**New Hampshire Coverts Cooperators: In Their Own Words**

**Invasive Plant Work**
"I lead a summer camp program where we spent several days removing invasive autumn olive on the perimeter of grassland. Provided education to students on importance of shrubland/grassland and its role in habitat diversity. Lead a timber plan walk on town forest land with Conservation Commission members so that new members were aware of the plan/goals/timeline and in preparation for 2013 outreach activities."
- Coverts Volunteer, 2012

**Habitat Management**
"We are just about to purchase an additional 191 acres. We will be doing a forest plan, wildlife and ecological inventory and eventually timber harvest only as it relates to creating/enhancing wildlife habitat. We will soon be managing a 10-acre meadow/field for butterflies, woodcock, and bobolinks (maybe meadowlark if large enough)"
- Coverts Volunteer, 2012

**Community Conservation Volunteers**
"[This year, I’m most proud of] becoming an active member of the Conservation Commission and working on the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI). I feel that being involved with the Coverts Project has been very beneficial in understanding what is required, and providing input into the inventory. This also provided excellent background for my involvement with the Hazard Mitigation Plan, which includes planning for natural events (fire/flood/storm)."
- Coverts Volunteer, 2012

**Sponsoring Community Gardens & Habitats**
"This year, we placed a conservation easement on a 6-acre parcel I own on which I started a Community Garden 10 years ago. 24 plots with lots of room for expansion...I maintain the non-garden portion for milkweed, mowing one-third in late June to ensure young milkweed in September. It’s where elementary school teachers come to get their monarch caterpillars. Many wild crabapples at field perimeter that I released. Loaded w. fruits this year despite a lousy year for wild apples."
- Coverts Volunteer, 2012

**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:**
Malin Ely Clyde, Coordinator, UNH Cooperative Extension
Matt Tarr, Assistant Extension Professor, UNH Cooperative Extension
Wildlife Specialist
Emma Carcagno, Wildlife Program Assistant, UNH Cooperative Extension

**New Hampshire Coverts Project Program Highlights - 2012**
Prepared by Malin Ely Clyde, UNH Cooperative Extension
Volunteer Service - 2012

- 329 active Coverts volunteers are currently working in 135+ different NH communities.
- In 2012, Coverts Cooperators contributed 29,583 volunteer hours on behalf of forest stewardship or wildlife habitat issues in their communities, valued at over $640,000.
- Coverts volunteers currently own or manage over 140,000 acres in NH.
- Coverts Cooperators worked to conserve over 12,000 acres in New Hampshire in 2012.
- Coverts volunteers reached out to over 25,000 people with a message of sound forest stewardship and wildlife conservation.
- Coverts volunteers manage thousands of acres of land specifically for wildlife each year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coverts Habitat Management 2012 (# acres managed, by habitat type)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resource Inventory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Timber Stand Improvement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grasslands/Old Fields Mgmt.</td>
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<td>Hardwood Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early Successional Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wetland Enhancement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Softwood Management</td>
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</tbody>
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- The Speaking for Wildlife program involved over 100 Coverts Project volunteers (and other interested volunteers) in conducting wildlife-themed presentations and leading nature walks on conservation lands statewide. 2012 impacts from this group of volunteer include:
  - Volunteers delivered 44 public talks reaching 1,412 people in their audiences
  - Volunteers led 31 field walks, with over 397 participants

Program Accomplishments 2012

- Organized the 18th annual Coverts Training Workshop in Greenfield, NH. Trained 22 new Coverts Cooperators from 22 different communities.
- Posted over 133 different updates to the Coverts Blog, also emailing volunteers with new information. Blog: [http://extension.unh.edu/blogs/volunteers_working_for_wildlife/](http://extension.unh.edu/blogs/volunteers_working_for_wildlife/)
- Promoted Coverts participation in hundreds of and volunteer opportunities statewide.
- Expanded the “Speaking for Wildlife” volunteer speakers bureau program. Trained over 100 new volunteers who delivered over 44 talks and led 31 field trips statewide, reaching over 1,500 people.
- Published complete new edition of 12 Habitat Stewardship Brochures.
- Involved Coverts volunteers in “Taking Action for Wildlife” community outreach efforts.
- Began new “Stewardship Network” initiative to better match Coverts volunteers with conservation volunteer opportunities.

Looking Ahead to 2013

- 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 2013 Coverts Workshop, scheduled for mid-Sept. in Greenfield, NH.
- Convene Coverts Advisory Committee at Farm & Forest Expo 2013

Coverts Volunteer Service Since 1999 - Cumulative Impacts -

- Since 1999 (the first year data is available), Coverts volunteers have contributed over 195,610 hours of service on behalf of wildlife and stewardship to the State of New Hampshire. This service has an estimated value of $3.3 million (rate adjusted by year, using [www.independentsector.org](http://www.independentsector.org)).
- Since 1999, volunteers have managed thousands of acres of land specifically for wildlife habitat:
  - 11,595 acres of grasslands & old fields have been kept open
  - 9,065 acres of early successional habitat have been created or maintained
  - 7,947 acres managed to enhance softwood habitats for snowshoe hare, deer, etc.
- Since 1999, Coverts volunteers have reached over 383,739 people through outreach efforts
- Since 1999, Coverts volunteers have worked to permanently conserve over 267,650 acres of land.

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