on this rainy, then snowy (!) morning in May for an early morning bird walk. The increasingly bad weather, and the fact that we were all soaked to the bone, led to host **Dennis Huber (CC97)** making the intelligent decision to cancel the main field tour. We plan on rescheduling for the fall, by which time a newly planted tall-grass meadow will be in full form. Thanks for your efforts, Dennis, and we'll look forward to Exeter Tour, Round II!



Ken Marvell (CC96) receiving a Certificate of Appreciation at his 20th Annual Tree Farm Tour, presented by UNH Cooperative Extension's Jon Nute. [photo credit: Judi Lindsey]



Coverts Cooperators at Ken Marvell's Tree Farm Tour (front to back): Jan Woodbury (CC98), Ken Marvell (CC96), Andy Powell (CC95), Deborah Waters (CC01), Bill McDevitt (CC98), Judi Lindsey (CC01), Roger Brown (CC95), and Malin Ely Clyde (CC98). [photo credit: Judi Lindsey]

Serving on the Randolph Forest Commission

by Edith Tucker

The houses in Randolph, where I live, are strung out in a narrow band between the high peaks of the Presidential Range of the White Mountain National Forest to the south and the lower, rounded mountains of the Mount Crescent Range in the Kilkenny unit to the north.

Randolph only has a year-round population of 339, including families whose intertwined roots run long and deep; doctors, school teachers and engineers who work in Berlin, Gorham, Lancaster, and Whitefield; and retirees who were once summer people. The population doubles in the summer as recreation-minded families return to their cottages, year after year, to take up the rhythm of hiking, swimming, and attending Monday morning lectures.

Over the last couple of years, both these communities have worked together with the Trust for Public Land and its own nonprofit Randolph Foundation to keep undeveloped nearly 13,000 acres of forest on the north side of Route 2. Some 2,700 acres surrounding the historic Pond of Safety, were added to the WMNF in March. Some 10,000 acres (of which 1,200 are in Jefferson) are now owned by the Town of Randolph, to create the state's largest town forest. (The extraordinary fund-raising efforts of many and the stellar work done by U. S. Sen. Judd Gregg and others is another tale.)

This winter, I was appointed by the selectmen to be one of five members of the Randolph Forest Commission, operating under the aegis of the Planning Board. The Commission's first daunting task is to prepare a stewardship plan to address forest management issues, including that of road maintenance. The lessons learned and contacts made in the Coverts' training have already proven extremely useful.

Coös County's UNH Extension forest educator, Sam Stoddard, has attended most Commission meetings since the first one held in March. He and other Extension educators from around the state are helping to organize an all-day community goal-setting forum on July 27, designed to help prioritize the landowner's goals and objectives on which the management plan will be based.

The other Coverts Cooperator in town, Bob Potter (CC2000), until recently a member of the Conservation Commission, helped to set in motion the kind of detailed mapping needed to assist the Commission in its work. The preamble to the state-held conservation easement, purchased with federal Forest Legacy funds, underscores the balancing act that will be the Commission's greatest challenge in developing a management plan for this expansive forest. Town ownership will provide "a unique opportunity to connect with and engage the community in the stewardship of natural resources," it points out.

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News from Bath, New Hampshire

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the open space for their pleasure and to help them gain knowledge about the natural world which we so often take for granted.

We were excited to purchase the "field lot" because it was in desperate need of management. Originally the lot had been mowed regularly and was a grassy meadow. Over the last 10 years or so, the mowing became more infrequent and the meadow began to change into woody shrubs. These include milkweed, goldenrod, spreading dogbane, fern, blackberry, and successional woodland which now includes poplar, white pine, some oak and maple, birch, chokecherry, hawthorn and to our delight, numerous apple trees of all sizes and shapes. Another of our goals is to keep most of the field lot in its present condition.

In the fall of 2000, before our purchase of the 14-acre open space, neighbors received permission from the former landowner and got together to have the main part of the overgrown field mowed. This dramatic change in habitat allowed for shrubby plant growth during the spring of 2001, which attracted songbirds who ate and nested there, and also many butterflies that were attracted to the spreading dogbane and the milkweed.

After our purchase, I strongly supported cutting the remainder of the property. My husband, who is often more thoughtful than I, was reluctant to cut everything to the ground. We came to a compromise and decided to mow and cut the remainder of the land over a number of years. We decided to work the property in sections and do the cutting by hand rather than hacking down all of the remaining trees and shrubs. This was the best decision we could ever have made.

I spent much of the late spring and summer walking every inch of the remaining property and thus found chokecherry, apple trees, hawthorn, wild grape, and other berry-producing plants which are very valuable to wildlife, especially migrating birds. Each time I walk our property I find that I discover another flower, tree, or shrub that I have not seen before. With the knowledge gained from the Coverts workshop, I realized that many of the trees and plants needed to be preserved. I have also begun an extensive inventory of the plants and trees.

At this time, my objective is to manage our property for migrating and nesting songbirds and for the wildlife that currently use it. We have placed nine blue bird nest boxes on the property and have

two barred owl boxes waiting to be put into trees. I began an inventory of migrating and nesting birds last spring and have documented about 70 species so far. We had a solitary sandpiper in August that spent about 2 weeks on our pond lot, eating tadpoles and salamanders and other invertebrates found in the mud.

Some songbirds that nested last summer in or around the meadow area were common yellow throat, song sparrow, indigo bunting, white-throated sparrow and chestnut-sided warbler. Other birds nesting in surrounding wooded areas are wood thrush, ovenbird, veery, and red-eyed vireo. Wild turkey and ruffed grouse also use the surrounding areas. In the past, male woodcock used the pathways in the field for mating flights. I am looking forward to next spring to see which species of birds will use the portion of the field that last spring had not begun to grow back.

Thank you Coverts!

Carol's article continues our effort to more fully profile the work of Coverts Cooperators. If you would like to write about your efforts and how Coverts has helped you, please contact the Coverts Project office with your ideas. Thanks!

UNH COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
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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

Watershed Weekend

Saturday, July 13, 2002, registration starts at 8:30 a.m., programs run from 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., at Camp Calumet, Ossipee, NH

An all day extravaganza of speakers and field trips focused on water quality. The Coverts booth will be there, along with representatives from lots of other natural resource groups in the state. For more information, contact Coverts Cooperator Blair Folts of the Green Mountain Conservation Group, at bfolts@earthnet.net or call their office at 539-1859.

Coverts Alumni Workshop 2002

Saturday, August 3, 2002, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., at Camp Calumet, Ossipee, NH (with optional birdwalk starting at 7:30 a.m.)

If you missed Watershed Weekend (or even if you didn't!), come to the annual Coverts get-together in this special part of the state. The theme for this year's workshop will focus on wetlands, but you will also get a chance to learn about the other special feature of this part of New Hampshire, the Ossipee Pine Barrens. Camp Calumet, on the shores of Lake Ossipee, provides a beautiful setting for this workshop (open to all Coverts Cooperators, their friends, and family members). The workshop will include resource experts in biodiversity, wetlands delineation and mapping, and wildlife unique to wetlands and the pine barrens. After a short indoor session in the morning, we will spend the rest of the day in the field, exploring both unique and typical wetlands. You will learn about policy issues, wetland delineation techniques, and unique wildlife that inhabit different types of wetlands. We will also visit the Nature Conservancy's Ossipee Pine Barrens Preserve to learn about the special stewardship issues inherent in trying to protect and preserve this unique ecological system. You will never feel the same about moths again! You will receive sign-up information in the mail shortly, but if you want to sign up early, please call Deb Anderson at 862-1028. See you in August!

THE LAST WORD

by Henry Spencer (CC01)

I attended the 2002 New England Society of American Foresters Conference (March 26-28) concerning forest fragmentation and for more reasons than I can count, I am glad that I did.

Not since I attended the Coverts workshop have I learned so much, made as many contacts and had my views and understanding of issues so effected. I was fortunate to hear lectures explaining arcane scientific work on forest health, discussions of cooperative forestry in New England towns and States, and examples of successful projects prompting the conservation, protection and promotion of forestry, watersheds, forests and all that live in them.

As residents of New England, when we think about and work towards preservation of the natural environment we are thinking about forests. It may seem obvious that a series of lectures on forestry would naturally yield much information of interest to those of us who have taken the time and energy to attend Coverts Workshops. But there is an old saying, "you can't see the forest for the trees," and I fear I had lost sight of one important aspect of preservation. That is, if the forests of New England

lose their economic viability, they will lose their strongest supporters, cease being forests and become nothing more than well shaded lawns and dispersed enclaves of pretty trees.

We have all learned that in forestry as in everything else, quality counts. However, I had either missed or never truly understood something vital. If I wish to try and make a difference in the slackening of environmental degradation, any way I can help to protect economically viable forest size and promote progressive thoughts on good management practices and forestry economics I am doing work to preserve the underpinning of everything I care about.

In an effort to be brief concerning all I learned I would offer two pieces of advice. Get on your local planning boards. It is the Planning Boards that write the rules, set the paths into the future and through their Master Plans inform the residents of dangers and possibilities. The other bit of wisdom I gathered was, even though I am not a forester and do not own forest land, I will attend to the business of forestry at the Federal, State and local levels.

Serving on the Randolph Forest Commission *continued from page 3*

The forest, much-damaged in the devastating Ice Storm of 1998, is described as "having a long history of multiple use management" and as containing "the unusual natural habitat type known as the 'montane spruce-fir forest' that supports rare animals and pockets of old growth forest." The forest links more than 950,000 acres of conserved lands, including the Nash Stream State Forest, helping to maintain wildlife habitat and the integrity of the region's biodiversity.

It also provides a recreational corridor and enables the general public to enjoy the scenic nature of the land from Route 2, the Presidentials, and the Appalachian Trail and provides "public outdoor recreational opportunities and access, including trails maintained by the Randolph Mountain Club." I'm grateful for the Coverts training that has given me enough knowledge and understanding as to where to seek good answers.