

MAKING TRACKS

Volume 8 No. 3

The Newsletter of the New Hampshire Coverts Project

December 2004

Lions and Tigers and Bears, Oh My!

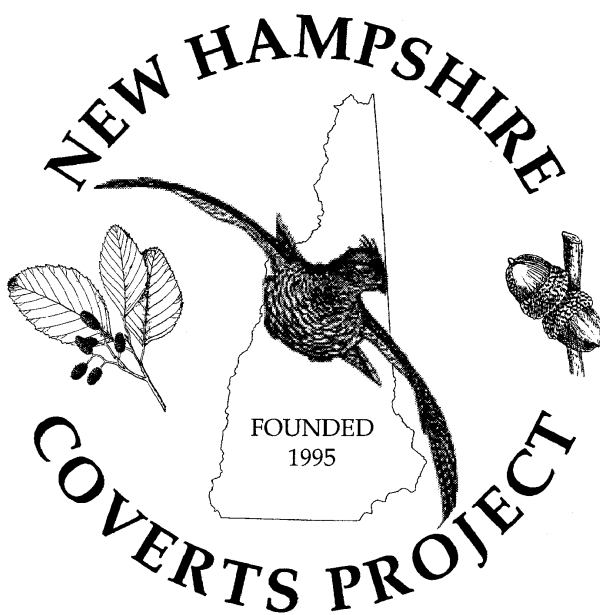
A Reflection on the Coverts Workshop

by Valerie Piedmont (CC04)

Most of the trees of my childhood either stood surrounded by pavement or were locked up in backyards. Wildlife in Schenectady, NY meant the pigeons that nested in attic windows and gathered for bread-crumbs in Veteran's Park.

I gained an appreciation of nature from my father, and this undoubtedly tempered some of the other influences affecting an American child of the fifties. The church held that the snake was the devil incarnate. Cartoons and movies showed that trees could be mean-spirited and uproot themselves if angered. Gorillas could be as big as a house, attracted to women and violently possessive. Fairytales dramatized hideous threats to children in a wilderness setting.

These common and socially-accepted messages characterized the natural world as a scary demonic place, needing to be harnessed and tamed. I have often wondered, could these outlandish notions be partly responsible for my generation's reckless treatment of our natural resources?



Extension Forester Matt Tarr discusses the importance of vernal pools.

forest management. How stunningly apropos to see bald eagles in flight at the Stokes' property—was that staged or what?!

Unscheduled time at the workshop was invaluable. My cabin mates quickly dispensed with chit-chat in favor of meaningful conversation. During our late-night gatherings and at the dining table, we shared the successes and struggles of our community conservation efforts, receiving helpful insights from each other.

At the close of the workshop, we brainstormed ways we could bring the Coverts Project message back to our communities. Some pledged to become members of conservation commissions in order to help bring about community-wide conservation policies. Others vowed to protect their land in perpetuity under conservation easements. For my own plan, I will use what I learned in my work as the director of the Sustainability Project, a non-profit environmental organization based in the Town of Gilsum (www.emersonbrookforest.org). Our organization is in its fifth year of creating a wheelchair-accessible outdoor education center in The Emerson Brook Forest. I came away from the Coverts training with many ideas for educational exhibits and family-oriented conservation activities for my local elementary school and for the emerging Emerson Brook center. Helping young people to become stewards of the environment is a powerful way to build wide-scale environmental advocacy.



Coverts Workshop Class of 2004. Back row l-r: Alan Johnson, David White, Vic Schmalzer, Greg Tillman, Ben Haubrich, Tara Shankar, Honey Hastings, Mark Goddard, Macgill James, Darrel Covell. Middle row l-r: Jeff Smith, Malin Clyde, Bill Taffe, Maggie Brox, Beth Earl, Valerie Piedmont, Samarjit Shankar. Front row l-r: Karen Bennett, Laura Bonk, Bob Boynton, Paul Carreiro, Nancy McGartland, Jenn Barton, Beth Edwards, Celeste Philbrick Barr, Melissa Hovey

Today, I feel that new ecological and environmental awareness is creating a culture that understands the interdependent web of life, the importance of pure water, clean air, nourishing foods, open lands, and the conservation of our natural resources. With these values in my own mind, I see the New Hampshire Coverts Project taking a strong role in promoting sound forest management practices in our state.

real-life scenarios that illustrated what can happen to biodiversity when the natural order of evolution is interrupted. Our visits to several woodlands demonstrated a variety of exemplary conservation efforts. Whether it was an environmental education center, early successional forest, hardwood timber lot, or bird sanctuary, they all reflected a conscious approach to



Working with maps

On September 8th, I was part of a group of twenty-three people to gather at Sargent Center in Hancock, N.H. for the 10th Annual Coverts Project training

session. We were home-steaders, conservation commissioners, lawyers, environmental educators, among others, who had demonstrated a commitment to the conservation of wildlife habitat in New Hampshire. Ours was a playful, free-speaking and open-minded group. What a dynamic learning experience! Together we explored a panoramic view of forests, their succession, and the wildlife that comes in the wake of a changing landscape.

I particularly enjoyed Audubon biologist Pam Hunt's presentation on biodiversity. She sharpened our investigative skills by presenting complex,

Local Land Trusts Staffed by Coverts Cooperators

The executive directors of three seacoast-area land trusts come from the ranks of trained Coverts Cooperators. All three have been appointed in the last year, including **Anna Boudreau** (CC95), Executive Director of Strafford Rivers Conservancy, **Joyce El Kouarti** (CC03), Executive Director of Moose Mountain Regional Greenways, and **Dan Kern** (CC02), Executive Director of Bear-Paw Regional Greenways.

Anna says of her new job, "I gained a tremendous amount of knowledge and assistance from the UNHCE educators over the years that I built on over the course of twelve years of Coverts and Community Tree Stewards volunteer service." Joyce says, "I've been with Moose Mountains for more than a year now, and it's very rewarding to be in a position to help inform others as I was informed [at the Coverts workshop]. Now I measure success not only in acres conserved, but also in converts made." Finally, Dan describes his path from banker to his new job with Bear-Paw: "In 2000, I moved back to New Hampshire and was amazed by the changes that had occurred since I had lived in the seacoast during my childhood. Many of the farms and forests were gone. I got involved with the Seacoast Land Trust board and the Coverts Project, but for me, volunteering didn't seem to be enough." Congratulations to all three!



Seacoast-area land trusts staffed by Coverts Cooperators (L-R): Anna Boudreau of Stafford Rivers Conservancy, Joyce El Kouarti of Moose Mountains Regional Greenways, and Dan Kern of Bear-Paw Regional Greenways.



Watching a 'brontosaurus' in action, creating early successional habitat at Powder Mill Pond Wildlife Management Area.

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John Adams (CC02) has completed a management plan for his 100-acre woodlot with the assistance of the FLEP cost-share program. He also writes, “As a member of the Seacoast Land Trust, I’ve been volunteering with the Great Bog Steering Committee, clearing trails, planting crab apple trees, and installing approximately 20 bird houses.”

Harmony Anderson (CC02) has been busy on her own land in Stafford, maintaining a new wildlife opening and planting apple trees (keeping them “safe from wildlife”!). She has also been serving on the Bear-Paw Regional Greenways board of directors, which this year saw completion of more than 100 acres of conservation easement projects. “I’m very excited to have as Bear-Paw colleagues fellow Coverts Cooperators **Betsy Kruse** (CC00) who is on the board, and **Dan Kern** (CC02), our new executive director.”

Bob Ball (CC03) writes, “I continue to be involved with water quality issues in Jefferson, including sampling of Cherry Pond at the Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge. We are particularly concerned about acid rain effects due to the low buffering capability. I also took fish samples at Cherry Pond (with **Dick Mallion**’s (CC99) help) which are being analyzed at DES for mercury levels. After doing thermal measurements on the Israel River over the summer, I presented the data at our Conservation Commission. Several critical areas were identified and I am working with landowners to apply for grant money to do some restoration work. I set up a public presentation in Jefferson from Mark Prout, a fish biologist from the National Forest, who discussed techniques for stream restoration. We are hoping to use some of the techniques on Israel River restoration projects.”

New Coverts volunteer **Celeste Philbrick Barr** (CC04) writes, “I set up the Coverts display and wildlife kits—fur and skull matching, tree ID, and the buzzer board—at the 24th Annual Beaver Brook Fall Festival. Over the course of two weekends, nearly 2000 people visited Maple Hill Farm. The lofts provided activities, crafts and information on New England wildlife and natural resources. Wingmaster’s program on ‘Birds of Prey’ and Squam Lakes Science Center’s program on New Hampshire wildlife attracted large audiences with their live animals. Beaver Brook Association owns 2000 acres of conservation land in Hollis, Brookline and Milford with over 35 miles of trails that are open to the public.”

Peter Beblowski (CC01) wrote in about last February’s program on wintering bald eagles, “That program was fabulous! It really got me fired up. I took a group of Girl Scouts out to the Merrimack River and told them about why the (Concord to Bedford) area was special to wintering eagles.”

James Blake (CC01) reports on his efforts focusing on invasive plants: “Our invasives removal effort on the Cheshire County Farm is most rewarding. I continue my invasive inventory work through IPANE with a survey of conservation sites in Walpole. I continue to serve on the Westmoreland Conservation Commission and am actively involved with a group that is working to protect valuable farmland from a county jail expansion plan. It appears that we will be successful but the issue is not yet closed. I continue to serve on the Sierra Club’s Monadnock Chapter executive committee and the Connecticut River Joint Committee. We are presently updating the Connecticut River Corridor Management Plan.”

Anna Boudreau (CC95) has been busy in her new role as Executive Director of the Strafford Rivers Conservancy, based in Dover (see related article). She also has been working on organizing the City of Dover’s Easement Monitoring Program over the past 9 months. “We have taken various workshops about monitoring, including one on how to monitor easements and keep good records and one on map and compass skills. We also received a small grant from the NH Estuaries Project to buy a camera and other materials, so now we are off and running.” Last but not least, Anna has been hard at work on a degree in Community Development at UNH. This fall, Anna was chosen to receive the UNH Student Community Leader of the Year award by her UNH colleagues and fellow students. Congratulations, Anna!

Cynthia Bruss (CC97) has been part of a citizen’s effort in the town of Springfield to protect the state-owned Gile Forest from possible encroachment by ATV recreation. Cynthia writes, “We have GPSed and mapped wetlands, vernal pools, historic foundations, and wildlife when encountered. I have attended untold numbers of meetings, hunted for information, met with people, and best of all, been out in the woods ever since the lack of snow allowed it. This was a bumper year for lady slippers!” Cynthia is happy to report DRED’s recent announcement that, for the time being the state will not investigate the Gile Forest for use by ATVs, though she states, “Our job isn’t done.”

Howard Cadwell (CC02) of Brentwood writes, “Many of us working on open space efforts saw things come together around several nice parcels, including a series of parcels along the Exeter River. The lands will protect the area around a municipal trail, protect riparian habitat, and protect the most valuable portion of the town’s high-flow gravel aquifer.”

Chuck & Laurel Cox (CC03) have been busy with conservation efforts in the town of Lee and with the formation of the Friends of Lee Open Space group to help fundraise for land protection. On their own land, they have updated their for-

est management plan with a wildlife consultant, worked on a nutrient management plan, planted fruit trees, harvested timber, and put in several new forest access roads. They also continue their efforts with the Oyster River Watershed Association.

Bob Craycraft (CC03), **Joyce El Kouarti** (CC03), and **Nancy Spencer Smith** (CC03) helped organize a Trail Day for Moose Mountains Regional Greenways. The day-long event combined kid-friendly activities with guided nature walks and workshops led by natural resource experts. Families that came for hayrides and pumpkin painting stayed to tour a working tree farm, get a first-hand look at wildlife that make their homes along the edge of the Salmon Falls River, and to learn about the history of farming in NH. The event also raised funds to support land conservation efforts by MMRG.

Marsha Downs (CC03) of Glencliff says, “I have had great fun researching and writing for the Northcountry News. Feedback has been growing all the time. People have called or written to us with positive things to say, or with questions brought up by an article. I also ended up with an article in Sawlog Bulletin after they heard I had done articles on the importance of logging. It’s great to know we are reaching people. The outreach of the newspaper is around 5,500 people and growing all the time. Discussing wildlife and forestry issues with people we meet that recognize our names from the article is very rewarding.” **Jean-Paul Downs** (CC03) sends news of management on their lands, “We’ve been creating wildlife habitat for deer and grouse through proper logging, releasing food source (mast) trees, and creating good early successional habitat. The most enjoyable thing is seeing wildlife actually using what has been created while I’m working—immediate gratification!”

Joyce El Kouarti (CC03) has helped organize a variety of conservation-focused events in Dover, including an educational booth at Apple Harvest Day and a workshop series on Winter Wildlife Tracking, Tree Identification, Vernal Pools, and Preserving Land through Open Space Subdivisions. Other projects include successfully applying for grant funds to conserve two high-priority farms in Dover. Joyce also helped revise the Dover Open Lands criteria for conservation projects by incorporating new wildlife habitat co-occurrence data mapped by NH Fish & Game.

Ann Eldridge (CC03) has been involved with fundraising to conserve additional acreage around the “Bradford Bog” area, a quaking bog with Atlantic white cedar. She has also written articles for the local paper and helped monitor amphibians and reptiles with NH Fish & Game’s Reptile and Amphibian Reporting Program (RAARP).



Pickerel frog

Bill Elliott (CC98) writes, “The Hancock Open Space Committee is about to complete our second annual Open Space and Nature Series, a lecture series that invites speakers to discuss issues regarding growth in New Hampshire, benefits of open space to wildlife, and how we can promote land conservation. We have had a good response from the public so far. I highly recommend this type of series to other communities. The cost has been minimal so far as most of our speakers have not charged a fee. As part of the recommendations of the Hancock Natural Resources Inventory completed last year, the Land Acquisition Committee, of which I am a member, has been meeting to discuss how to connect with landowners of high priority acreage in town.”

Betsy Hardwick (CC02) of Francestown writes, “My favorite activity has been to lead the elementary school children on after-school nature hikes. I’ve also been part of a land protection project that has enabled the Conservation Commission to acquire an additional 225 acres of town forest and to help in the easement protection of another 200+ acres in our town.”

Paula Gilman Hatem (CC03) of Gilmanton writes, “I held 2 meetings at my home on the benefits and options of conservation easements. Tom Howe from SPNHF and Gary Ambelas, an environmental consultant, are both residents of Gilmanton and did one presentation, and Five-Rivers Regional Land Trust did the second one. Both meetings were well attended and the information seems to have sparked an interest by landowners. Also, as a member of the Gilmanton Conservation Commission, we completed our first-ever natural resource inventory. It was a labor of love! **Nanci Mitchell** (CC02) is the chairwoman of the Commission and all the credit should go to her. We have had nothing but compliments on the NRI. The planning board has also offered to help defray part of the cost of the maps and printing. Hopefully, the NRI will be put on Gilmanton’s new website.”

Jim Hume (CC03) writes, “The Warner Conservation Commission has been very successful in acquiring lands, funds, and partners this past year, adding 400+ acres into easements, and an additional \$50,000 added to the Con. Comm. budget at town meeting. I recently added a 100-acre easement monitoring project with the Ausbon-Sargent Land

Preservation Trust to establish boundaries and do wildlife surveys.”

Jon Godfrey (CC03) of Candia has worked to successfully fund a new recreation / conservation area that was formally used as a campground. The de-development of this land was funded by both the town and a federal Land & Water Conservation Fund grant, which Jon helped write. He has also been active in the new Candia Open Space Committee, and has been working with a local school to incorporate use of the new (neighboring) conservation area into the curriculum.

Dennis Huber (CC97) sent in great news about the Phillips Exeter Academy lands in Exeter: The Academy was chosen to receive the NH Tree Farm of the Year Award! We’ll look forward to a great tour next fall at the Tree Farm Field Day. Congratulations, Dennis, for your many years of habitat and forestry work on the Academy lands.

Ginger Janenga (CC99) and **Dick Mallion** (CC99) continue to maintain the East Colebrook trail which they built several years ago. In a snow storm on November 9, they did the final clearing of brush for the year so that the trail will be easy to use on cross country skis or snowshoes this winter. Ginger says, “Dick was up here today... and we saw some coyote tracks at the edge of the woods. I also see deer, moose and fox on a fairly regular basis. I know bears are around because in the spring they empty all of our bird feeders! One morning this summer I went out to sit on my porch and looked out at the road and there was a fox - just trotting down the road like any of the rest of us when we go for a walk.”

While enrolled as a full-time graduate student at Antioch New England Graduate School, **Kathleen Kerivan** (CC96) is also working on a wildlife and forestry management plan for her 90 acres in Colebrook. She had an internship this past summer at the Bronx Zoo, doing research on exhibits and design, including public interviews about peoples’ attitudes about wildlife.

Dan Kern (CC02) of Greenland writes in, “Our town just started up a committee to begin working with our \$2 million conservation bond, approved by voters in March. We have a group of residents and town officials to help guide the process. I was elected to the Board of Selectmen in March and I am also heading up the bond effort. I also began as Bear-Paw Regional Greenways’ new Executive Director in October. I look forward to working with all of the towns in our area (Candia, Deerfield, Epsom, Northwood, Nottingham, Raymond, and Strafford).”

Ken Knowlton (CC03) writes, “We are fighting the good fight in Belmont to preserve green space in various ways: education of citizens and town officials, working with various groups (NH Audubon, National Parks, UNH Seniors’ Project, NH Fish & Game) and working to put forward a conservation bond to purchase land and development rights of important parcels in town. It is a long, sometimes discouraging and sometimes rewarding process. But we are making progress.”

Elise Lawson (CC98) of Bethlehem writes that she finds her work on wildlife habitat planning for the 10,000-acre Randolph Community Forest to be a most rewarding effort. “And even though it is only to a small number of people, I also really enjoy talking one-on-one with friends and neighbors about wildlife habitat enhancements.”

Judi Lindsey (CC01) sends news from Candia, “I had a teacher from Massachusetts come with her students to take a tour of my land and learn about beavers. I showed them the lodge and dam and beaver-chewed trees. The teacher did a few other lessons with them. That was a lot of fun! Also, with our local open space committee, we talked with townspeople in small, intimate home-based meetings about conservation easements. Also, this summer I identified one rare plant for the Plant Conservation Volunteer group.”

Lisa Linowes (CC03) of Windham wrote to report on the completion of a successful effort to conserve three parcels totaling 275 acres. The lands represent mitigation for the impacts of the I-93 widening project. The three parcels had been targeted for development and are contiguous to other town conservation land. “The goal is to have as large a wildlife corridor and natural space as possible that would never be developed,” says Lisa, who is vice chair of the Windham Conservation Commission.

Dick Mallion (CC99) has been appointed as chair of the Conservation Committee of the NH chapter of The Nature Conservancy. The committee reviews all acquisition and land management proposals which the chapter is considering, does analyses, and presents recommendations to the full Board of Trustees or the Executive Committee (Dick is a member of both).

Nigel Manley (CC96) of The Rocks in Bethlehem writes, “I think that one of the most rewarding programs that I am involved with is bus tours for people from the US and the UK. The visitors from the UK are fascinated with the conservation programs that we have in NH. I discuss the Society for the Protection of NH Forests with them, and the concepts of managing land for recreation and wildlife habitat. They have similar programs which are just starting over there and they are very willing to share ideas. I am from the UK originally and it is with a great sense of pride that I explain some of the wildlife success stories to these people who—all too often—hear about the US clear-cutting forests and shooting

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indiscriminately everything that moves. This year we have had 800 people to the presentations on buses alone.”

Michael Mayor (CC96) of Hanover volunteered to participate in the Appalachian Trail “Keeping Track” wildlife census program. He writes, “I spent all day on October 17 trekking around the 275-acre Wolfrun preserve in Jericho, Vermont, under the able tutelage of Susan Morse. A group of a dozen of us clambered up and slithered down and slogged through a bushwhack to learn about animal sign and behavior. We inspected moose scrapes on striped maple trunks, bear claw marks on beech and serviceberry trees, otter whorls with scat in the center and scent marks, made fresh by blowing warm breath on the trunks of hemlock rubs...The program will send volunteers into the winter woods along the AT to seek out signs of wildlife to expand what we know about the creatures we share our land with. The program is being coordinated locally by Matt Stevens of the AT Conference here in Lyme. You can contact him at mstevens@appalachiantrail.org for more information.”

Nanci Mitchell (CC02) writes, “After four years, the Gilmanton natural resources inventory is in final draft form. This is a major accomplishment for me as I assumed responsibility for this project following unexpected changes in the Commission membership.” In addition, management plans are nearly complete for two town forest parcels, and Nanci and her husband received a FLEP grant to develop a management plan for their 300-plus acres. Finally, writes Nanci, “I am trying to educate the public by speaking out more at public meetings such as planning board hearings, master plan public input sessions, and board of selectmen meetings since the public has not been coming to educational programs.”

Joy Nalevanko (CC01) has had a busy year in her community of Alstead. She has helped with an Arbor Day celebration, a town-wide clean up on Earth Day, and organized a wetlands workshop for residents called “Got Wetlands?” to help answer questions about permitting and avoiding violations. She also helped staff a conservation commission booth at the Alstead Town Festival and is leading the effort to monitor conservation easements for the town.

As Vice Chair of the Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee, **Kathryn Nelson** (CC00) has been helping to reactivate and boost the activities of the group. She’s been working to attract media attention to the river through local walks and boat trips, and will be presenting a river corridor plan outline to local planning boards. She writes, “Reading the Coverts newsletter inspires me to keep going. The forest management perspective helps me with our conservation commission which tends to be timber-adverse.”

Sheldon Pennoyer (CC02) of Greenfield writes, “I have been working with a developer to permanently conserve a 26-acre parcel that contains wetlands and streams. This area will be connected to other conservation land with a trail network for public use. Seeing that this land was doomed

for many lots, I felt like it was important to communicate and work with the developer to protect the land.”

William Pinney (CC96) owns land in Sugar Hill, but spends much of his time in Dartmouth, Massachusetts, of which he writes, “I’ve been working on long-range conservation plans for land preservation in Dartmouth. We have over 3,000 acres of conserved land, with 180 acres added in the last year. I know it isn’t New Hampshire, but the NH Coverts Project has helped and inspired me in so many ways.”

Dick Rush (CC01) has moved with his family from their farm in Dalton to Concord. While he has cut back his vigorous involvement with Dalton’s conservation commission, he will maintain an advisory role until the now-in-progress natural resource inventory and master plan revision are finished. Lucky for Concord to be the new beneficiary of Dick’s enthusiasm and natural resource knowledge!

Linda Seager (CC02) writes, “In July we had a timber harvest for our firewood - one weekend and three busy men, then weeks of cutting, splitting and stacking ready for our outdoor furnace. Fifteen cords. During the night the deer came out to inspect the day’s work. Footprints tell the story. This year the deer ate all kinds of ‘stuff’ they had never touched before. Hollyhock, roses, potato plants, tomatoes and plant leaves and on and on. They certainly were busy as we slept but we do delight in seeing them when they come around. Also, late one afternoon a northern goshawk captured a crow, much to the chagrin of its two family members, not to mention the poor captured crow. This took place in full view from the living room window. That hawk diligently worked on the crow for 24 hours. Survival of the fittest I guess. Maybe at our tree farm tour on April 16 that Northern Goshawk will give our walking tour a visit (see Upcoming Events).”

Andy Stowell (CC98) has been spending almost all of his free time out with his children on his own land in Barnstead. He writes, “I am attempting to pass on an understanding of and a feel for conservation to the next generation. Although the groups are small, my hope is the effect will be large. I am very proud of this activity.”

Tanya Tellman (CC95) writes, “**Dave** (CC96) and I often follow up with individuals who have personal questions for presenters on field trips and at workshops (for example, on Tree Farm Field Day at Sam Doyle’s place this year). We have realized that sometimes the presenter does not have time to go into a long in-depth discussion on individual issues. Hopefully this helps both the individual and the presenter.”

Tom Thompson (CC95) was asked by President Bush to chair the NH Coalition for Sportsmen, Forestry and Conservation, and Undersecretary of Agriculture Mark Rey visited the Thompson’s tree farm in Orford. This year, Tom was also awarded the first-ever Landowner Appreciation Award from the NH Trails Bureau. Congratulations, Tom!

Lawrence Underhill (CC02) took a group of Concord seniors on a hike up the AMC Rattles River trail in Shelbourne. “Some had never been out and some were over 80 years old. All had a great time. We found lady slippers and jack-in-the-pulpit, and did tree and fern ID. It really felt great to introduce these folks to the natural world.”

Michelle Veasey (CC03) writes about her work on the Atkinsonn Conservation Commission. “We have been busy on two fronts. Our chairman, **Scott Kukshel** (CC00) has been rewriting our Wetland Protection ordinance and shepherding it through the review process. We hope to have the new ordinance appear on the March ’05 ballot. Secondly, we’ve been busy maintaining and cutting new trails on two conservation parcels in preparation for the publication of a trails brochure in the spring. The brochure is funded by a NH Moose Plate grant. We hope to get more of our community out enjoying the trails we have!”

Francie Von Mertens (CC99) organized the annual workday at Fremont Fields in Peterborough. “Thanks to consulting help from a Coverts workshop field visit in 2003, mowing of the conservation area now follows a ‘refugia’ concept—mowing one-third of the fields each year late in the fall. Any harm from mowing to overwintering insects and other creatures is limited to one-third of the area while the other two-thirds remain undisturbed. While mowing, we skirt clumps of alder, willow and a few white pines in order to add to the diversity. A scrubby buffer between field and beaver pond is left intact, with hand-cutting of any colonizing white pines. The usual campaign against autumn olive, bittersweet, Japanese barberry and the fairly recent appearance of burning bush continues.”

Bobbi Jean Weiler (CC01) has been working with other members of her family to think collectively about their family land in Newport. She has been sharing information about effective ways to protect and enhance their forestland, and has spearheaded several stewardship projects including updating their forest management plan, tree and shrub plantings, and removal of invasive plant species.

Jan Woodbury (CC98) of Amherst reports on a recent success: “I wrote two grants to fund a first-ever ‘Nature Spooktacular.’ Peabody Mill Environmental Center got science teachers in the district to staff booths on least-loved and misunderstood creatures. This event was a year in the planning, but was well worth the work! We had booths on spiders, bats, snakes, slugs, creatures of the compost pile, cockroaches, and the fisher. We used many stuffed creatures and props from the nature center, complimented by many live specimens obtained from all over the place...All the presenters and many of the attendees were in costume. We plan to do this again next year with the same theme, but feature different unlovable creatures. Anyone is welcome to attend!”

WORKSHOP REVIEW

Natural Resource Writers Seek to “Mine the Ore”

by Barbara Fales (CC98)

Coverts Cooperators and other Extension volunteers who enjoy writing attended an introductory workshop Tuesday, October 12th, to form a writers’ collaborative. The new initiative will enable Extension volunteers to share technical and practical information and their love of New Hampshire’s natural environment with the general public.

In the coming months, writers will submit articles for publication. Extension Writer/Editor Peg Boyles offered important tips to participants for improving their writing and editing skills, starting with a technique called “freewriting,” used to initially transfer thoughts and ideas from the mind to paper. “Mining the ore” was how Peg described the process of refining those initial thoughts and developing shorter, more concise stories. After writing their drafts, writers will submit their work to Peg for final editing and technical review by Extension specialists. The goal is to create a library of articles about New Hampshire natural resource topics. The stories will be published in a weekly column distributed to media outlets statewide. If you are interested in joining the collaborative (more trainings are in the works), contact Peg Boyles at peg.boyles@unh.edu or call 603-796-2152.

Coverts Cooperators Flock to Doyle Farm for Tree Farm Field Day

by Beth Edwards (CC04)



photo credit: Tanya Tellman
Coverts Cooperators who attended Tree Farm Field Day at Sam Doyle’s Tree Farm Sept. 25, 2004. Back row, l-r: Dick Ridgeway, Bruce Schwaegler, Sam Doyle, David Grobe, Jacob Friis, Tom Thomson, Dave Tellman, Ellen Snyder, John Doyle. Front row, l-r: Tanya Tellman, Ben Kilham, Andy Powell, Beth Edwards, Mark Goddard, Ruth Schenck.

On Saturday, September 25, the 15th Annual NH Tree Farm Field Day was hosted by Coverts Cooperator **Sam Doyle** (CC95) at his family’s Huntington Hill Tree Farm in Hanover. Over 250 people toured their property to see the forestry and wildlife habitat work that the Doyles have performed over the years. We enjoyed an early-morning bird walk, visited many exhibits, toured forestry projects, viewed horse and oxen logging in action, and witnessed a portable sawmill convert the downed logs into boards. Coverts Cooperator Jacob Friis (CC97) was quoted by the Valley News about the event: “I think

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RESOURCES

A Landowner’s Guide to Inventorying and Monitoring Wildlife in NH

by Malin Ely Clyde with Darrel Covell & Matt Tarr



as well as insects, along with contact information for wildlife monitoring programs where you can contribute to larger studies of wildlife populations. To order, send a \$10 check (payable to UNH Cooperative Extension) to: UNHCE, Forestry Information Center, 214 Nesmith Hall, 131 Main St., Durham, NH 03824.

Natural Communities of New Hampshire

by Daniel D. Sperduto and William F. Nichols



The New Hampshire Natural Heritage Bureau has just published a new 230-page book describing 192 different types of natural communities in New Hampshire. It also includes an overview of important physical features and natural divisions of New Hampshire. “This comprehensive manual represents the culmination of fifteen years of natural community classification work in New Hampshire,” says co-author Dan Sperduto. Copies of the book are being sent to all of New Hampshire’s public libraries. It is also available online at the NH Natural Heritage Bureau’s website: <http://www.nhdf.org/formgt/nhiweb/>. To order a hard copy, send a \$20 check (payable to UNH Cooperative Extension) to: UNHCE, Forestry Information Center, 214 Nesmith Hall, 131 Main St., Durham, NH 03824.

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UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

“Making Tracks” is the newsletter of the Cooperators of the New Hampshire Coverts Project. The Coverts Project is a special volunteer education and outreach program that promotes wildlife habitat conservation and forest stewardship. Its goal is to increase the amount of New Hampshire’s private and public lands that are managed with good stewardship practices. The efforts of these volunteers are shared through this publication. For more information, please contact Malin Ely Clyde, Coordinator, NH Coverts Project, UNH Cooperative Extension, 131 Main Street, 214 Nesmith Hall, Durham, NH 03824 (603-862-2166).

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UPCOMING EVENTS

NH Farm and Forest Expo: “NH Farms & Forests...Your Backyard”
Friday February 4, 2005 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. and
Saturday, February 5, 2005 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Center of NH-Radisson Hotel (formerly Holiday Inn), Manchester, NH
The Coverts Project will sponsor a booth at the Farm & Forest Expo again this year. We will need help from Coverts volunteers to staff the booth during the Expo. Please call or email Malin if you can help (862-2166 or email: malin.clyde@unh.edu).

Invasive Plants: Moving Forward
Friday, February 4, 2005 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Salon A
Farm & Forest Expo, Manchester, NH (see above)

Co-sponsored by the NH Coverts Project, this workshop is designed for anyone who is interested in controlling the spread of invasive plants and conserving native plants in New Hampshire. Topics will include ID, effects on wildlife, and work being done in NH to detect and manage invasive plants. We will also hear about a new book showcasing examples of NH-hardy plantings that offer alternatives to using invasive plants in landscaping. Finally, we will present potential funding sources for dealing with invasive plant problems, along with a portrait of what the ecological future may look like in New Hampshire. Workshop sponsored by the Community Forestry Advisory Council. Please contact Donna Haskins, at the Div. of Forests and Lands at 431-6774 to pre-register.

SAVE THE DATE

Inventorying and Monitoring Wildlife on Your Land
Saturday, April 9 (time TBA – look for a mailing in late winter)
Harris Center for Conservation Education, Hancock, NH
This workshop, similar to a recent workshop series held this fall, will introduce you to a new reference that will help you to better know and understand the wildlife on your land. “A Landowner’s Guide to Inventorying and Monitoring Wildlife in NH” is a how-to guide to wildlife observation, habitat mapping, inventory methods, and wildlife monitoring programs in the state (see “Resources”). We are offering this workshop in the spring to be able to showcase inventory techniques that take advantage of this time of year and the unique outdoor habitats available near the Harris Center.

Tree Farm Tour: Bird Identification and Habitat Management
Saturday, April 16, 2005, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Ken & Dorothy Marvell Tree Farm, Route 13, New Boston, NH
Join UNH Cooperative Extension Wildlife Specialist Darrel Covell and Extension Forester Jon Nute for our annual easy walking tour of this award winning Tree Farm. The field, forest and wetland habitats of this 145-acre property are home to a wide variety of birds throughout the year. Learn to identify birds by sight and song and learn of their habitat needs and how you can help them. Tour will be held rain or shine. For information, call (603) 641-6060.

THE LAST WORD

Conservation of Moose River Successful

You may have followed the efforts of Coverts Cooperator Bob Potter (CC00) and his wife Roberta Arbree to protect parts of the Moose River Valley (*Making Tracks* 2/04). It is with great pleasure that we report on the project’s successful outcome.

“It took almost five years from start to finish,” says Bob of the conservation project. He and Roberta worked closely with The Trust for Public Land and NH Fish & Game to protect 245 acres of wetlands and wildlife habitat in Randolph. Potter and Arbree’s land also contains one of the rarest types of archaeological sites in New Hampshire—the remains of an 11,000-year old hunting camp. Funding for the project came from a variety of sources, including NH Fish & Game (who will also hold the easement on the land), the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program, and the Randolph Community Foundation.

“Roberta and I are hugely pleased that we have been able to make this contribution to the preservation of wildlife habitat in the Moose River Valley corridor,” says Bob. “This unique property, along with the Paleo-Indian site, will be protected forever against any damaging incursions. While we technically hold the title to this land, the truth is that this site and the artifacts found on it belong to everyone, and we are simply the guardians.”



Bob Potter at an event held October 6, 2004 to celebrate Moose River Valley conservation.

Cooperators Flock to Doyle Farm

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it’s a great place because they’ve been able to have the long view for the forest and (they’ve) made it accessible for the public.”

Mark Goddard and Beth Edwards, both 2004 graduates of the Coverts Project training workshop, got a start on their Coverts volunteer hours by staffing the Coverts display exhibit in between demonstrations and tours of the farm. Beth says, “this event was a wonderful example of the Coverts principles at work.”