

Progress Report

We're half way through another year and we are happy to report these highlights of our progress:

Organization. We have added 3 new directors from Gardner, Lunenburg and Fitchburg, increasing the size of our Board to 10 Directors.

Stewardship. We have been working with the Stewardship Committee on plans and programs for the *Crocker Conservation Area* in Fitchburg, including: a Forest Stewardship Plan, field work with Applewild School's Ecology Class, a Boy Scout Eagle Project and even a cable TV program. Stay tuned!

Land Protection. Our primary focus has been the *Northern Midstate Trail Project*, working in partnership with the state, municipal officials and other conservation organizations to protect large tracts of land in the trail corridor in Princeton, Westminster and Ashburnham. We are preparing to apply to the federal Forest Legacy Program for funds to purchase conservation restrictions on approximately 1200 acres of private land in these towns.

In Gardner, we are in the final stages of negotiation with a developer to accept the donation of 60 acres of conservation land on Bailey Brook, with a physical connection to our 175 acre *Rome Conservation Area*. Our proposal includes a stewardship fund to which the Homeowners Association will contribute fees and a management committee which includes homeowners.

Did you know?

North County Land Trust is looking for **VOLUNTEERS** who would like to work on our conservation areas in Fitchburg and Gardner. If you enjoy being outside and would like to help with trail building and maintenance, or monitoring of a conservation area, please contact us.

Annual Meeting

Snow was forecast and it did not disappoint, starting just before our Annual Meeting on February 10, 2005 at the Doyle Conservation Center in Leominster. The snowstorm reduced our numbers but not our enthusiasm for the night's activities.

We started with refreshments and socializing in the spacious lobby of the Doyle Center. This was followed by a tour of the building, which has won a gold standard green building award. After visiting everything from the toilet composting area to the beautiful atrium, we repaired to a conference room for our business meeting.

Following the introduction of the board and its officers, President, Bill Marshall gave a brief talk about the important reasons why we do conservation work. This was followed by an interesting presentation about native wildlife by Marion Larson, a biologist with the state Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Marion talked about her experiences with wildlife such as deer, bear and moose, both as a conservationist and as a hunter. Her enthusiasm helped us to gain new appreciation for our mission and those who share it.

Membership Makes a Difference!

North County Land Trust depends on membership dues and contributions to fund our operating budget, stewardship of our conservation areas and our land protection work. Please take a moment to make a contribution and join us in the important work we do.

- | | | |
|--|---------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$1,000 | Name: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$ 500 | Address: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor | \$ 250 | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining member | \$ 150 | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting member | \$ 100 | Tel. _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend/Family | \$ 50 | E-mail _____ |

Please mail your contribution to
 North County Land Trust, Inc., PO Box 2052, Fitchburg, MA 01420
 For more information please call Janet Morrison, Director of Land Protection (978) 342-0174

North County Land Trust, Inc.
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PO Box 2052
Fitchburg, MA 01420

Greenprint



NEWS of the North County Land Trust

Summer 2005



Our Mission ...

Is to protect the land and water resources of north central Massachusetts, by preserving the farms, forests and landscapes that define the character of our region.