

Greenprint

NEWS of the
North County Land Trust

SUMMER 2012



Our Mission ...

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.

NCLT Continues Environmental Ed. Program at Fitchburg's Longsjo Middle School

With funding from the **Ansin Foundation** and the help of old and new partners, NCLT completed another successful Fitchburg Environmental Education Program during the 2012-2013 school year. This program served 126 5th graders at Longsjo Middle School, providing experiential, hands-on science instruction during the fall and spring. Field trips were an important part of the program. Students had the opportunity to learn new things in familiar environments, including the Nashua River and NCLT's own Crocker Conservation Area, both within walking distance of the school.



Longsjo Middle School students explored the Nashua River for critters (macro-invertebrates) which they learned to identify by observing them under a microscope.

Our new Environmental Education partner this year is **Applewild School**, whose 8th grade students mentored Longsjo Middle School 5th graders. We want to thank the continued participation of our loyal partners, **Massachusetts Audubon Society** and the **Nashua River Watershed Association**



Applewild and Longsjo Middle School students worked together, making careful observations of natural objects and writing detailed descriptions of them.

NCLT Provides New Environmental Education Programs for 3rd graders in Gardner and Hubbardston

For the first time this year, NCLT provided environmental education programs to elementary schools in Gardner and Hubbardston. The programs were funded by a grant from the **Gardner Cultural Council** and a private donor in Hubbardston; they served 70 students in Gardner's Helen Mae Sauter Elementary School and 64 students in the Hubbardston Center School. Led by NCLT's Environmental Educator, Laurie Nehring, these experiential science programs encourage students to see, feel and experience what it's like to be a woodlands creature.

A Hubbardston 3rd grader demonstrates that owls have HUGE eyes for the size of their skulls. Many of the students completed their study of Barred Owls by participating in an evening "Owl Prowl" with their families on NCLT's **Underwood Road Conservation Area** in Hubbardston.



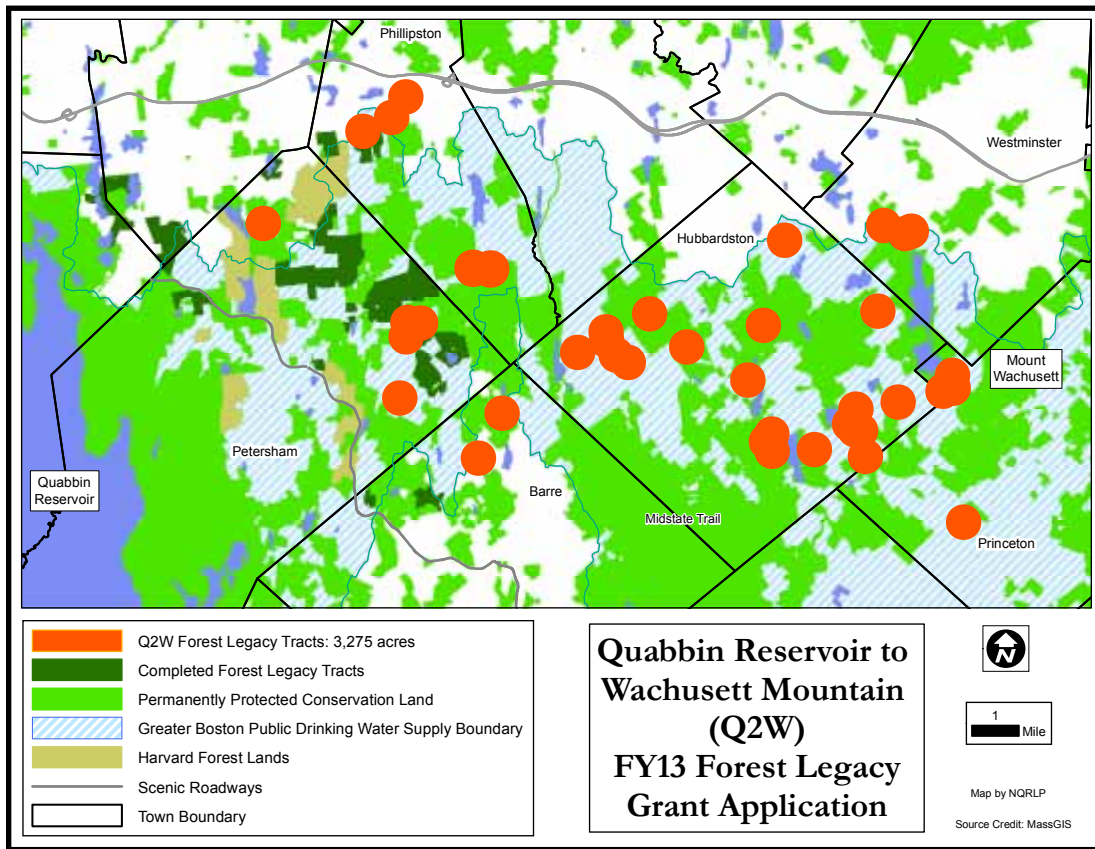
NCLT Continues Successful Nature Walks in Fitchburg, Gardner, Hubbardston and Leominster

In the past year, NCLT and our partner, Mass. Audubon Society organized 22 hikes on 6 conservation areas in Fitchburg, Gardner, Hubbardston and Leominster. More than 175 people enjoyed these guided hikes on NCLT and Audubon conservation areas. The Fitchburg hikes were supported by a grant from the **Fitchburg Cultural Council**.



More than 70 people attended the "Owl Prowl" at NCLT's **Underwood Road Conservation Area** in May. Hikers included 3rd graders from the Hubbardston Center School who learned about Barred Owls in NCLT's Environmental Education Program.

NCLT and our Partners Advance Land Conservation Projects in the Region



Quabbin to Wachusett Forest Legacy Project Ranked No. 2 in the Country

It's not easy to conserve an entire landscape, but the Quabbin Reservoir to Wachusett Mountain Forest Legacy project is now one step closer to being funded. "Q2W" was submitted for funding by NCLT and our conservation partners last year. This year, Q2W was ranked no. 2 in the nation, in a competition of 69 projects submitted by 48 states to the federal Forest Legacy grant program. This project would conserve 3,275 acres of watershed land in 6 communities. While funding depends on Congress's passage of the federal budget, we are hopeful that Q2W will be funded later this year.

Q2W is a landscape scale conservation project created by a broad public- private partnership. Our Q2W partners include the Nashua River Watershed Association, North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership, Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, East Quabbin Land Trust, Mass. DCR Water Supply Protection, several municipal governments and, of course, the landowners who chose to participate.

NCLT and Conservation-Minded Landowners help Gardner Conserve 122 Acres on the Otter River.

They may not look like conservationists, but Patricia Smith and Mary Jane Rodecki have proven that they are. Patricia and Mary Jane are sisters who grew up in a small house set on 122 acres on the Otter River in Gardner. This month, in a project facilitated by NCLT, with funding from a state Water Supply Protection grant and a federal Forest Legacy grant, the land owned by the sisters and their family for 100 years will become the **Cummings Otter River Conservation Area**, owned by the City of Gardner. NCLT wishes to thank the landowners for conserving their land and the City of Gardner for its patience and assistance in seeing this project to a successful conclusion.



Sisters, Patricia Smith and Mary Jane Rodecki (left to right) are conserving the land that has been in their family for 3 generations.

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NCLT's Program Coordinator, Laurie Nehring and hikers listen for a response to her owl call at the "Owl Prowl" on Fitchburg's Crocker Conservation Area in May. Laurie has had excellent success calling in Barred Owls, to the delight of hike participants.



Thanks, Jenn!

Our spring trail work day on Rome Conservation Area in Gardner was the last stewardship event Jenn Tuomala will organize for us, before her AmeriCorps service with NCLT ends in August. Jenn has served as NCLT's Land Steward for 2 years through the MassLIFT AmeriCorps program. In addition to trail stewardship, Jenn prepared Baseline Documentation Reports, monitored conservation restrictions and worked with Stewardship Committees. We wish Jenn the best of luck in her future endeavors.

Your Membership Makes a Difference!

North County Land Trust depends on membership dues and contributions to fund our operating budget, environmental programs, 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	\$2,500 or more
_____	Patron	\$1,000 - \$2,499
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- Please tell me how to include NCLT in my will.
- My company has a matching gift program. Form enclosed.

Contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

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