

**NH COMMUNITY TREE STEWARDS  
PROGRAM SUMMARY  
FISCAL YEAR 01  
(October 1, 2000 - September 30, 2001)**

**Submitted by**

**Mary P. Tebo  
Community Forestry Coordinator, UNH Cooperative Extension / NH  
Community Tree Stewards Coordinator**

**In Partnership with the NH Division of Forests and Lands  
September 2001**

-

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Overview</b>	
NH Community Tree Steward Program NH Community Forestry Program Program Awards and Recognition Timeline of Grants Awarded for Community Projects	
<b>Summary</b>	
<b>Community Tree Steward Program Training</b>	
Tree Steward & Earth Team Natural Resource Volunteer Training Oct 00 – Sept 01 Advanced Training for Experienced Stewards Oct 00 – Sept 01	
<b>Tree Steward Volunteer Activities</b>	
<b>Model Community Projects</b>	
<b>Manchester</b>	Center City Green Neighborhoods Pine Street Community Garden Cedar Street Family Park The Francis Ward House Merrimack Place Townhouses Twin Towers Condominiums and Apartments Manchester Vacant Lot Restoration and Landscape Improvement Committee Piscataquog River Trailway Project Bass Island Park Kelley Falls and Elmwood Gardens Frank Lloyd Wright, Zimmerman House Landscape Community Outreach Partnership Center Grant (COPC) Manchester Sustainable Landscape Revitalization Model Neighborhood Projects through Operation Weed & Seed Restoration Efforts at the Valley Street Cemetary
<b>Nashua</b>	Nashua Parks and Recreation Projects Nashua Catholic’s Backyard Tree Farm Ledge Street School Landscaping Nashua Adopt-A-Block Program
<b>Amherst</b>	Wetlands Education, Youth Activities, Tree Planting and Gardening Activities, Articles
<b>Concord</b>	Concord Tree Volunteers
<b>Dover, Rochester, and Barrington</b>	Open Lands Committee, Henry Law Park, Barrington Town Library, Wildlife Habitat Improvements, Youth Activities, Cocheco River Watershed Coalition
<b>Portsmouth</b>	2001 Forest Field Day, Atlantic Heights Projects
<b>Backyard Tree Farm Program</b>	
<b>Big Tree Program</b>	
<b>Water Monitoring</b>	
<b>Natural Resource Inventories and Community Open Space Issues</b>	
<b>Landscape Improvements and Community Garden Projects</b>	
<b>Youth Education</b>	
<b>Adult Education, Promotion and Awareness</b>	
<b>Community Leadership</b>	
<b>Acknowledgments</b>	

## **Overview**

The *NH Community Tree Stewards Volunteer Program* is an innovative approach to volunteer stewardship in community and urban forestry. The program, now in its tenth year, is a result of the work of former New Hampshire Governor Gregg's Community Tree Task Force. One of the Task Force's most important recommendations was to launch a "Volunteers for Community Trees" program statewide. The program goals are to:

- \* strengthen communities, promote social change, and enhance urban ecosystems through the practice of urban forestry in NH communities;
- \* provide support, training, and continuing education for volunteers and others involved in community forestry programs.

In 1991 the **Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests**, a nonprofit conservation organization, began the Community Tree Stewards Program in cooperation with **University of NH Cooperative Extension** and the **NH Division of Forests and Lands**. In September 1996, the administration of the Tree Steward program formally shifted to UNH Cooperative Extension with the Forest Society and Division of Forests and Lands continuing the partnership. The change in administration enabled the Tree Steward Program to become a permanent part of New Hampshire's Urban and Community Forestry Program as funding sources stabilized. **The NH Community Forestry Team** with UNH Cooperative Extension now oversees the program and coordinates planning and program development.

In 1998 the Society for the Protection of NH Forests decided to discontinue its formal cooperation with the Community Tree Steward Program due to other priorities. Although it is no longer a formal partner, the Society continues to support the Tree Steward Program on an informal basis.

The duties of the Tree Steward Coordinator include, but are not limited, to the following:

### **NH Community Tree Steward Program**

- Training and course curriculum development
- Recruitment of Stewards
- Publicity, public relations, and promotion of programs
- Administration of training courses for Stewards
- Contacts with community officials for Steward projects
- Supervision of Steward projects in communities
- Record keeping and evaluation of Steward activities and programs
- Support and recognition of volunteers
- Committee member of various NH & New England community forestry teams

## **NH Community Forestry Program**

In addition to the Stewards Program, the Community Forestry Coordinator is a staff member of Hillsborough County UNH Cooperative Extension and under the supervision of Cooperative Extension's Forestry and Wildlife Program. Community forestry programming accounts for a large portion of the coordinator's work plan, as the coordinator networks with residents and volunteers; Extension staff; natural resource professionals; and community officials, organizations, and agencies. Many projects directly target under-served audiences, including low income and inner city neighborhoods.

The community forestry coordinator position is located on the UNH Manchester Campus in downtown Manchester. The location has allowed for continued interaction with the University's urban campus and new partnerships with businesses and organizations in Manchester's millyard and downtown areas.

During FY 01, the focus of community forestry work targeted both Manchester and Nashua. In Nashua contacts with community officials and residents were expanded and several projects were begun with the assistance of Tree Steward volunteers.

Manchester continued to be a strong focus for the program. The Community Forestry Coordinator remained the chairperson for the *Landscape Improvement and Vacant Lot Restoration Committee* with its goal to obtain grant funding for existing Manchester community forestry projects. In addition, community forestry projects were also targeted as one component of a Community Outreach Partnership Centers (COPC) grant proposal. A combined grant proposal was written and submitted to COPC by UNH Manchester, Manchester Neighborhood Housing Services, and UNH Cooperative Extension in June 2001.

UNH Cooperative Extension's Strengthening NH Communities Initiative was also addressed through community forestry programming. The Community Forestry Coordinator participated in a series of meetings for Community Profiles in Manchester.

Along with community forestry programming, time was spent helping the new "Family, Home, & Garden Education Center" volunteers with homeowner calls. The coordinator also provided assistance and some site visits to many community organizations and city-owned properties. Assistance was also given to Extension colleagues and committees for county programming and planning.

**Community Tree Steward  
Program Training**

## **Tree Steward and Earth Team Natural Resource Volunteers Training Program October 00 – September 01**

During FY 01 the partnership between the **Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Conservation Districts** continued as the Community Tree Steward training included “**Earth Team Volunteers**”. The program cooperators continue evaluate and make revisions to the training program each year. With two training programs offered over consecutive years, the program cooperators agreed to focus their attention on assisting the graduates in community projects and did not hold a training session for new volunteers in FY 01. Natural Resource Training will resume in the February 2002 with full day training sessions over a 10-week timeframe. Training in 2002 will be offered in the greater Manchester area. This will allow for the replenishing of the Manchester volunteer base as the last area training was held in 1997. Currently, the Community Forestry Coordinator has submitted a proposal to UNH Manchester to allow students to join with volunteers and take the program for four undergraduate credits. No decision regarding the proposal has been made at this time. The Urban Forestry Center will also host training in the Seacoast area in FY02.

## **Advanced Training for Experienced Stewards October 00 - September 01**

Continuing support and education of Tree Steward Graduates was offered through advanced training sessions. Graduates from all classes attended sessions. Sessions included Storm Proofing Your Community; Insect and Disease of Trees and Shrubs; Invasive Species; and a field trip to the Arnold Arboretum.

## Program Awards and Recognition

In its five-year program review, the U.S. Forest Service for the second time recognized the NH Community Tree Steward Program. The report states that NH's program is, "a model for urban and community forestry volunteer programs for the United States... and several other states are trying to replicate it." (U.S. Forest Service 5-year Urban and Community Forestry Program Review 2000.)

## Timeline of Grants Awarded for Community Projects

**FY 2000** (Grants received in FY 00 continue to be implemented in FY 01.)

Source	Amount	Purpose
For Manchester	\$4500.	Community Gardening, Manchester
Supplemental Environmental Projects Program, City of Manchester (SEPP)	\$40,000	Piscataquog River Vacant Lot Restoration, Manchester

## FY 2001

Source	Amount	Purpose
Merrimack River Watershed Initiative	\$13,000	Piscataquog River Vacant Lot Restoration, Manchester
Manchester Community Improvement Projects	\$20,400	Millyard Landscape Revitalization Master Plan
Supplemental Environmental Projects Program, City of Manchester (SEPP)	\$14,000	Piscataquog River Vacant Lot Restoration, Manchester

## **Tree Steward Volunteer Activities**

Tree Stewards volunteered in New Hampshire communities to promote the importance and benefits that trees and natural resources provide as part of healthy communities. Projects were diverse, addressing a wide array of natural resources and encouraging healthy, sustainable communities. Project areas include:

- Model Community Projects:
  - Landscape and park improvement
  - Habitat restoration
  - Gardening and beautification projects
  - Land Conservation
- Backyard Tree Farm Program
- Big Tree Program
- Water Monitoring
- Natural Resource Inventories and Community Open Space Issues
- Landscape Improvements and Community Gardening Projects
- Youth Education
- Adult Education, Promotion and Awareness
- Community Leadership

The following pages are brief summaries of projects.

## **Model Community Projects**

## **Manchester**

During FY 01 the Tree Steward Program worked with Manchester officials, residents, and organizations to ensure that Tree Steward projects throughout the City were self-sustaining and to begin new projects. Partners included:

- City of Manchester (Mayor's Office, Parks and Recreation Dept, Planning Dept, Conservation Commission, Tree Committee, Public Works Dept, and Health Dept)
- Manchester Adopt-A-Block
- Manchester Neighborhood Housing Services
- Manchester Housing and Redevelopment Authority
- Piscataquog Watershed Association
- St. Anselm College
- Stewart Property Management Company
- Manchester Housing and Urban Development
- Manchester Enterprise Community
- Environmental Protection Agency's NH Team
- Natural Resource Conservation Service and Conservation Districts  
For Manchester
- Intown Manchester
- Families in Transition
- Currier Gallery of Art
- Silver Towers Condominium Association
- CLD Engineering Consultants
- US. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, Manchester, NH Division
- Southern NH University
- Friends of the Valley Cemetery
- Manchester's Weed and Seed Program
- The Way Home
- Salvation Army
- NH Parks AmeriCorps

Following are highlights of the FY 01 Tree Steward projects and activities within Manchester.

## Center City Green Neighborhoods

Since October 1995, the Tree Steward Program has been working in Manchester's Center City where inventories of natural resources and land use were completed in a the 90+ block area. As a result of the process many projects were developed.

In FY 01, Tree Stewards **Colleen Thornton, Jane Beaulieu, Joan Pushee, Karen Debonis, Kathie Villard, and Karen Mattor** continued to further project work in the Center City. The project areas included:

- Maintenance and organizational planning for the Pine Street Community Garden
- Maintenance and planting in Sheridan Emmett Park and the Cedar Street Family Park
- Maintenance and gardening at the Merrimack Place Townhouses
- Adopt-A-Block garden preparation
- Community Gardening at Elmwood Gardens Housing Development
- Landscape planning for UNH Manchester and Arms Park
- Landscape Planning for the Twin Towers Condominiums and Apartments
- Grants sought through the Manchester Vacant Lot and Landscape Improvement Committee

## Pine Street Community Garden

In April 01 Manchester Center City residents including many children joined in the Adopt-A-Block program to maintain the community garden created in 1997. Tree Steward **Kathy Villard** also helped prepare beds for the gardening season. A change in the leadership and organization of the garden helped gardeners have a successful start to the season as planting day was held on Saturday May 19. Volunteer **Meena Gywali** took over as the garden organizer and Master Gardener **Harriet Cohen** also helped new gardeners with proper placement and planting. AmeriCorps members **Danielle Mayka** and **Stacey Mackowiak** also helped with the organization of the garden and planting. Plants and seeds were donated once again by Master Gardener **Ariel Taylor**. With so many interested participants more garden beds were created and the entire space was used to its maximum capacity.

To help the community garden have a successful year, the 4-H Green Thumb Team (led by Cooperative Extension Educator **Julia Steed Mawson** and her interns) worked with organized youth programs. The groups included the Salvation Army's After School and Summer Camp programs; YMCA's Youth Opportunities Unlimited program; and a group organized through Manchester Neighborhood Housing Services. Throughout the summer these groups met worked in their gardens and participated in gardening and environmental activities. One of the goals for the Salvation Army was to grow food for its Kids Café program, which provides free meals on a nightly basis to youth in the area. Other organizations were also invited to have garden plots including Girls Inc. and the Boys and Girls Club. Structured activities for youth in the garden have helped curb the amount of vandalism that had occurred during the last season.

Many area families had garden plots for the season and everyone was assigned garden tasks. Working together to ensure the gardens success helped overcome language barriers between

gardeners. A sense of community and neighborhood was also strengthened. The gardeners also worked to clean up and beautify the vacant lot next to the garden. Some flowers were planted and junked cars were removed.

### **Cedar Street Family Park**

In its fifth year, the Cedar Street Family Park has truly become a neighborhood asset. Families continue to have barbecues and picnics. Some of the Bosnian families in the neighborhood use the park for chess matches. Manchester Neighborhood Housing Services (MNHS) has contracted with Steward Property Management Company for ongoing maintenance. Each spring and fall the neighbors gathered together for park clean-ups and flower plantings. A service group through MNHS also did weekly litter pickups.

More youth programming also took place in the park. Throughout the winter and spring, monthly activities organized by MNHS with help from the Tree Steward and Master Gardener programs, drew many neighborhood youth together. Activities included making bird feeders, painting flowerpots and starting seeds. During the summer the 4-H Green Thumb Team and MNHS had an ongoing youth program that met once a week in the park for ten weeks. Activities included: creating a "lunar garden", creating planting boxes and growing vegetables, and many other hands-on garden and environmental activities. Youth programming will continue throughout the year on a bimonthly basis and resume weekly during the summer 2002.

### **The Francis Ward House**

The Francis Ward House, home to approximately 25 elderly and handicapped residents continued to plant and maintain shrubs, flowerbeds, and container gardens. The Tree Steward Program helped them to begin this process in 1998 and the community has been able to follow through without assistance for the last four years!

### **Merrimack Place Townhouses**

Landscapes created through a partnership between Manchester Neighborhood Housing Services (MNHS), residents, and the Tree Steward Program continue to thrive as the residents proudly maintain them in a cooperative effort with a maintenance company. On-going maintenance workshops have both the residents and Stewart Property Management Co. learning proper techniques such as pruning. Resident **Tracy Degges** has become the "Tree Steward" for the neighborhood and instructs Stewart Property Management on needed maintenance, according to MNHS. Tracy's small backyard, approximately 20'x30', is her "garden paradise". She works with her neighbors and helps them with their yards and encourages the local children to, "walk on her grass (that people said would never grow), and smell the flowers." She has also become involved in many community efforts. Most recently she attended meetings along with the Tree Steward Program on the restoration of the Valley Cemetery.

## **Twin Towers Condominiums and Apartments**

Twin Towers is a cluster of renovated mill buildings east of the Center City. Trustee Curt Anderson contacted the Tree Steward Program to see if they could help the community to develop a green space adjacent to the buildings. Tree Steward **Colleen Thornton** met with the Manchester Parks and Recreation Department and the Community Forestry Coordinator to assess the site. After a review and discussion the next step was to find out what the residents wanted to see in their neighborhood. After a successful response to a survey it was decided to begin to draw up a landscape plan and to move ahead with funding.

Colleen created a design for the space that incorporated the old railroad bed into a trailway, and provided screening to soften a large parking lot. The ambitious plan was broken down into segments and it was decided that tree planting and maintenance would be the first phase of the project. Working with the Manchester's Urban Forester, Mike Baer, it was decided that the trees could be purchased through the Manchester Green Streets program which would save on the planting costs. The group submitted a grant to Manchester's Community Improvement Program (CIP) and received enough money to cover the purchase of sixteen 2"-3" inch caliper trees to be planted along the trailway. Planting took place in July and the community had a watering plan in place to help the trees get established.

## **Manchester Vacant Lot Restoration and Landscape Improvement Committee**

The Manchester Vacant Lot Committee formed in spring of 1999 to look at vacant lot rehabilitation and landscape improvements in Manchester. The Committee continues to be made up of a variety of people representing various organizations including Tree Stewards **Karen Debonis, Karen Mattor, and Xenia Kraus.**

In FY 00 the committee submitted three grant proposals to various groups. The first grant received was through *For Manchester* for \$5,000 to be used for improving and expanding community gardens.

The second grant request was being negotiated with Manchester's Supplemental Environmental Projects Program (SEPP) to rehabilitate the large degraded lot along the Piscataquog River into park space for both recreation and habitat improvement (part of the Piscataquog River Trailway Project referred to in the next section).

In FY 01 the SEPP Committee granted the project \$65,000 toward the restoration and landscaping of the lot to support habitat for five endangered species. In further negotiations with engineers and construction contractors, an agreement was struck that would allow the site to be used as a staging area for construction work in return for the rough grading of the site.

The third grant proposal written in FY00 by Tree Steward **Karen Mattor** was submitted to the Merrimack River Watershed Council's Non-point Source Pollution Initiative. The grant proposal focused on creating a watershed sensitive parking area and an educational kiosk for the

Piscataquog and Merrimack River watersheds and for the unique habitat found next to the site. The proposal was accepted and the committee received \$13,000 for the project.

In FY01 another grant proposal was submitted to the US Forest Service to continue the work on the Piscataquog vacant lot. Unfortunately the grant proposal was not funded due to the strong national competition.

### **Piscataquog River Trailway Project**

The Piscataquog River Park is one of Manchester's largest parks and includes diverse habitat. In FY 96, the Piscataquog River Trailway Project began and among its findings was the discovery of wild lupine, an endangered plant native to the small section of pine barren remaining in the park. During FY 98 lupine monitoring resulted in the discovery of two state endangered species, the frosted elfin butterfly and the Persius duskywing butterfly.

In FY 01 many partners including the Tree Steward Program, St. Anselm College, the City of Manchester, the USDA Natural Resource Conservation, the Piscataquog Watershed Association, and the NH Department of Environmental Services worked together to plan and implement improvement practices. During the spring many people gathered to expand the territory for the unique habitat. They planted pitch pine and wild lupine, which were watered regularly by St. Anselm students who received a small payment from the SEPP grant listed above.

### **Bass Island Park**

West High School students continued their work at the 'adopted' Bass Island Park also located along the Piscataquog River. The SEPP committee was also approached to see if grant money could be used to purchase the lot across the street to expand the park. The committee agreed to look into it after the purchase of the Hackett Hill site was complete. Another source of funding to expand the park may be through the NH Land Conservation and Investment Program (LCHIP). The City of Manchester has put the purchase of this land as their number one priority.

### **Kelley Falls and Elmwood Gardens**

After Tree Steward Program volunteers worked with the Kelley Falls and Elmwood Gardens housing developments for several years, the Housing Authority (owner of the properties), took on the organization of "Tree Care Day." There is a remarkable difference in the condition of the trees on these properties since the Tree Steward Program began working with residents back in 1993.

**Don Gagne**, a Housing Authority employee who went through the Tree Steward Training, held a pruning workshop for the maintenance staff of Housing Authorities from around New England.

**Bill Kucharski**, Tree Steward, Arborist, and Chairperson of the NH Community Forestry Council provided the instruction to approximately 25 people.

Tree Steward **Joan Pushee** worked with residents of Elmwood Gardens to help Community Organizer Kathy Nolan build a sense of community through gardening. To further interest in gardening an evening garden tour of those within the complex was held. The tour brought neighbors together who had not met before and provided inspiration to others to begin gardening. The Tree Steward Program obtained lilacs through the Governor's Lilac Commission and made them available for the residents. Further garden activities are being planned for the autumn.

### **Frank Lloyd Wright, Zimmerman House Landscape**

Tree Steward and Master Gardener volunteers continue to work together in partnership with the Currier Gallery of Art to help restore the landscape of the Zimmerman House which was designed and built by Frank Lloyd Wright. The partnership began in November 1999 as Hetty Startup, a faculty member of UNHM and Zimmerman House Administrator, was looking for assistance in getting the grounds around the house back into shape. Tree Stewards **Walter Ohlson, Joan Pushee, Sue Bixby, Pat Parker, Colleen Thornton, Chaya Prabhu, Joanie McPhee and Colleen Kershaw** have participated in educational field trips and Zimmerman House work sessions.

Tree Steward **Colleen Thornton** continues as the project coordinator as her passion for Frank Lloyd Wright's work and her background in landscape design made this project a perfect fit. In April 2001 Tree Stewards held a second pruning session at the Zimmerman House to bring back some of Frank Lloyd Wright's original design lines. Plant inventories and further restorative plantings also were part of the FY01 activities.

### **Community Outreach Partnership Grants (COPC)**

During FY01 the Community Forestry Coordinator worked with UNH Manchester Dean Karol La Croix and other UNH Cooperative Extension staff to develop and write an extensive Community Outreach Partnership Grant (COPC) grant through the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The funding available is targeted to inner city areas designated as "Enterprise Communities".

The Community Forestry Program, one of three components of the grant, focused on neighborhood revitalization. Under neighborhood revitalization piece the following on-going projects were targeted for funding: the Pine Street Community Garden, Cedar Street Family Park, and the Model Landscape for Manchester's Millyard. If received, UNH Cooperative Extension and the Tree Steward Program would receive \$160,000 toward these projects. As of this writing there has not been any decision received as to the status of grant proposal.

### **Manchester Sustainable Landscape Revitalization Model**

With the completion of the interior building renovations at UNH Manchester, the Community Forestry Coordinator developed a pictorial presentation on the current conditions of the landscape surrounding the mill building. Dean Karol LaCroix appreciated the work and recognized the contrast between the newly renovated interior and the unmaintained and poorly landscaped exterior of the campus. It was with the Dean's approval that the Community Forestry Coordinator formed the Millyard Landscape Revitalization Committee.

Committee members represent several Manchester public and private entities that have connections to the Millyard as the committee formed not only to look at the landscape issues around the University but throughout the Millyard. The following is a summary of the project:

## **Background**

Manchester is well known for its historic Amoskeag Millyard along the Merrimack River, which has been listed as a New Hampshire Local Legacy in the Library of Congress Bicentennial Celebration. The river and its canal system provided the hydraulic power necessary to run the textile mills that drove Manchester's economy in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Today, more than sixty years after the last mill closed, the millyard has again become a center of activity as many businesses and educational institutions relocate there. Among them, the University of New Hampshire's newly renovated Manchester Campus is located at 400 Commercial Street in the heart of Manchester's millyard.

As the historic mill buildings are renovated and reoccupied, great interest has been generated in revitalizing the landscape around the buildings. Currently, as part of its Riverfront Development Plan, the City of Manchester is developing a riverwalk that will run the length of the millyard area along the Merrimack River. A section of *New Hampshire's Heritage Trail* also runs through the area which is one block away from Elm Street (Manchester's major downtown business district).

The area is important environmentally because of its proximity to the Merrimack River, *one of the state's largest rivers*, and an important focal point for the city. While the Merrimack River has progressed from a low point as one of the ten worst polluted rivers in the nation, it still does not meet the national water quality standards in much of southern New Hampshire, primarily due to urban runoff. Manchester is also in an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designated non-attainment area for air quality.

Currently, approximately 90% of the area targeted for sustainable landscape revitalization is covered with impervious surfaces such as pavement, buildings, and sidewalks. In the areas where there is green space, many of the plantings are not suited for their locations, and are in poor condition. According to the Manchester Street Tree Survey, conducted by Community Tree Steward Program in partnership with the City, "Based upon their current health, over half of the trees in the Business District and Center City will not survive for more than 10 years" (Manchester A City of Trees Survey Report, 1998).

Another significant environmental issue is non-point source pollution flowing into storm drains around the University campus, including those within the three acres of parking. These storm

drains are connected into the old penstocks (*large underground drains*) that empty directly into the Merrimack River. Whenever there is a rain event, contaminants from the surface including heavy metals, petroleum products and other chemicals that are toxic to aquatic life, along with sediments, road salt, and solid waste, flow directly into the Merrimack River.

UNHM's campus has brought 1,200 faculty, staff and students to the millyard. UNHCE staff and volunteers working in the New Hampshire Community Forestry Program and the Family, Home & Garden Education Center are also housed there. This association has provided a catalyst for developing a unified landscape improvement program. UNHCE, in partnership with UNHM, has brought together a large group of public and private Manchester organizations to create the Millyard Landscape Revitalization Committee (MLRC). The MLRC is chaired by Mary Tebo, Community Forestry Coordinator for UNHCE.

The MLRC is interested in developing and implementing a plan to revitalize the landscape using sustainable practices on a series of adjacent properties (University, City, and private lands) connecting the millyard and the Merrimack River to the downtown business district. This grassroots effort will serve as a model for the entire millyard, inspiring and educating others on what can be done to create a sustainable environmentally sound landscape. The project involves working with the community to develop a comprehensive landscape plan, landscape concepts, designs, and construction cost estimates. Once an overall plan is developed, planning will begin on selected improvement projects identified by the community. The MLRC will also seek additional funding through other sources for materials, and construction of identified landscape components.

The goal of the MLRC is to use the two-block area in the Center of Manchester's millyard as a model for educating students and the public on creating watershed sensitive sustainable landscapes. An ecologically sound, easily maintained landscape will help to improve water quality in the Merrimack River and highlight the river's significance to the city.

Site renovation plans may include:

- sustainable low maintenance plantings
- a long term maintenance schedule
- public art and performance areas
- landscape practices that decrease negative impacts on the Merrimack River
- useable green space that is handicap accessible
- educational signage describing sustainable landscape practices and the Manchester's natural history
- stormwater filtration of parking lots and road ways

The MLRC will work with CLD Consulting Engineers Inc., in conjunction with the City of Manchester's Riverfront Development Plan, to develop the comprehensive sustainable landscape plan. The millyard project is consistent with the local Riverfront Development Plan created by the city in 1999. This project will also help the city reach its goal of "maximizing the economic return on private properties, while creating an exceptional environment for residents of and visitors to Manchester". (Manchester Master Plan, 1993)

## **Major Activities and Tasks**

1. Develop a Comprehensive Sustainable Landscape Plan: The MLRC, working with CLD Consulting Engineers Inc, will develop a comprehensive sustainable landscape plan encompassing city-owned property, University property, and private lands. The areas to be included in the plan are:
  - Canal Street from Spring and Stark Streets heading west to the Merrimack River
  - Stark Street Crossing and the property along Commercial Street
  - UNH Manchester property
  - Arms Park
2. Develop Landscape Concepts: Committee participants will work with CLD Consulting Engineers, Inc. and bring in additional community stakeholders through a hands-on charrette to further understand community needs and develop landscape concepts.
3. Hold Facilitated Community Work Sessions: A series of work sessions will address elements of the landscape including ecological functions, maintenance, streetscape, arts, history, culture, and programming. Design options will be developed for estimating costs of each phase. The results of these efforts will yield a conceptual design and construction cost estimates.
4. Begin Detailed Planning on Items Identified in the Plan: Once the master plan has been developed, the MLRC will identify individual components and develop detailed landscape plans and implementation strategies.
5. Coordinate Resident and Volunteer Resources: Service Learning Interns and AmeriCorps Members will help the Community Forestry Coordinator/Project Manager and the Neighborhood Revitalization Coordinator to organize volunteer project components. Residents and businesses will join together to work with Tree Steward and Master Gardener volunteers in the revitalization efforts.
6. Seek Additional Funding and Materials: The Project Manager and Neighborhood Revitalization Coordinator will seek additional funds and materials for project implementation.

UNHCE has received a City of Manchester Community Improvement Program Grant for \$20,400 to contract with CLD Engineers, Inc. to complete the master plan design component of this project. Additional funding from a COPC grant would be used for a project manager and the neighborhood revitalization coordinator who would facilitate community involvement to further understand the needs of stakeholders and to develop designs to meet those needs.

## **Neighborhood Restoration Projects through Operation Weed and Seed**

The Tree Steward Program has partnered with the community police and other Manchester non-profit organizations to implement Operation Weed and Seed, a program sponsored by the U.S.

Justice Department. The goal of the program is to work through community partnerships to "weed out violent and criminal influences in neighborhoods and sow seeds of hope through community building efforts and quality of life improvements." Operation Weed and Seed is now in its beginning stages of development. The Community Forestry Coordinator has become a member of the neighborhood restoration component of Weed and Seed and will incorporate existing neighborhood revitalization projects into the Weed and Seed Program.

### **Restoration Efforts at the Valley Cemetery**

The Community Tree Steward Program and UNH Manchester began working Southern New Hampshire University's Education Continuum, and the Friends of the Valley Cemetery on developing a master plan for landscape restoration. (The Friends of the Valley Cemetery is a nonprofit agency that was developed through the Outreach Initiative Program through Southern New Hampshire University.)

With its close proximity to the new Civic Center, the Pine Street Community Garden, and Center City residents, the Valley Cemetery can provide much-needed green space for the community, but it is currently a diamond in the rough. "When Valley Cemetery was built in 1840 it was in the forefront of a movement to remake cemeteries from drab places to beautiful gardens for the living as well as the dead" (Hippo Press, Manchester, NH, February 2001). It was modeled after the widely recognized Mount Auburn Cemetery near Boston. It was a favorite place to take walks, carriage rides, and picnic, yet it has become a haven for vandalism, drug dealing, and violence. According to city officials, vandalism is a problem at all nine city owned cemeteries but it is the worst at Valley Cemetery. A brochure on the Valley Cemetery gives its history and describes a walking tour but it also clearly states that no one should ever be in the cemetery alone.

Through the development of a master plan the cemetery could be viewed in a renewed light as a valuable resource to Manchester.

## **Nashua**

### **Introduction**

IN FY 2000 the Community Forestry Program graduated its second group of Tree Stewards from New Hampshire's second largest city, Nashua. Contacts and projects continued through many Nashua organizations including: Nashua Parks and Recreation, the School Department, Public Library, and the Ledge Street School.

### **Nashua Parks and Recreation Projects**

Tree Stewards **Chaya Prabhu, Colleen Thornton, Janice Kelleigh, Mary Kirkwood, Colleen Kershaw, and Pat Schmitz** continued their efforts helping the Parks and Recreation Department with their yearly beautification project. In the past, Parks and Recreation Department workers planted several dozen containers and pocket gardens with annuals each year. It had become a huge amount of work and expense for the Department and Nancy Mellin, the enthusiastic administrative assistant who coordinated the process.

During FY 01 the Tree Steward Program helped the Parks and Recreation Department develop a new plan for beautification that would save time and money. Planning began during the late fall and winter months to bring in volunteers in to help with design, planting and maintenance of the pocket gardens. Tree Steward and landscape designer Colleen Thornton developed a short series of hands-on design workshops for interested volunteers. Colleen went over the basics of designing a garden and then had the volunteers team up, choose a site or sites, and create designs for the gardens that included both perennials and annuals. Once the garden designs were completed Nancy Mellin advertised to the community the opportunity for people to plant and maintain a pocket garden of their choice. The Community Forestry Coordinator facilitated the meeting of approximately 25 new volunteers. At the end of the meeting all the sites had been accounted for, for both planting and maintenance.

Next, Colleen helped Nancy establish accounts with wholesale growers. The Parks and Recreation Department purchased the needed plants and amended and prepared the beds for planting. Over a period of two weeks, the volunteers chose a day that would work for them, picked up their plants from the Parks and Recreation Department, and planted their gardens. There was some confusion between the Parks and Recreation Department and the grower, which caused a delay in getting some of the gardens planted on schedule, but in the end all the gardens were completed.

### **Nashua Catholic's Backyard Tree Farm**

In FY99 Mary Kirkwood, with help from several other Tree Stewards including Peggy Barter and Debbie Rosenberg, helped Nashua Catholic Jr. High School become the first school in the City certified in the Backyard Tree Farm Program. As part of the program, Nashua Catholic

Students identified the trees around the school, took soil samples, and planted a butterfly garden. In FY01 teachers and students continued with more Backyard Tree Farm activities and continue to use the “tree identification trail”.

### **Ledge Street School Landscaping**

The Ledge Street School community continues to garden and maintain the landscape established in FY 98 with the help of the Tree Steward Program. However, they now continue their efforts on their own not needing further assistance from the Tree Steward Program.

### **Nashua Adopt-A-Spot Program**

Tree Steward Mary Kirkwood and Master Gardener volunteers continue to plant and maintain the traffic island near their homes. Mary also joined the Nashua garden club and is promoting the Tree Steward Program to them.

## Amherst

Community Tree Stewards **Anne Krantz, Joan Pushee, Peggy Barter, Walter Ohlson, and Janice Kelleigh** are involved in a number of volunteer projects in their community of Amherst, New Hampshire. Wetlands have been a high priority issue in the community. Tree Stewards have been involved in developing and publicizing a series of educational displays about Amherst's wetlands, which are on display at the Amherst town library. More recent posters have shown residents how wetlands interact with groundwater (ultimately their drinking water), and have addressed the topic of wetland buffers. The entire years worth of wetland posters and maps were also displayed at the NH Association of Conservation Commission's Annual meeting to share with other communities. The ultimate goal of these efforts was to update the Town Wetland Ordinance.

In addition to their public education efforts, the Tree Stewards participated in Amherst Planning Board meetings regarding proposed changes to the town's Wetland Protection Ordinance. They worked with the Wetland Education Committee to create a news release for the Amherst Citizen (a local bi-weekly newspaper) regarding the proposed changes to the Wetlands ordinance and the potential effects of the changes. The Wetland Ordinance, with additional improvements from citizen input, won the full support at the Planning Board level. In March, the Wetland Ordinance with the expanded buffer zone went before the full town for a vote. The comprehensive wetland ordinance passed! This was a tribute to all the hard work put in by the Tree Stewards.

Amherst Community Tree Stewards also participated in activities focusing on youth. **Peggy Barter** received training in the Adopt-A-Salmon Watershed Education Program and conducted school tours of Nashua's Broad Street Fish Hatchery. **Joan Pushee** led a "Flower Pot Painting" activity for 38 children on the fourth of July.

**Anne Krantz** and **Joan Pushee** have been very active on numerous additional projects. Anne worked on the Amherst Arbor Day Planting Project, raising funds, planting trees and following up with local selectmen. She also wrote articles for the local paper urging a roadside litter pickup campaign in celebration of Earth Day. This past year, the Amherst Garden Club raised funds through their Memory Tree lighting to design and create gardens around a new Community Hospice House currently under construction in Merrimack. Joan Pushee was very involved in the local plant sale and spent numerous hours weeding in preparation for garden tours, which she led.

Anne and Janice Kelleigh have been raising beetles to help control purple loosestrife in selected Amherst wetlands. They began raising the beetles in May in pots with loosestrife plants. Anne stated in an Amherst Garden Club article, "A pot inoculated with ten bugs can produce from 1,000 to 2,000 beetles."

Other topics Anne wrote about in her Horticultural Hints Column in the Amherst Garden Club Newsletter included: *Family Home and Garden Center topics including Conifer Seed Bug and Bumper Crop of Nuts; Birch Trees; Spring Damage Report - Rhododendrons and Mole Holes; and Too Much Mulch.*

## Concord

Community Tree Stewards **Kevin Hanlon**, **Chris Kane**, and **Linda Meserve** have been active with the Concord Tree Volunteers (CTV) urban forestry group.

Kevin has participated in Concord tree planting events at the Concord Hospital, McKee Square, the Boys and Girls Club, and the YMCA. He also participated in Concord's Arbor Day Celebration.

Linda Meserve has participated with the Concord tree Volunteers in several tree plantings with children as part of the 2000 Trees For The Millennium Project.

The Concord Tree Volunteers began as a civic group in 1994. It is a subcommittee of the Concord Conservation Commission and it also functions as an independent organization.

The Millennial Tree Project was conceived as a community-wide effort to reverse the loss of Concord's street trees. Prior to CTV efforts, only about one street tree was planted for every four that were removed. The Volunteers hope to inspire the entire community to participate in the planting efforts and have established a Registry of Millennial Trees so that Concord residents now and in the future will know where these historic trees are and who planted them. For additional information on the Committee's efforts see the attached summary.

In addition to Millennial Tree Project, the CTV is involved in numerous other projects such as:

- caring for trees in parks and public areas
- training others to care for trees
- raising funds for tree planting, care, maintenance and replacement
- conducting an intensive street tree inventory of 35 city blocks in Concord

The downtown area inventory was completed using GIS technology. Therefore the information will be easily incorporated into the city's maps and helps make future planning easier. Currently Andrew Duncan of New England College is assisting the CTV and working with his students to analyze the data.

## **Dover, Rochester, and Barrington**

The City of Dover and its residents are benefiting from the activities of Community Tree Stewards **Robert Lewis, Jennifer Fales, Jon Batson, Anna Boudreau** and **Marilyn Wallingford**.

Robert Lewis of Dover has been very active on the City of Dover's Open Lands Committee, becoming Chairman of the committee this year after serving as a member. Activities include: easement monitoring, preparation and participation in meetings, meeting with landowners, preparation for a city meeting on planning the City's future and a forum on land protection for city landowners.

Tree Steward Anna Boudreau also serves on Dover's Open Lands Committee. She has been active meeting with landowners to discuss conservation strategies and forest management. She has also arranged the advertising for "Dealing with Growth in Dover" meetings. These meetings brought together the Natural Resources Outreach Coalition, Dover City Officials, and the public to discuss criteria for evaluating remaining open space lands and to balance open space issues and economic development.

Jennifer Fales has designed garden beds and organized people and materials to install the beds at Henry Law Park adjacent to Downtown Dover. Jennifer and Tree Stewards Jon Batson and Marilyn Wallingford have dedicated numerous hours to cleaning out, weeding, and maintaining the gardens.

Jennifer and Jon also donated their services in the neighboring town of Barrington, working on the landscape surrounding the town library. There, Jennifer designed the gardens and participated in several project days installing sections of the garden. She has also given presentations and she continues to work on the ongoing design as the landscape is being completed in sections. Making the landscape interesting during the winter has been one of the considerations Jennifer has incorporated into her design efforts. Jennifer has said that the Community Tree Steward training has given her the confidence to offer her services to the community.

Anna planted shrubs for wildlife on the Strafford County Farm this past fall. She also provided advice to radio station WOKQ regarding the plantings around their buildings, identifying invasive species and providing suggestions about what plants were most beneficial for wildlife.

Anna worked with children at the Horne Street School in Dover, a local Brownies Troop, and the Westwood Preschool, engaging approximately 60 children in natural resource related activities using leaf shapes and wildlife furs.

Jon, Jennifer, and Anna are also involved with the Coheco River Watershed Coalition. Anna has been participating in water quality monitoring with the Coalition. She does monitoring herself as well as organizing other volunteer monitors throughout Dover and calibrating equipment. The monitoring results are being added to DES database. Last years results show

that the new Rochester Wastewater Treatment plant is making a difference, reducing nutrient levels and resulting in better water quality. Monitoring is also used to identify “hot spots” which are brought to the attention of the EPA.

## **Portsmouth**

Community Tree Stewards **Bill Warren** and **Anna Boudreau** participated in the 2001 Forest Field Day at the Urban Forestry Center as Station Instructors. Bill Warren used “Tree Cookies” to introduce school children to how trees grow while Anna talked with children at the “Forest Products” station, bringing along numerous spices and other household items to demonstrate how we use products everyday which come from the forest.

**Lynne Langley** of Portsmouth has been very active in her Atlantic Heights area of Portsmouth with the Atlantic Heights Garden Club and Atlantic Heights Neighborhood Association. She is also involved in the Citizens Advisory Committee under the Portsmouth Community Development CDBG (Block Grants).

The Atlantic Heights Garden Club is responsible for the planning, plantings and maintenance of two community gardens. The garden club has also been involved in “guerrilla gardening” where they discretely take back blighted and neglected areas. The Atlantic Heights Neighborhood Association is taking on the Backyard Tree Farm Program in Hilsop Park, which borders the Piscataqua River.

Lastly, the Citizens Advisory Group has two projects underway in the Atlantic Heights neighborhood funded with CDBG funds. They are working on the Big Rock Park and the Kearsarge Way Streetscape.

## **Backyard Tree Farm Program**

The Backyard Tree Farm slide show has been updated and distributed to several offices around the state for use by Community Tree Steward volunteers and others. The script for the slide show, which introduces people to the many activities and benefits of the program, was originally written by several CTS volunteers. In addition to being available as a slide show, the program is also being put into a PowerPoint Program format.

**Nancy Janssen Currier** interested her neighbors in the Backyard Tree Farm Program and gave their children homegrown trees to plant (Washington hawthorn and crabapple). Nancy also gathered information about the National Wildlife Federation's Backyard and Schoolyard Habitat Programs. She has now connected with her neighbor and a 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher from a neighboring town who is starting a Schoolyard Habitat Program, and they are planning future activities.

**Barbara Worth** has also been working on a Backyard Forest Maintenance/Backyard Conservation project in Nashua.

**Bonnie Barlow-Turner** is planning for a Youth Environmental Justice mini-course at her church in Derry where she will teach students about the stewardship of natural resources. She plans to follow up on the course with actions, possibly using the Backyard Tree Farm Program.

## **Big Tree Program**

**Mary Jane Sheldon, Christine McKenna, Barbara Worth and Chris Kane** have been working on New Hampshire's Big Tree Program. Mary Jane coordinates the Big Tree database. Christine and Barbara have been updating Big Tree documents and sending out letters and certificates.

This past year, Chris gave a presentation on the Big Tree Program at the Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth. His presentation included a slide program and a discussion about Old Growth Forests and how they have survived the pressures of development.

## **Water Monitoring**

**Jane and Chip Hemmingsen** conducted bi-monthly water quality monitoring at two sites on the Merrimack River for the Souhegan and Lower Merrimack Monitoring Program.

**Barbara Worth** is participating in the Mill Pond Restoration Project. Barbara attended a water-sampling training session and has been active throughout the spring/summer taking water samples at Mill Pond in Nashua. The results of the monitoring will be used to make recommendations. The Mill Pond Restoration Project is jointly sponsored by the Nashua Regional Planning Commission, Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee, and the Nashua River Watershed Association. Barbara also participated in a Merrimack River Watershed Association meeting regarding the Salmon Brook Trail Project in Nashua.

**Anna Boudreau** organizes volunteer monitors throughout Dover and participates in water quality monitoring on the Cochecho River as a member of the Cochecho River Watershed Coalition.

## Natural Resource Inventories and Community Open Space Issues

**Cathy Hoffman** has been active working on a Natural Resource Inventory Project for the Hollis Conservation Commission. Cathy participated in a “GPS for GIS Workshop” where she learned how to use GPS (Global Positioning Systems) units to locate resources such as historical, geological and biological features and big trees. She also learned how to use the Arc View program to generate maps. Cathy will use information on the Hollis Natural Resources Inventory and on a Native Brook Trout Population Study. Cathy has also worked on a Favorable Gravelwell Analysis Report and she has been generating maps for various other projects which have included: a farm survey, wetlands identification, and wildlife corridor identification projects. Cathy has generated GIS maps for a Land Protection Study Committee to help identify parcels which are under threat of development and which should be considered for possible purchase by the town.

**Jon Batson** serves on the Farmington Conservation Commission, which is working on a natural resource inventory. Jon is also on the Board of Directors for the Moose Mountain Regional Greenways Project where he serves on the fund raising and land acquisition committees. Tree Steward Jennifer Fales is also active in the Moose Mountain Regional Greenways Project. The Moose Mountains Regional Greenway Group has completed and interpreted a comprehensive regional natural resource inventory and has worked on a conservation plan that connects conservation lands into “greenways” using voluntary land conservation measures.

**Becky Whitmeyer** has been actively working with the Bear-Paw Regional Greenways project. The Bear-Paw Group is working to protect a network of lands throughout eight communities in southern New Hampshire. Becky has been walking lands being considered for conservation easements and she has been working on fund-raising mailings to purchase key easement lands.

**Herb Dalrymple** of Newmarket worked to set up an open space committee, and he is planning to set up a water resource protection committee in his community.

**Deborah Lievens** is active on the Londonderry Conservation Commission which has been buying land and working on a wetlands ordinance.

**Dee Dee O'Rourke** has been active in community activities in Bedford related to open space. She has been attending town council meetings and encouraging the town council to address water and open space issues. The town recently purchased Joppa Hill Farm, the last working farm in the community. The town is considering leasing the farm, which encompasses approximately 300 acres, to a group who will maintain it as a working farm and teach children about farming.

## Landscape Improvements and Community Garden Projects

**Bonnie Barlow Turner** is leading a landscaping effort at her local church in Derry. She received help from Tree Steward **Colleen Thornton** on developing a design and choosing appropriate plants. The plantings were installed this year and are receiving on-going care.

**Gladys Nichols** of Chester is responsible for the removal of dead trees in Chester's town center. She is also clearing and marking trails on other town properties. Gladys worked with her great granddaughter and her son to plant four trees in the downtown area.

**Marilyn Wallingford** worked on landscaping around the North Hampton town gazebo. She researched what trees should be planted, and ultimately decided on flowering cherry (*Sargentii*).

**Nancy and Thomas Reed** participated in a landscaping /gardening project around the Bow Lake Grange in their community of Strafford.

**Colleen Thornton, Jane Hemmingsen, Mary Kirkwood, Colleen Kershaw** helped design and install pocket gardens at the Nashua Public library as well as at the Nashua City Hall. (For more information see the Nashua Section.)

**Holly Avery** has been pruning lilacs and cutting and removing maples in Rochester

**Anna Boudreau** has been pruning city shade trees along Dover's Central Avenue.

**Betsy MacDonald** is a member of the Exeter Parks Advisory Committee, which has been developing plans and conducting improvements at several town parks. Betsy also pruned lilacs at the Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth.

**Kareen Hamilton** has been very busy working on various memorial gardens in Milford and Lincoln, NH. In Milford she worked to enlarge the flowerbed, establish perennials, and maintain plantings at Hazel Adams Burns Park. Kareen also worked on the garden beds at the Riccardi-Hartshorn Memorial.

In Lincoln, Kareen worked on the Lincoln Library Hummingbird/Butterfly Garden where she re-edged and weeded the garden, and added soil and numerous flowers. She also established a new veteran's garden (planted with red, white and blue flowers) around the John Newton Smith American Legion War Memorial Stone (Riverside Cemetery).

**Claudia Everest** has been caring for the plantings in the Milford Oval. She has done spring and fall cleanups, and has pruned the roses. She has also been training additional volunteers to take care of the Unitarian Church Cloister Garden that she designed and installed.

**Kathleen Johnson** and **Joan Pushee** worked on a project in the Salem Town Center. Kathleen led the design process and consulted on planting in Veteran's Memorial Park. She worked with

Joan to remove invasive species, properly space the plants, and add color to the gardens (red, white and blue for spring, summer and fall).

Kathleen has also been working with the Granite Ridge Electric Plant. She has been advising them on the educational landscaping opportunities for their plant and providing suggestions regarding erosion control. A sustainable landscaping project will be implemented in the next year.

**Barbara Flynn** has been doing volunteer tree pruning work for her town of Somersworth.

**Barbara Worth** was active in a project weeding and planting at Victory House in Nashua and also did weeding and mulching at Caroline's House also in Nashua.

Volunteers **Colleen Thornton, Jane Beaulieu, Joan Pushee, Karen Debonis, Kathie Villard, Karen Mattor, Colleen Kershaw, Sue Bixby, Walter Ohlson, Chaya Prabhu, Joanie McPhee, Janice Kelleigh, Mary Kirkwood, Debbie Rosenberg** and **Pat Schmitz**, have participated in numerous community gardening and landscape planning and improvement projects throughout the cities of Manchester and Nashua. (See the section on Manchester and Nashua for further information.)

## Youth Education

**John Bachman** held two tree identification classes for Cub Scouts in Milford NH.

**Linda Meserve** participated with the Concord Tree Volunteers in several tree plantings with children as part of the 2000 Trees for the Millennium Project.

**Joan Pushee** held a “Flower Pot Painting” activity on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July attended by 38 children from Amherst.

**Maddy Perron** visited with 2<sup>nd</sup> grade children at school in Dunbarton and planted an herb garden with them.

**Mary Tebo** worked with Northwood School, creating a design and selecting nine trees to be planted around the school. Several people and organizations from the Northwood Community raised funds to purchase the trees. Donations were also made toward “Memory Trees”. Mary taught students about proper planting techniques and the value of trees in our environment. Over 150 students in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade participated in the digging, watering and planting of the trees which were carefully placed to provide future shade for the school playground.

**Karen Mattor** went into Thornton’s Ferry Elementary School in Merrimack and engaged 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students in tree and animal related activities. Karen is currently designing a tree class for the Beaver Brook Association using materials from her Community Tree Steward training. She also gave a nature walk through Wasserman’s Park during the City of Merrimack’s Earth Day celebration.

Community Tree Stewards **Nancy Janssen Currier** and **Keith Hunt** presented a hands-on program on trees for the Harry Potter Book Club at the Manchester Barnes and Noble. They connected the activities with themes from the popular book series, adapted activities from Neighborhood Trees Program, and demonstrated tree planting.

As a volunteer at Nashua’s Birch Hill School, Community Tree Steward **Debbie Rosenberg** got the entire elementary school involved in casting ballots to vote for a National Tree (based on the Arbor Day Foundation’s candidates). In addition to casting their votes, the first graders also wrote about why they chose the particular tree they did. In the end, *birch* came out the winner at the *Birch Hill School*.

**Luther Preston** helped children learn about wood using tree cookies at the NH Farm Museum. Luther encouraged children to saw tree cookies from sweet birch and red cedar trees to introduce them to the aromas of these different woods. He also showed children a variety of tree cookies to demonstrate the slow and fast growth of various NH trees. Approximately 25 children and 20 adults attended Luther’s program.

## Adult Education, Promotion, and Awareness

Community Tree Stewards **Jane Hemmingsen, Kevin Hanlon, Chip Hemmingsen, Nancy Janssen Currier, Karen Mattor, George Farwell, Patricia Parker, Jim Tucker** and **Anna Boudreau** staffed the UNH Cooperative Extension Forestry and Wildlife booth at the NH Farm and Forest Expo held in Manchester, NH. This event draws approximately 8,000 visitors each year. Community Tree Stewards interacted with visitors, helping them identify leaf shapes and match animals with their habitats in several interactive activities.

**George Farwell, Walter Ohlson, and Jane and Chip Hemmingsen** helped Hillsborough County Forester, Jon Nute unload, sort and distribute tree seedlings. They also provided planting advice to the 150 customers who purchased over 20,000 tree seedlings through the NH State Nursery.

**Charisse Baker** set up Community Tree Steward program display at the Rochester Fair.

**Ron Roberts** demonstrated pruning to families at the Shieling Forest in Peterborough.

**Kathleen Johnson** has been providing horticultural consultations for various people regarding their trees.

**Nicky Butterfield** has been talking to her neighbors in the Deerfield area about the value of the wetlands in the neighborhood and the negative impacts of poor logging practices on those wetlands. Nicky also participates in several bee-keeping associations.

**Chad LaPierre** of Rochester has taught friends and neighbors how to care for lilacs. He has also been caring for the lilac around the East Rochester School, and has received a letter of thanks from the school principal. As a future project, Chad hopes to design a new, shaded entryway to the school.

**Cathy Hoffman** worked with other volunteers to develop a water resources display for the Hollis Old Home Day - *Exploring Hollis Naturally*.

**William Kucharski** presented two pruning seminars in Nashua and Manchester. Both seminars were for the Federal Housing Authority employees. The Nashua session included employees from all around northern New England.

**Darla Cote** gave several natural resource presentations in Portsmouth. Darla collected, pressed, and mounted leaf samples in preparation for her talk about how and why leaves change color and how they can be used to identify trees. She also gave another presentation about using twigs and bark to identify trees.

**Bill Warren** prepared materials and instructions for lilac pruning workshops in Portsmouth and other communities.

Tree Stewards **Sylvie Kurtz**, **Charisse Baker**, **Jane Pokoski** and **Darla Cote** worked on preparing Tree Steward program materials including: the Community Tree Steward brochure, Community Tree Steward training manuals, and mailings to keep Stewards up-to-date about upcoming activities.

## **Tree Stewards Appointed for Official Positions in Communities**

As the Tree Steward program continues more volunteers are taking on leadership roles in their communities. The Stewards use the knowledge gained from the Tree Steward Program in their positions.

The following Tree Stewards serve on their local **Conservation Commission**:

- Michelle Champion, **Hudson**
- Barbara Flynn, **Somersworth**
- Herb Dalrymple, **Newmarket**
- Walter Ohlson, **Amherst**
- Anne Krantz, **Amherst**
- Faith Tobin, **Sanborton**
- Debbie Lievens, **Londonderry**
- Bruce Anderson, Tree Steward and Arborist, **Kingston**
- Jane Beaulieu, (chairperson) **Manchester**
- Katie Hughes, **Manchester**
- Kathleen Johnson, **Hollis**
- Lisa Morin, **Gilford**
- Cathy Hoffman, **Hollis**
- Gladys Nicoll, **Chester**
- Ruth Hedon, **Milford**
- Karen Mattor – **Merrimack**
- Jon Batson - **Farmington**

The following Tree Stewards do not currently hold positions on their Conservation Commission but worked with them on a variety of projects:

- Joan Pushee, **Amherst**
- Peggy Barter, **Amherst**
- Janice Kelleigh, **Amherst**
- Kareen Hamilton, **Lincoln**
- Barbara Worth, **Nashua**
- Jane Hemmingsen, **Hollis**

## **Official Positions in Communities:**

- Anna Boudreau, **Strafford County Extension Advisory Council and Dover Open Space Committee**
- Herb Dalrymple, **Newmarket Selectman and Conservation Commission**
- Robert Lewis, **Dover Open Space Committee Chairperson**
- Barbara Worth, **Nashua Urban Trails Alliance**
- Betsy MacDonald, **Exeter Park Advisory Committee**
- Frank Rice, **Rockingham County Land Trust**

- Faith Tobin, **Tree Warden, Sanborton**
- Mick Stevens, **Official Tree Steward, Middleton**
- Anne Krantz, **Amherst Earth Day Committee, and Amherst Garden Club, and Hillsborough County Advisory Committee for UNH Cooperative Extension**
- Chris Kane, **Concord Tree Volunteers, Concord Conservation Trust, and River Connections**
- Kevin Hanlon, Concord Tree Volunteers
- Linda Meserve, Concord Tree Volunteers
- Paul Ferguson, **Derry Pride Committee, Derry Strategic Planning Group, and NH Main Streets**
- Dee Dee O'Rourke, **Bedford Open Space Committee, and Joppa Hill Farm Overseer**
- Lynne Langley, **Portsmouth Citizen's Advisory Committee**
- Nancy Currier, **Defenders of Wildlife for the World Wildlife Federation**
- Marilyn Wallingford, **Hampton Shade Tree Commission**
- Bill Warren, **Portsmouth Neighborhood Association**
- Ruth Hedon, **Hillsborough County Advisory Committee for UNH Cooperative Extension**

### **Tree Stewards involved in Regional Land/Water Protection Groups**

**Cochecho River Watershed Coalition** - Jon Batson, Jennifer Fales, Chad LaPierre, Anna Boudreau

**Concord Land Trust** - Nancy Currier

**Moose Mountain Regional Greenways** - Jon Batson, Jennifer Fales –

### **Tree Stewards furthering their Education in the Environment**

Many Stewards have continued to further their education after joining the Stewards Program. Individual courses or workshops are not included here. Below are multi-session courses or workshops Stewards have attended:

Tree Stewards who have completed the **Master Gardener Course** and /or **Family Home and Garden Education Center** volunteer training:

Jon Batson  
 Gerry Tilley  
 Lynn Kuegal  
 Anne Krantz  
 Eleanor Dumont  
 Barbara Flynn  
 Joanie McPhee

Colleen Kershaw  
Joan Pushee

Tree Stewards who have completed the **Wildlife Coverts** or **Docent Programs**:

Anna Boudreau  
Gerry Tilley  
Danielle Hamm  
Mary Jane Sheldon  
Kathleen Johnson  
Brenda Bhatti

Tree Stewards who have completed the **Conservation Institute Environmental Advocacy Course**:

Nancy Currier  
Debbie Lievens

### **Tree Stewards who have Gained Careers in Related Fields**

After completing the Tree Steward Program, many Stewards have begun careers in fields relating to community forestry:

Paul Ferguson, **NH Main Streets Program**  
Jon Batson, **Landscape Clinic Somersworth**  
Holly Avery, **Landscape Clinic Somersworth**  
Chris Kane, Easement Stewardship Assistant for the **Society of the Protection of NH Forests**  
Karen Mattor, instructor of Environmental Science, **NH Technical Institute**  
Darla Cote, Secretary for the NH Community Forestry Council

## Summary

During FY 01, **sixty-nine New Hampshire Community Tree Stewards volunteered a grand total of 3152.25 hours.** Adding to the Tree Steward hours were two Americorp Members and two volunteer program assistants who volunteered a total of 180 hours, bring **the grand total to 3232.25.**

The greatest amounts of volunteer hours were recorded in the following categories:

<b>Community Landscaping Projects</b>	<b>690.0</b>
<b>Tree and Natural Resource Committee Work</b>	<b>557.0</b>
<b>Community Gardening</b>	<b>358.5</b>
<b>Adult Education</b>	<b>235.0</b>
<b>Land Conservation</b>	<b>215.0</b>
<b>Youth Education</b>	<b>192.0</b>
<b>Tree Steward Program Assistant</b>	<b>169.5</b>

Twenty Tree Steward volunteers participated in several community landscaping projects which had the highest total of volunteer hours. A new project in this category is Manchester's Millyard Landscape Revitalization Project, directed by a committee that includes property owners, businesses, and city officials. The committee received a \$20,000 grant to develop a master plan for a model landscape in a two-block area of the historic millyard. Twelve Tree Stewards spent time on tree or natural resource committee work including the Concord Tree Volunteers, which reached its goal of planting 2000 trees for the millennium.

In FY 01, NH Community Tree Stewards volunteered an **average of 46 hours in 44 New Hampshire cities and towns.** Many of the communities had several Tree Stewards who worked together on multiple projects.

Below are the yearly totals of volunteer hours since 1993 (FY 94):

FY 94	<b>2194.0</b> hours
FY 95	<b>3010.0</b> hours
FY 96	<b>3090.62</b> hours
FY 97	<b>3893.25</b> hours
FY 98	<b>1454.75</b> hours
FY 99	<b>1955.5</b> hours
FY 00	<b>2796.5</b> hours
FY 01	<b>3232.25</b> hours

In comparison to FY 00, volunteer hours increased in FY 01 as the focus was on project work. New volunteer training will continue in FY 02. FY 01 had the greatest number of Tree Steward hours in the program's history – 3152.25. Although FY 97 had a higher grand total, interns contributed 1605 hours to that total.

## Acknowledgments

Thank you to the New Hampshire Community Tree Stewards and Earth Team Volunteers for all their hard work and dedication to the Program.

Special thanks to our cooperating organizations and their staff for making the NH Community Tree Stewards Program a success.

From the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension

Valarie Dumont	Wendy Scribner
Karen Bennett	Cheryl Smith
Frank Mitchell	Sam Stoddard
Jonathan Nute	Ralph Winslow
Margaret Hagen	David Seavey
Dan Reidy	Donald Black
Phil Auger	Susan Bell
Steve Wood	John Pike
Ellen Snyder	Gerry Tilley
Robert Edmonds	Holly Young
Tim Fleury	Amy Waterstrat

From the NH Division of Forest and Lands

J.B. Cullen	Philip Bryce
Bud Jackson	AJ Dupere
Mary Reynolds	Charisse Baker

From the U. S. Forest Service

Dennis Souto	Kevin Smith
John Perry	David Bloniarz