

New Hampshire Coverts Cooperators: In Their Own Words

Supporting Conservation, Engaging Community

"When I organized the senior hike last November, I had no idea that this group would be so fascinated with everything we saw and heard, an owl pellet, deer poop, and even bear scat! We continued our hikes on other trails; that we continue to this day to hike at least once a month if not more is just fabulous. Our varying interests and the trails in town (Sanbornton) that are available, keep us going continuously and I've been able to talk with a couple people about conserving their land. That's just so exciting."
-Coverts Volunteer, 2013



Habitat Management

"We are honored to be owners of [our] Tree Farm in New Boston also land in Hollis, enjoying and maintaining the properties as best we can with the help of our forester. This past year we have harvested 15 acres of hay land and 30 acres of forest."

- Coverts Volunteer, 2013

Community Conservation

"The most rewarding experience was the placement of a conservation easement on a local property. Culmination of several years of effort. In a way it also pointed up the need for increased community education in the benefit of conservation lands."

- Coverts Volunteer, 2013



Stewardship Ethic

"The experience of the workshop has transformed how we think about our land and has had a lasting impact. It has helped us be aware and institute best practices in maintaining our land, i.e. eliminating invasive plants, creating habitats, etc."

- Coverts Volunteer, 2013



The New Hampshire Coverts Project Volunteers Working for Wildlife

Our Mission:

To train volunteers to promote wildlife habitat conservation and forest stewardship;

And through this volunteer outreach:

- To enhance, restore, and conserve habitat for the rich diversity of native wildlife in New Hampshire.
- To increase the amount of New Hampshire's public and private land managed with a stewardship ethic.

Coverts Staff 2013, UNH Cooperative Extension:

- **Malin Ely Clyde**, Coordinator,
- **Matt Tarr**, Assistant Extension Professor,
- **Emma Carcagno**, Wildlife Program Assistant, (Fill-in Coordinator, Jan – June 2013)
- **Haley Andreozzi**, Coordinator for Coverts Project as of Feb 2014



New Hampshire Coverts Project Program Highlights - 2013

Prepared by Haley Andreozzi, UNH Cooperative Extension



Volunteer Service - 2013

- **350 active Coverts volunteers** are currently working in 160+ different NH communities.
- In 2013, Coverts Cooperators contributed **20,936 volunteer hours** on behalf of forest stewardship or wildlife habitat issues in their communities, **valued at over \$450,000**.
- Coverts volunteers currently own or manage over 125,000 acres in NH.
- Coverts Cooperators **worked to conserve over 13,000 acres** in New Hampshire in 2013.
- Coverts volunteers **reached out to over 17,000 people** with a message of sound forest stewardship and wildlife conservation.
- Coverts volunteers manage thousands of acres of land specifically for wildlife each year:

Coverts Habitat Management 2013 (# acres managed, by habitat type)

Resource Inventory	4,533 ac.
Timber Stand Improvement	853 ac.
Grasslands/Old Fields Mgmt.	709 ac.
Hardwood Management	512 ac.
Early Successional Management	415 ac.
Wetland Enhancement	382 ac.
Softwood Management	104 ac.

- The *Speaking for Wildlife* program involved over 140 Coverts Project volunteers (and other interested volunteers) in conducting wildlife-themed presentations and leading nature walks on conservation lands statewide. 2013 impacts from this group of volunteer include:
 - Volunteers delivered 42 public talks reaching 747 people in their audiences
 - Volunteers led 23 field walks, with over 262 participants

Coverts Volunteer Service Since 1999 - Cumulative Impacts -

- Since 1999 (the first year data is available), Coverts volunteers have contributed over **216,540 hours of service** on behalf of wildlife and stewardship to the State of New Hampshire. This service has an estimated **value of \$4.4 million** (rate adjusted by year, using www.independentsector.org).
- Since 1999, volunteers have managed thousands of acres of land specifically for wildlife habitat:
 - **12,304 acres of grasslands** & old fields have been kept open
 - **9,447 acres of early successional habitat** have been created or maintained
 - **8,051 acres managed to enhance softwood habitats** for snowshoe hare, deer, etc.
- Since 1999, Coverts volunteers have reached over **400,816 people** through outreach efforts
- Since 1999, Coverts volunteers have worked to permanently conserve over **280,857 acres** of land.

Program Accomplishments 2013

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- Organized the 19th annual Coverts Training Workshop in Greenfield, NH. Trained 21 new Coverts Cooperators from 16 different communities.
- Posted over 52 different updates to the Coverts Blog, also emailing volunteers with new information. Blog: <http://extension.unh.edu/Article-Categories/Coverts/>
- Promoted Coverts participation in hundreds of volunteer opportunities statewide.
- Expanded the "Speaking for Wildlife" volunteer speakers bureau program. Trained 10 new volunteers who delivered over 42 talks and led 23 field trips statewide, reaching over 1,000 people.
- Created new Facebook Group for NH Coverts volunteers
- Involved Coverts volunteers in stakeholder meetings for the Stewardship Network: New England initiative.



Looking Ahead to 2014



- Continue to encourage and train Coverts volunteers to participate in the *Speaking for Wildlife* program, giving more talks and leading more walks
- Train 25 new volunteers at 2014 Coverts Workshop, scheduled for May 7-10 in Greenfield, NH.
- Convene Coverts Advisory Committee in Fall 2014
- Work to improve volunteer opportunities for Coverts volunteers through *The Stewardship Network: New England* initiative.