

**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.

Benefactor	\$ 1,000	Name: _____
Patron	\$ 500	Address: _____
Sponsor	\$ 250	_____
Sustaining member	\$ 150	_____
Supporting member	\$ 100	Tel. _____
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Please mail your contribution to  
North County Land Trust, Inc., PO Box 2052, Fitchburg, MA 01420

For more information please contact:

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**NORTH COUNTY  
Land Trust, Inc.**



PO Box 2052  
Fitchburg, MA 01420

# Greenprint

## NEWS of the North County Land Trust

**Fall 2007**



Jewell Hill, Ashburnham

### **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.**

## Pending Land Conservation Projects

### **Fitchburg Reservoir Project**

NCLT has written two water supply protection grants to conserve private land in the Fitchburg water supply watershed. The land is located in Ashby and Ashburnham and includes 170 acres on and around Jewell Hill. This area is notable for its historic connection to the original 18<sup>th</sup> Century King's Grant of 1,000 acres in western Middlesex County. The project includes the northern side of Jewell Hill, a 10 acre pond, and 20 acres of fields traversed by a stream in the central part of Jewell Hill Farm.

The land will be permanently protected through **conservation restrictions** which eliminate the development rights on the land. The land will continue to be privately owned and managed; it can be used for agriculture, forestry, recreation and other activities consistent with the conservation of natural resources and the protection of the public water supply.

Grant applications for this project are now being reviewed by the state. We expect to receive notice of grant awards by the end of the year.

This project is supported by Ashburnham Conservation Trust, the towns of Ashby and Ashburnham and the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership.



### **Conservation Restrictions Protect Land in Private Ownership**

The land in the Fitchburg Reservoir Project is to be protected through **conservation restrictions** (otherwise known as "conservation easements"). Participating landowners are paid for the development rights on their land. The land under conservation restriction will remain in private ownership. Landowners can use the land and earn income from it. The land remains on the town's tax rolls. The land can be bought and sold, but it can never be developed.

## **Westminster Farm Project will Protect the Midstate Trail**

NCLT has been working with the Town of Westminster and its Open Space Committee to conserve a 100 acre farm which had been marketed for development. The conservation strategy involves two different state grant programs to preserve the farm fields and forests. The farm fields would be protected through the Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) program. The forested land would be protected through the self-help program.

In addition to returning a local farm to productive agriculture, this project will protect ½ mile of the **Midstate Trail** that runs through the farm. The Midstate Trail easement will insure permanent public access to this leg of historic long-distance trail.

So far, the farmland has been approved for APR funding. The town is currently awaiting the decision on self-help funding.

## **Crocker Conservation Area Hosts Runners**



Runners mass at the start of the trail race in June 2007

Our own **Crocker Conservation Area** in Fitchburg has hosted two trail races in June and October this year. Sponsored by the North Medford (running) Club, these races have drawn runners from as far away as Boston who enjoy the scenic and challenging seven-mile course.