

Greenprint

NEWS of the
North County Land Trust

SUMMER 2013



Mount Wachusett

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 Leads the Fitchburg Greenway Committee

FGC members have been meeting with regional and state transportation officials to insure that the **Wachusett Station Project** fulfills its potential to generate eco-tourism. The construction of the Wachusett Railroad Station in west Fitchburg promises to provide a major economic stimulus to Fitchburg and the region. Located in close proximity to Leominster State Forest, Mount Wachusett, Fitchburg's Steamline Trail and the Fitchburg Greenway, Wachusett Station could be a transportation hub for hiking, bicycling and skiing in the region. The FGC is working to insure safe pedestrian and bicycle access to Wachusett Station and to provide easy access to recreational trails from the station.



FGC members visit the Wachusett Station site with representatives of the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

The FGC, which was instrumental in the creation of **Gateway Park**, has been working to address the problem of invasive plants at the park. Japanese Knotweed, a common invasive in the area, threatens to mar the beauty of the park and its riverfront walkway.

FGC members accompany Jeff Taylor of Vegetation Control Services to survey areas on the Gateway Park riverfront trail affected by Japanese Knotweed



NCLT Conservation Areas

Dwelly Farm

At the end of June, NCLT conveyed a **Conservation Restriction** on Dwelly Farm to the Town of Templeton. Dwelly Farm is a 69-acre former dairy farm in the south Templeton agricultural area. It had been owned by the Dwelly family for 100 years, before it was devised to NCLT at the death of David Dwelly, who donated it in his will. The CR project was more than 2 years in the making, beginning in January 2011 when Dwelly Farm was conveyed to NCLT. In November of that year, the Town voted to purchase a CR on the farm, to help fund the farm's management. Following an unsuccessful effort to increase the funding for the CR with a state grant, NCLT and the Town agreed to convey the CR in Fiscal Year 2013. Now that the CR project is complete, we look forward to working with the Town of Templeton and its residents to make Dwelly Farm a community farm and agricultural center.

Jack Dwelly (left) joins NCLT directors Allen Rousseau (center) and Clay Hobart (right) at Dwelly Farm.

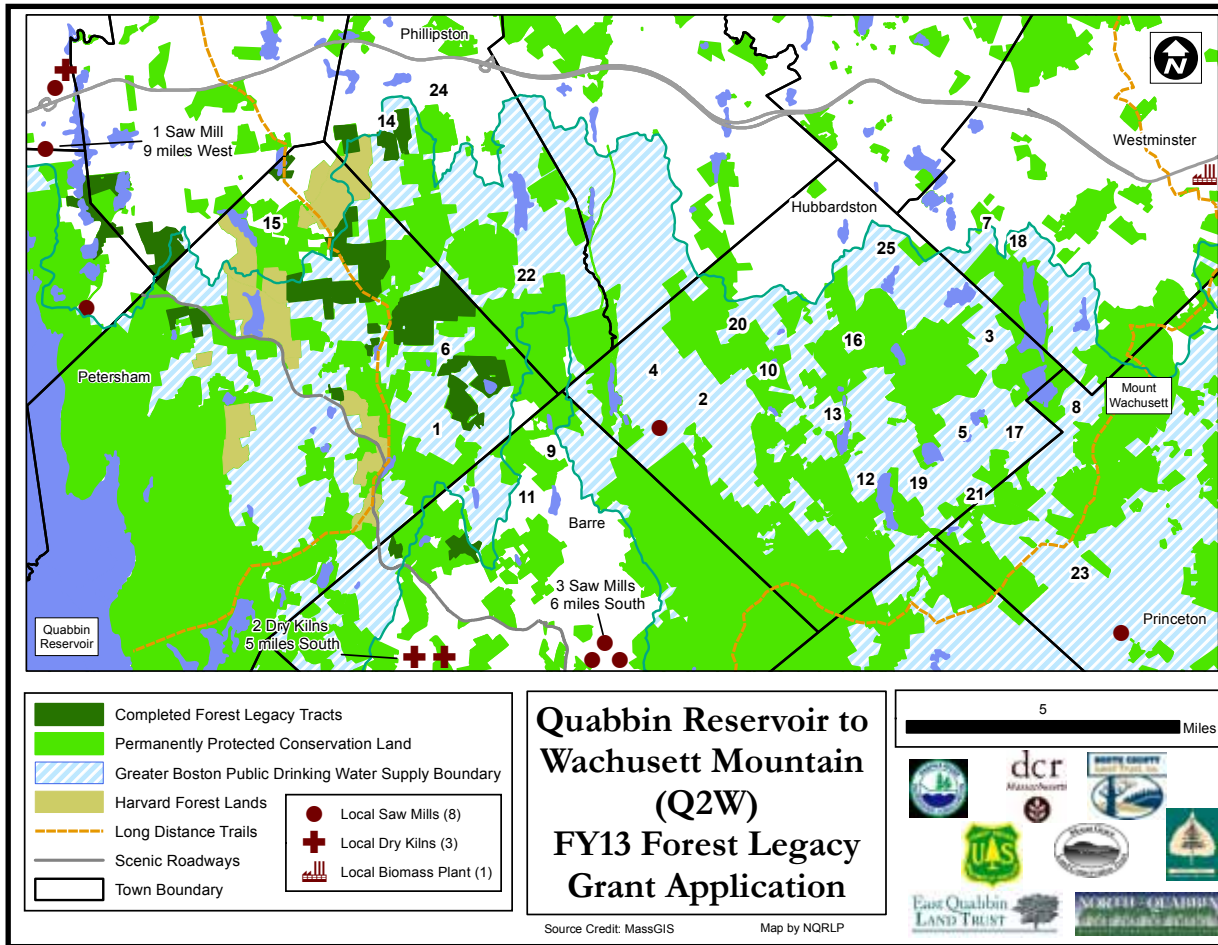


Crocker Conservation Area

In April, Boy Scouts from Fitchburg Troop 41, together with their Scout Master, Bill Hodges and parent leaders cleaned leaves and debris from Fitchburg's historic Town Pound, part of NCLT's Crocker Conservation Area. This was the first phase of our **Town Pound Restoration Project**, which will include removal of some trees inside the wall and restoration of the gate. The restoration is scheduled to be completed in 2014 for the City of Fitchburg's 250th Anniversary.



Quabbin Reservoir to Wachusett Mountain Forest Legacy Project is Funded



The federal Forest Legacy Program recently announced funding of the Quabbin Reservoir to Wachusett Mountain Forest Legacy Project (Q2W), a landscape scale conservation project in which NCLT plays a major role. The \$5 million federal grant will allow NCLT and our partners to conserve approximately 3,000 acres of privately owned land located in 6 communities within Quabbin and other watersheds. These watersheds protect the water supply for over 2.5 million people in the Boston-Worcester Metro area, and also for the City of Fitchburg,

NCLT is working with Q2W partners, Mass. DCR Division of Water Supply Protection and the Fitchburg Water Division to protect 11 tracts of land in 3 communities, totaling 1,222 acres:

- In Hubbardston, 7 Tracts - 1,100 acres;
- In Westminster, 2 Tracts - 83 acres;
- In Princeton, 2 Tracts - 39 acres.

Our Q2W Partners

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.



Land to be conserved in the Q2W Project includes, in Princeton, 39 acres which includes a Zone A tributary to Fitchburg's Bickford Pond Reservoir (left); in Hubbardston, 85 acres of forested land, part of a 100-acre historic farm in the Quabbin watershed (above) and in Westminster 74 acres of rare North Atlantic Cedar swamp habitat (right).

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NCLT's new Focus Area reflects the land conservation work NCLT has done in 9 communities in the past decade and our plans to expand our work in the communities of Lancaster, Leominster, Sterling, Townsend and Winchendon.

NCLT Members and Friends “Sip into Spring”



On a Sunday evening in May, more than 50 NCLT members and new friends gathered at Applewild School to sample wines, accompanied by the lively presentation of Sommelier, Peter Touborg.

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
_____	Sponsor	\$ 500 - \$ 999
_____	Sustaining	\$ 250 - \$ 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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