

# MAKING TRACKS

Volume 8 No. 3

The Newsletter of the New Hampshire Coverts Project

August 2004

## Huntington Hill Wildlife Habitat Management Demonstration Area: Doyle's Hanover Property Named 2004 Outstanding NH Tree Farm

It was the late 1950's, and the large farm at the top of Huntington Hill in Hanover had been on the market for years. The property had a long history – it had been owned by relatives of the Reverend Eleazar Wheelock, founder of Dartmouth College, starting in the 1780s. And it was still actively farmed by Tom and Etta Goodfellow, resident caretakers who raised livestock, cut wood, tapped the sugarbush and worked the land using hand tools and horse teams.



Dr. Samuel Doyle, Coverts Cooperator 1995

Dr. Samuel Doyle had recently joined the staff of Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. He knew the Huntington Hill area from hunting excursions years earlier as a student at Dartmouth, so he was curious about the place, perched above the Connecticut River at the end of a long and steep dirt road.

When Sam and his wife Joanna bought the farm in 1961, they knew they had found a special place to raise their three children.

### Stewardship Beginnings

Through the 1970's, it was the farming aspect of the land that interested the Doyles. Then one day, a consulting forester from Thetford Center, Vermont stopped by the farm. Sam describes his meeting with Ehrhard Frost: "Up to this point, we hadn't considered doing anything with the woods other than sugaring and getting some firewood. I could tell the difference between evergreen and deciduous, but that's about it." Under Ehrhard's guidance, they began to manage the 300+ acres of forest lands, including marking the boundaries, doing timber stand improvement, and creating a series of roads and trails to make the woods more accessible for recreation and for future harvests.

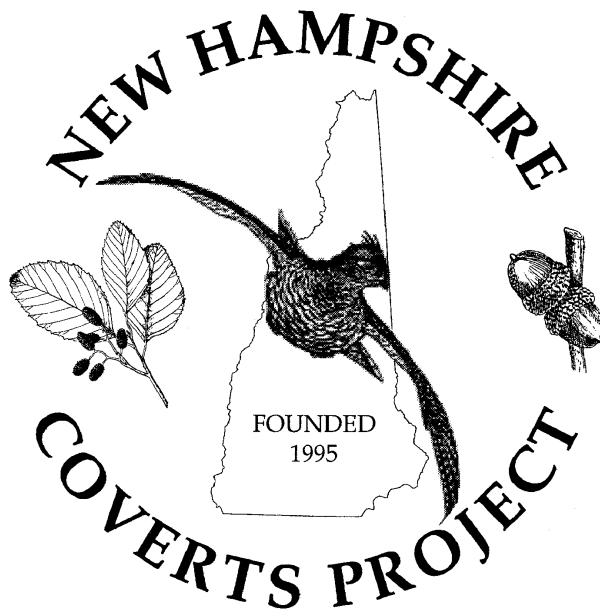
Sam remembers discussing his goals for the land. "I wanted to manage for the future. Timber was important," he says, "but I was really interested in wildlife. Ehrhard admitted that he didn't know anything about that, but he knew someone who did." He introduced Sam to Charlie Bridges, the UNH Cooperative Extension wildlife specialist at the time, and thus began a lasting and valuable relationship between Sam, his family, and UNH Cooperative Extension.

### Wildlife Habitat at Huntington Hill

Over the coming years, Sam worked with Charlie Bridges and all of the UNHCE wildlife specialists after him – John Kanter, Ellen Snyder, and Darrel Covell – to plan and implement a variety of habitat management projects on his land. He has planted many fruiting shrubs and trees, managed acres of grassland habitat, preserved snag and cavity trees, created a variety of early successional habitats, protected large mast-producing oaks, built brush piles, planted wildlife food plots, and released apple trees. Sam has done most of this work himself, enjoying being outside on the land.

For his wildlife and forestry work, Sam earned the honor of Grafton County Conservation District Cooperator of the Year and Forest Steward of the Year for 2003. Sam reports, "I've come out on my property with a great variety of wildlife experts – I grabbed help wherever I could get it. They all have different things to say and recommend. I've learned that no matter what you decide to do on your land, it is going to be a benefit to some type of wildlife, so I enjoy hearing the different perspectives."

The day we walked the property, we flushed grouse, turkey, and woodcock from a single field, and stepped over the tracks of moose and deer on the trail nearby. The habitats of the farm are a favorite with birders from near and far. It is a great spot for the uncommon golden-winged warbler, and for other birds small and large, from chestnut-sided warbler to northern goshawk.



The Doyles currently work with licensed forester John O'Brien of Orford, whose careful work results in high quality forestry and wildlife work on the property. Sam appreciates his work: "He can do anything we need. There is a real attention to detail, and we rarely have a scarred tree or road rut."

### Bringing Coverts to New Hampshire

As Sam tells it, it wasn't until he retired from his medical practice in 1987 that his learning about wildlife and habitat really took off. At the suggestion of Ehrhard Frost, his forester, Sam signed up to attend the fledgling Vermont Coverts Project training workshop. The program's focus on private landowners and the integration of forestry and wildlife dovetailed perfectly with Sam's interests and passion for his own land.

While becoming very involved with Vermont Coverts, Sam also attended UNH Cooperative Extension programs, including the Granite State Woodlot and Wildlife Course, where he met up with other New Hampshire landowners. Several of them, including Bruce Schwae-gler (CC95), expressed interest in more advanced wildlife training from UNHCE. They also realized the potential value in building long-term relationships with other trainees. As Sam puts it, "We needed a program to help connect trainees after the educational part was done. Without follow-up, we might all flounder and lose direction."

One day in the early 1990s, Sam and Bruce, among others, cornered Bob Edmonds at a meeting. Bob was the new Forestry and Wildlife Program Leader for UNHCE, and he remembers that day. "They made a real pitch to me about starting a Coverts Project here in New Hampshire. I could tell they had thought it out and planned how and when to take me aside. They were very convincing." Ellen Snyder worked for several years to bring the staff and program together, and the first NH Coverts Workshop took place in 1995 at Barry Conservation Camp in West Milan, NH. "Sam played a huge role in motivating us to establish the NH Coverts Project," says Ellen. "It is because of his en-



The view from Huntington Hill Farm.

couragement that we held that first program, and he has been a generous and stalwart supporter of the program ever since." Sam's son John is also a Coverts Cooperator (CC'96), so a passion for wildlife and stewardship continues into the next generation of Doyles.

### A Real Public Spirit

These days, conservation easements are a very popular method of land protection in New Hampshire. But back in the 80s and 90s, they were relatively new, and Huntington Hill Farm became an exemplary model in the state. A total of 480 acres of Sam and Joanna's land is held in easement by the NH Fish and Game Department.

Sam tells how his friends would admire his land and the views from his deck, looking out over the Connecticut River valley. In the next breath, "they would start planning how they would develop the land," Sam reports with a laugh. But he and Joanna met with their three children, and they all agreed that they didn't want to see the land developed. They also realized that estate taxes on almost 500 acres would mean that keeping the farm in the family could become a financial burden in the future. Sam approached local conservation supporters about protecting the land, and together they developed a proposal for the Land Conservation Investment Program.

Protected in 1991, Huntington Hill Farm Wildlife Management Area has a strong focus on wildlife habitat, with a management plan that must be updated every 10 years and approved by both the NH Fish and Game Department and UNH Cooperative Extension. As Sam tells it, "we can't force future owners of this land to manage it in a specific way, but if they do manage, they will need to follow a good plan." As if this weren't enough, Sam took things a step further to ensure the long-term habitat value of the land. What if, down the road, future landowners claimed that they couldn't pay for a management plan? Sam and Joanna devised a means so that future landowners won't have that excuse. They established a fund at the NH Charitable Foundation to pay for land management planning in the future. Now this technique has become a model for funding conservation stewardship across New Hampshire.

Huntington Hill Farm is heavily used by walkers, runners, birders and dog-walkers who come from near and far to enjoy many trails Sam has marked with signs. Hunting is allowed too, but Sam points out that it isn't too popular due to the busy nature of the trail. "We are just so happy to see people use the land," he says. "People are really very respectful." Sam remembers a day when he came across some parents carrying a small child in the forest. Further down the trail by the road, he came across their stroller, so he went back and asked them if they wouldn't rather push the baby. "They pointed out the 'Wheeled Vehicles Prohibited' sign," Sam reports with a chuckle.

As the 2004 Outstanding NH Tree Farm, Huntington Hill Farm is a showcase of the Doyle's public spirit, as well as Sam's deep-seated commitment to wildlife habitat management and forest stewardship. Please come see for yourself at the 2004 Tree Farm Field Day on September 25, 2004 at Huntington Hill Wildlife Management Area. See you there!



Sam Doyle in the field with Malin Ely Clyde and Nory Parr.

# HAPPENINGS

Congratulations to **Carolyn Baldwin** (CC99) of Gilmanton. She is the recent recipient of the Lakes Region Planning Commission's highest honor — the B. Kimball Ayers Jr. Award. She was recognized for her 10+ years of service on the Gilmanton Planning Board and her help rewriting the town's Master Plan. She has also served on the Lakes Region Planning Commission, on the selectboard, and on the Gilmanton ZBA. A land-use attorney by trade, she helped lead efforts to conserve Gardner Cove, the Jones Farm and Pancake Hill. In accepting the award, the *Laconia Citizen* paper quoted Carolyn, "Nobody does anything alone...He (Ayers) cared so very much about the quality of life and the environment in the Lakes Region I'm overwhelmed, very grateful and very proud."

**Peter Beblowski** (CC01) of Antrim writes, "I am still working on the conservation easement for the Campbell Pond tracts of town property (~ 250+ acres). Additionally, the Antrim Con Comm is doing an inventory of town-owned property and prioritizing them for easement protection. As an offshoot of these discussions, we are looking to initiate natural resource and open space planning. I have taken part in several of the UNHCE's Friday afternoon workshops this spring & early summer. I have enjoyed every one of them and seen many Coverts at these events."

**Marilyn Bott** (CC02) sends news from East Kingston, "Last year I worked with a neighbor to establish the first fund-raising 'biothon' on our adjoining properties for the benefit of Rockingham Land Trust. Pledges are made for each plant or animal found and identified to the species level on a specific property. One of the participants that day was **Roger Brown** (CC99), who was so enthused with the idea that he then organized a similar biothon on his own land. The events were recognized with a "Creative Giving" award from the Squamscott Coalition last fall and this year the idea was



2004 Rockingham Land Trust Biothon team surveying for plants and animals at property owned by Marilyn Bott (CC02), at right. [photo credit: Betsy Sanders]

expanded to include more sites. In other news, during the past year East Kingston has been overwhelmed with construction of elderly housing projects. I worked to support a successful citizen's petition article that sought to moderate the effect of the ordinance defining this type of construction. Through the course of that project I formed 'Citizens for Sensible Land Use,' a political action group working in support of various land and conservation issues. I have recently re-joined the Conservation Commission after a hiatus of some years...Also, a well-attended vernal pools workshop organized by the Exeter River Local Advisory Committee was held on my land in May and I'm presently working to organize some local nature walks. I continue to work at a slow but steady pace on my own wildlife habitat improvement projects. In my 'old field habitat' we have enjoyed the return of Field Sparrows after a neighborhood absence of twelve year's time."

**Tim Davis** (CC99) has been appointed to serve on the Sutton Conservation Commission. Congratulations, Tim!

News of conservation activities in Bradford comes from **Ann Eldridge** (CC03), **Don Jackson** (CC02), and **John Robie** (CC02): "The recently formed non-profit Rural Heritage Connection of Bradford was successful with the Conservation Commission in presenting its first land preservation project to town voters in March, 2004. Seventy-two acres, including significant habitat for Atlantic white cedar, were added to the 68-acre Bradford Bog Conservation Area. A grant from the NH Charitable Foundation was instrumental in this effort as was a rapidly-conducted fundraising effort. Also, a 17-lot subdivision was reduced to 7 lots in response to concerns expressed over the presence of several mature American chestnut trees."

**Joyce El Kouarti** (CC 03) has been busy helping to plan natural resources workshops with the Dover Open Lands Committee. They will be holding a "Fall Foliage Walk" on October 16 at Garrison Hill in Dover (for more information or to register, call 603-862-2512 or email openlands@ci.dover.nh.us). Also planned is an event called "Preserving Rural Character through Open Space Subdivisions," planned for Monday, November 15 from 7-9 p.m. Sponsored by the Dover Open Lands Committee, the workshop will take place in Council Chambers at Dover City Hall, located at 288 Central Avenue in

Dover, NH. The presenters, of Oroe Farm in Derry, NH, specialize in creating new residential spaces while saving 80% or more of agricultural farm, tree farm, and other environmentally important spaces. For more information or to register, call 603-516-6008 or email openlands@ci.dover.nh.us.

**Larry Ely** (CC98) of Shelburne writes, "I attended a wildlife conference in Bethel, ME [this spring] along the Androscoggin River that was sponsored by the Androscoggin River Watershed Council. There was a very large turnout from both Maine and NH. I put up the small Coverts brochure with the handout applications and I believe a few were picked up."

**Fred Ernst** (CC00) writes from Walpole, "I completed the clearing, de-stumping, dragging, liming, and seeding of a five acre field last fall. The land is full of brownstone, so very challenging for the seed mix — a combination of native blue stem grasses and legumes. So far, there is reasonable germination. This spring I planted 450 seedling bushes from the State Nursery of five varieties good for grouse, etc. On the strength of this work, we received approval from the State and the Acworth Conservation Commission to post about 130 acres which include the meadow, beaver ponds, a wetland, and young white pine stand with signs that read "Wildlife Safety Zone" which prohibits hunting and motorizes vehicles. Also, I am building a Thoreau cabin in this zone. The Con Comm has been a great help — one or two members are Coverts graduates."

**Dan Kern** (CC02) of Greenland writes, "I was recently elected as a Selectman in Greenland, and we passed a \$2 million conservation bond by a good margin. Now I am running as the Democratic candidate for state representative for Greenland. We have started to prioritize town properties for protection and, hopefully, we'll start reviewing our options this summer."

**Betsy Kruse** (CC00) sends news about the Candia Open Space Committee: "Three Coverts Cooperators serve on the committee — **Ed Fowler** (CC02), **Judi Lindsey** (CC01) and myself. We will be conducting some home-based landowner outreach meetings in the next few months. We have been working with NROC — the Natural Resources Outreach Coalition — which has been a great help in getting us organized and funded. Both the NROC involvement and the Open Space Committee are outgrowths of the Candia Master Plan update effort, which has taken over 2½ years so far (the 'final approval process' promises to be lengthy as well)."

**Maureen Lein** (CC98) writes about happenings in Chester: "I have been working with **Andrew Hadik** (CC02) and **Greg Lowell** (CC02) on obtaining a conservation easement on another parcel in Chester — ~ 20 acres of hayfield and apple orchard. This parcel is key to possibly obtaining easements on many more parcels that would provide protection from the Auburn/Chester town line to the center of town. Camilla Lockwood (CC98) and I have coordinated the town's participation with NROC focused on helping Chester plan for its future. The town was recently highlighted as seeing the most pop. growth in southern NH between 2000 and 2003 — a 18.4% increase. We are working with NROC to find ways to identify where growth is appropriate and which areas to protect. **Greg Lowell**, **Betsy Sanders** (CC02), and others also participated with me in the Exeter River Local Advisory Committee's 3rd Annual Alewife Festival." **Malin Ely Clyde** (CC98) spotted Betsy and Maureen at the Alewife Festival from a vantage point at the Coverts Project booth. They were hard at work flipping burgers and doling out Swamscott sodas at the food tent! Thanks also to **Marilyn Bott** (CC02) who lent a hand at the Coverts booth, staffing hands-on activities.

**Judi Lindsey** (CC01) writes from Candia, "Besides my usual committee work, I had a chance to do something really fun recently. I participated in this year's Biothon, a fundraiser for the Rockingham Land Trust, at a site in Exeter. I accompanied Phil Auger, **Roger Brown** (CC95), and Mark West as their species recorder. We searched this piece of land for an entire morning, identifying as many plants and animals as we could. The event raised awareness and funds, with the pledge money used to help conserve land. We came up with about 282 species — what a thrill to work with experts and learn in their footsteps! Whenever I can, I use my property here in Candia as an example of a conservation easement, so others can learn about easements. This summer a teacher will be bringing her students to walk my land, observe the beaver lodges and dams, and learn all about nature. Last year I went into the field over 12 times as a Plant Conservation Volunteer to identify and document endangered plants — this year I'll do one due to hectic summer plans."

**Joy Nalevanko** (CC01) writes from Alstead and her work on the Conservation Commission there: "The warrant article to establish a Town Forest on 79 acres owned

by the town around Newell Pond was accepted by a vote in March. A draft forest management plan is under review to enhance wildlife habitat, maintain the forest and encourage outdoor recreation. In April, we received the 2003 Tree City Re-certification for the town. At the Arbor Day celebration at a local school, the Conservation Commission gave sugar maple trees and lilacs for each student who promised to plant and care for them."

**Bruce Montville** (CC00) is a recent recipient of an award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as New England's 2004 drinking water Environmental Educator Award winner. As CEO of LifeWise Community Projects, Inc., a private non-profit, Bruce has worked for five years presenting a safe drinking water program — "Future Water Guardians of NH" — to school children throughout New Hampshire. Upon receiving the award, Bruce expressed appreciation to others he has worked with on the project, including fellow professionals, volunteer members of LifeWise Community Projects, UNH interns, NH Dept. Environmental Services, NH Coastal Program, NH Science Teachers Association, UNH Cooperative Extension and especially host schools and teachers.

**Jeff Nelson** (CC99) is still active as a trustee for the Audubon Society of NH: "I chair the Sanctuaries and Land Management Committee, and am also actively involved as a volunteer field trip leader at the Massabesic Center. Other efforts involve trusteeship with the Bedford Land Trust doing natural resource inventories, baseline documentation, and easement monitoring. As a member of the Bedford Conservation Commission, I have recently been active in co-writing a land management plan for the 190-acre Joppa Farm, which is (crossed fingers) just a few Council votes away from a conservation easement. This plan was helped considerably by Hills. Co. Forester Jon Nute who led us in a preliminary study of the property and has strongly supported our efforts since. Ann & I keep working our relatively small property to encourage wildlife, which backfired somewhat this year, the first in the last 30 without our dog roaming the local perimeter, to keep our local fauna from eating up much of our anticipated flora. But we have been seeing a lot more mammals close-up, and our last winter tracking observations were much more than usual. I enjoyed seeing other Coverts folks at Helen Evans' Yankee Tree Farm tour in late June."

**Dick Rush** (CC01) is the chair of the Dalton Conservation Commission, and writes, "The Dalton Conservation Commission has just completed two public education sessions climaxing a year's study of a massive inaccessible wetland complex in Whitefield and Dalton known as "Chase Bog." The project was funded by the Conservation License Plate ("Moose Plate") grant program. The formal study ("The Chase Bog Wetland Complex: Inventory, Assessment and Management Plan") was produced for the DCC by Watershed to Wildlife, Inc., of Whitefield, NH staffed by Coverts Cooperators **Elise Lawson** (CC98) and **John Severance** (CC00).

**Frank Tupper** (CC95) writes with great news from Canterbury: "After an intense ten weeks of publicity, public meetings, fundraising, and hanging out at the town dump, an energetic, diverse and dedicated town ad hoc committee ensured the passing of a town meeting warrant. This warrant article empowered Canterbury to purchase and protect 500 acres of farmland and river frontage (3.6 miles!) along the Merrimack River. By a vote of 409 to 51, Canterbury residents passed a land conservation bond as a strong statement of support. Canterbury still needs to secure financial support from state, private and federal sources...and we will. The implications of this communal action create many possibilities for our town, now and in the future. We can now direct where development can exist, while protecting through conservation easement this precious resource."

**Ron Vars** (CC03) of Lancaster and Kingston, "On the ground in Lancaster, I just finished phase one of an old-field restoration project. I had the Brontosaurus in for a couple of days — what an amazing machine. This was funded through the NH Fish and Game Small Grants Program. Also, there have been over 50 apple trees that have been released on the property. Releasing trees is a whole lot more time-consuming than it would appear! Going through the Coverts Program has made working with the state Fish and Game biologist so much easier as I had more than a basic understanding of what ought to be done and how to prioritize the different projects on my land in Lancaster. I cannot wait to see what variety of apples I have. Also, one week after the brontosaurus work was done, I have robins in the field, deer are grazing, and I have seen moose and bear tracks. By working with the state on this, it turns out they have been doing a small grant wildlife deal with a neighbor of ours and by working together along with the nearby state forest, the biologist can start a macro-plan for the area so that our individual management plans will be complementary."

# WORKSHOP REVIEW

by Malin Ely Clyde

## Coverts Advisory Committee

The Coverts Advisory Committee met, despite the requisite ice storm, on February 7, 2004 at the Farm & Forest Expo. Thanks to committee members David Grove, Barbara Fales, Betsy Hardwick, Andy Powell, Bruce Schwaegler, Jeff Tarr, and Ron Vars for making the perilous trip to be there. The committee recommended several directions for the NH Coverts Project (full notes are on our website at [www.ceinfo.edu](http://www.ceinfo.edu)). A summary includes:

- Avoid summer continuing education events – people are too busy
- Explore new project partnerships such as Project Learning Tree, Northern Woodlands, Inc., etc.
- Keep Coverts Training Workshop at Sargent Center – it works.
- Continue newsletter focus on Coverts' stories – this is unique information, and it inspires, helps with networking, etc.
- Recruiting will be needed if our goal is to have one Cooperator in each NH town; suggested some new recruiting outlets, including town planning boards
- Need to examine the NH Coverts Project in relation to other volunteer programs such as Community Tree Stewards – clarify missions, think about strategic marketing

## Wintering Bald Eagles Workshop



At this February 7th workshop, Audubon Society of New Hampshire wildlife biologist Laura Deming treated the group to an in-depth slide presentation on the biology, behaviors and habitat issues

of the bald eagle in New Hampshire. The weather cleared by the time we headed out into the field to look for wintering eagles. We had spent almost an hour looking in vain along the Merrimack River. In fact, we were about to depart when Forest Resources Specialist Karen Bennett gasped and said, "Look right there!" We all scanned the distance with our binoculars, but she shoved them aside, saying "No, RIGHT THERE." There was an enormous bald eagle sitting in a tree on the same side of the river, not 75 feet from where we were standing! Using a spotting scope and our bare eyes, we were able to observe the bird for the remainder of the workshop. What a treat!



Hillsborough County Forester Jonathan Nute and Helen Evans (CC95), comparing D.B.H at the Coverts Alumni Workshop, 2004.

Point Discovery Center in Stratham. Departing Coverts Cooperator Helen Evans (CC95) stopped by on her way to the NH Timberland Owners Association annual meeting. Hillsborough County Forester Jonathan Nute shared stories about Helen, her tree farm in Bedford, and her years as a Coverts Cooperator and volunteer (see The Last Word to read the plaque we made for Helen).

It was great to see so many brave, wet, Coverts Cooperators in attendance! I got a chance to catch up with Marty Boisvert, John Adams, Marilyn Bott, Roger Brown, Helen Evans, Maureen Lein, Kendra and

## Alumni Workshop in the Seacoast

By the end of the day on May 22nd, rain had soaked through two pairs of socks, three shirts, and two pairs of pants. On the other hand, I got to handle a horseshoe crab, spot a bunch of Baltimore orioles, share some great moments with other Coverts Cooperators, and enjoy warm soup for lunch. The annual Coverts Alumni Workshop made for a full day! Despite almost continuous rain and gusting winds, the day included field tours at Phillips Exeter Academy and the Sandy



UNH Professor John Litvaitis explaining the importance of shrubland habitats, with Ellen Snyder and Dick Mallion (CC99) at right.

Patrick O'Donnell, Dick Mallion, Judi Lindsey, Jan Woodbury, and Betsy Sanders. Many thanks to leaders and hosts: Dr. John Litvaitis of UNH, Ellen Snyder, Dennis Huber, Darrel Covell, Karen Bennett, Jonathan Nute, Dave Coughlin, and Steve Miller of the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.



The stalwart Coverts alumni who made it to the end on May 22.

## Yankee Kingdom Tree Farm Tour, Bedford



Helen Evans and UNHCE Forestry Specialist Karen Bennett

cial "Helen-isms" with each other and with Helen. We toured the wildlife and forestry activities on the tree farm, and toasted Helen's dedication to stewardship and outreach. Thanks to Hillsborough County Forester Jon Nute and Yankee Tree Farm owners Dave Coughlin and the Frizells who organized the event.

On June 26th, friends and colleagues gathered at the former tree farm of Coverts Cooperator Helen Evans, who is making a move to Delaware this summer. We gathered to celebrate her dedication to UNH Cooperative Extension and to forestry and wildlife in the state of New Hampshire. We had (fabulously crafted!) cake and homemade ice cream, and shared special



Fellow Coverts and natural resource friends gather to celebrate Helen Evans, May 26th

## RESOURCES

The Center for Land Conservation Assistance is offering an excellent new publication, *Conserving Your Land – Options for New Hampshire Landowners*. This publication provides a useful tool for you to reach out to landowners who may be interested in conservation projects. CLCA is distributing complimentary copies to land trusts and conservation commissions, and they are available for purchase (\$5) by calling 717-7045 (or email: [dtaylor@ForestSociety.org](mailto:dtaylor@ForestSociety.org)) or download an order form on the Society for the Protection of NH Forests website at [www.spnhf.org](http://www.spnhf.org)

Rapid growth and loss of open space may be the number one problem facing New Hampshire towns, topping taxes and schools/quality of education according to the UNH's **Center for Integrative Regional Problem Solving (CIRPS)**. In a new study, the authors surveyed voters in communities across the state that had considered major bond issues to finance land conservation projects in 2003. "The survey results suggest that open space is perceived by many voters as a source of benefits broadly shared within the community," says Richard England, UNH professor of economics. The report reflects results which can help bolster arguments for conservation in NH. For the full report, "A Summary of Voter Attitudes About Preserving Open Space," go to the CIRPS web site: <http://www.unh.edu/cirps/NewatCIRPS.html>

## COVERTS FUNDING NEWS

For the past ten years, the NH Coverts Project has received steady and generous funding for the annual Coverts training workshop from the Ruffed Grouse Society. They have also supported other Coverts programs throughout the eastern U.S., offering multi-year grants which have enabled stable and efficient development of programming. Their funds have allowed us to provide the workshop free of charge to participants.

We thought it important to pass along the news that, due to the challenges of the economy over the last few years, the Ruffed Grouse Society has decided it must suspend funding for all of its Coverts Project grants for the coming year. They hope to re-evaluate future funding (for 2005) soon.

Although we are disappointed in this news, the NH Coverts Project is still on sound financial footing. Grant support provided by the NH Fish & Game Department should allow us to continue the program without disruption for the coming year. However, we are currently seeking other funding solutions to help bridge the gap and to perhaps lead to a more diverse funding base for the program.

Other partners – such as the NH Division of Forests and Lands, the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – have also provided support for the Coverts Project over the past ten years. We all believe in the Coverts Project – its value to participants, to wildlife, to habitat in New Hampshire, and to project partners – as we work to spread the message of wildlife habitat conservation in New Hampshire.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### *New Hampshire, Naturally*

Coverts volunteers (along with other UNHCE volunteers) are invited to join a UNH Cooperative Extension **writing collaborative**. The aim is to produce a weekly column on various intriguing aspects of New Hampshire's natural world. We'll offer the column to media outlets statewide and publish some of the columns on the homepage of our Web site. What's in it for you? You'll get to participate in a unique educational initiative. You'll get to see your name in print. You'll have access to writing workshops and a writing coach dedicated to helping you improve your wordsmithing skills. You'll experience copy-editing at work on your words. Over time, you may even build a portfolio of published work you might use to advance your own ambitions as a writer. We'll be meeting this fall to brainstorm ideas for articles, catalogue people's specific interests and expertise, and assign topics. You'll receive more information in the mail from Peg Boyles, of UNHCE. If you'd like to join this collaborative writing project, email Peg at [peg.boyles@unh.edu](mailto:peg.boyles@unh.edu) or call at 225-5505, ext. 21.

UNH COOPERATIVE EXTENSION  
 NH COVERTS PROJECT  
 131 Main Street  
 214 Nesmith Hall  
 Durham, NH 03824  
 803750



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).

Editor: Malin Ely Clyde  
 Coverts Project Coordinator: Malin Ely Clyde

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## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### SAVE THE DATE

**Friday, September 10, 2004, 6 p.m.**  
**Coverts Training Workshop Dinner**  
 All Coverts alumni are invited to attend the Friday evening dinner to meet with new Coverts volunteers, share stories and project ideas, and enjoy a meal with instructors and project partners. As in recent years, the workshop will take place at Boston University's Sargent Center in Hancock, NH. More information to arrive by mail as the date approaches.

**Annual Tree Farm Field Day at Huntington Hill**  
**Saturday, September 25, 2004, all day**  
**Huntington Hill Wildlife Habitat Management Area, Hanover, NH**  
 Please join us for tours of the 2004 Outstanding New Hampshire Tree Farm owned by Coverts Cooperator Sam Doyle (CC95) – see cover story. More details about specific programs will be available as the date approaches. Coverts Cooperators will receive information in the mail, and it will soon be available online at the UNHCE website. Look for demonstrations of horse logging, portable sawmills, wildlife management practices, and more.

**The 6th Eastern Old Growth Forest Conference**  
**September 23-26, 2004**  
**Geneva Point Center, Moultonborough**  
 The 6th Eastern Old Growth Forest Conference is dedicated to furthering the scientific understanding and conservation of old growth forests in the Eastern United States and Canada, and promoting sound forest management that is informed by an understanding of old growth forest dynamics. The event will include talks and field sessions on forest dynamics, biodiversity, wildlife, conservation, and socio-economics. Co-sponsors include the Society for the Protection of NH Forests and UNH Cooperative Extension. For more information, visit the conference website at [www.oldgrowthconference.org](http://www.oldgrowthconference.org) or email [info@oldgrowthconference.org](mailto:info@oldgrowthconference.org).

**Land Trust Alliance Conference**  
**October 28-31, 2004; Providence, RI**  
 The Land Trust Alliance sponsors this annual national conference with over 100 workshops, field trips and day-long seminars on land conservation topics. Held in New England this year, you can access the registration brochure online at the Alliance's website: [www.lta.org/training/rally.htm](http://www.lta.org/training/rally.htm)

## THE LAST WORD

### Farewell to Helen Evans

by Roger S. Brown (CC95)

Helen Evans, Coverts Cooperator par excellence, recently stated that Coverts had been her most wonderful experience in New Hampshire, only to take it right back and bestow that honor on the Tree Farm Program. That was no slight to Coverts, but rather a good example of her sly wit. We all know her sense of humor from her one-woman Chic Sale "The Specialist" skit at our training weekends. But when I think of her humor, I recall the first time she and I carpoled to a Coverts function. We were to meet in a mammoth parking lot in Bedford and had to figure out a way to find each other. Having heard (to my amazement) that she still wielded her trusty chainsaw at "5' zip" and 76, I facetiously suggested that she crank it up so I could just follow the noise to her. Her reply with the straightest of faces: "Well, I could do that but it's in the shop."



Helen Evans (CC95), at her goodbye Tree Farm tour on June 26th.

It was through Coverts that I learned of Helen's devotion to land protection. I was eavesdropping on her in Berlin at the first training workshop (we both attended in 1995), and she caught my ear: "I'm 75 years old and could drop dead any minute" as a lead-in to an explanation of her arrangement to conserve and transfer her award-winning 167-acre Yankee Kingdom Tree Farm. In the intervening years I've seen much more evidence of this passion.

Helen's preference is to be outdoors, walking in the woods. Undeterred by arthritic knees, she has forged ahead on many fronts. She has done many a program for youth on behalf of UNHCE, whose help and support she has reciprocated in spades. I dare say her commitment to young people has grown with the age difference.

But Helen doesn't slow down indoors. I learned a long time ago that she is an indefatigable researcher, especially on women's history. When I needed an assist on a genealogical errand, Helen took me to the archives in Waltham, MA and steered me right to the source. I'll never forget forester Stan Knowles' account of how Helen, in her quiet but persistent way, single-handedly turned around the commissioners in Hillsborough County on a crucial funding vote. When she showed up, they got more than they bargained for.

I could go on about the Deerfield Fair, her distinguished acting career, and a lot of other matters, but I'll close on a personal note. Coverts Cooperators Anna Boudreau and Gerry Tilley can attest to what a privilege our annual April get-togethers at Helen's behest have been. That's but one of the things we'll sorely miss when she leaves us for Delaware, where she might just have to found a new Coverts chapter.