

President's Message

Let's Remember Our Mission...

Amid all of the efforts to sustain our organization, an organization that relies on the kindness and generosity of volunteers and donors, it is very important to remember 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."

The historic character of our landscape has been planted fields and pastures; woodlots and forests; the land shaped by the Nashua River watershed; small New England villages with commons, churches and community buildings; and industrial mill towns--in essence, a quintessential New England region.

The second half of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century pose real challenges in our efforts to preserve and protect this landscape. More reasonably priced homes and land have created a demand for development. Massachusetts is at an important juncture regarding the development and preservation of its remaining open lands. The efforts to create smart towns with concentrated services and residences are worthy of our support.

We remain focused on our efforts to protect current land under our care and to encourage the acquisition or protection of additional lands. We want to secure this land in order to protect habitats, to offer places of solace and beauty, and to assure that this special and welcoming landscape is preserved for future generations. Our efforts are supported by the generosity of those who share our goals. We want to thank them for their generosity.

In the end, we are guided by the words of Thoreau: "In the wilderness lies the preservation of the world."

Bill Marshall, President
North County Land Trust

The Year in Review...

2004 was the first full year of implementation of our new strategic plan. The strategic plan has helped us to sharpen our organizational and programmatic focus. We have continued to build our organizational capacity, by recruiting new directors and forming board committees. Our land protection and stewardship programs have benefited from our new focus on core areas that are most in need of our work. We have also concentrated our efforts on a few key projects that promise good results.

Land Protection: The Midstate Trail Land Protection Project has been a key project in 2004. The goal of this ongoing project is to protect open space in the trail corridor, principally in the northern portion of the trail that runs from Mt. Wachusett in Princeton to Mt. Watatic in Ashby. NCLT is leading the Westminster Midstate Trail Project, working with the local Open Space Committee, private landowners, and state and local partners. The project involves education and outreach, conservation planning, mapping, fundraising and the preparation of grant applications.

While we have been heavily involved in Westminster this year, we have continued to assist in land protection efforts in other communities, including Gardner, Winchendon and Templeton.

Land Stewardship: The Crocker Conservation Area has been the focus of our stewardship efforts in 2004. This 150 acre conservation area is close to Fitchburg's urban center, providing ready access to a broad range of users, from downtown workers, to urban neighbors and local schoolchildren. Our CCA Stewardship Committee is working to improve public access to and increase community involvement in the conservation area.

Organizational Capacity: Board Committees have taken on expanded roles to improve the organization. Board committees have helped to focus our capacity building efforts, by recruiting new directors, overseeing the development of work plans and supporting fundraising efforts. We have begun a new initiative of "project-based" fundraising, to reach out to communities which have a vested interest in the land protection and stewardship projects in their area.

Members & Contributors

Lucy Crocker Abisalih
Frank & Brenda Bangrazi
Banknorth Massachusetts
Samuel Blair
Jonathan & Elizabeth Blake
Bovenzi, Inc.
Leslie & Peter Bovenzi
Christopher Bramley
Kenneth W. Caron
Brian Cote
Alan B. Crocker
Bigelow Crocker, Jr. & Jeanne Crocker
David Crocker
Lucilla Crocker
Martha P. Crocker
Todd & Caroline Crocker
James & Alexandra Dannis
Lorraine DeSouza
Doors Unlimited, Inc.
Glenn Eaton
Donald & Marion Erb
Fitchburg Savings Bank
Allan D. Foster
Foster Appraisal & Consulting, Inc.
Foster-Healy Real Estate
Charles Gelinias
Eva M. Haakala

Constance Hall
Wendy & Allan Ham
Linda Hoffman
Kelly Jennison
Rosemary C. Kemp
Brandon Kibbe
Norman LeBlanc
Scott K. LeMay
Ray Lyons
William & Donna Marshall
John McNamara
Janet Morrison
Dr. & Mrs. John J. Murphy
Orangewood Development Corp
Peter & Nancy Orni
Red Line Wall Systems
Susanne Richey
Brian Roberts
Allen Rome
Rome Insurance Agency, Inc.
Francisco & Janet Rubira
Henri L. Sans, Jr.
Meriwether C. Schmid
Julia & Gene Sorbo
Larry Student
David Sven
Karen A. Tucker
Wachusett Development and Construction
Carolyn C. Winslow
Workers' Credit Union

Board of Directors:

William Marshall, *President*

Brian Roberts, *Treasurer*

Allan Foster, *Clerk*

Trevor Bonilla

Glenn Eaton

Kelly Jennison

Brandon Kibbe

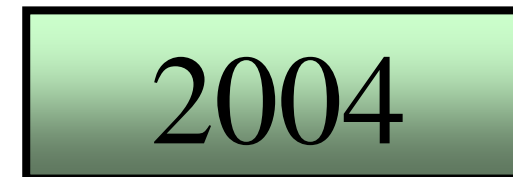
Norman LeBlanc

Allen Rome

**Janet Morrison, Esq.,
Executive Director
*Director of Land Protection***



2004 Financial Report



Income

Bank interest	81.90
Membership Dues & Contributions	12,035.00
Pledge Contributions	9,346.02
Board Designated Funds	6,025.00
Grants	5,150.00
Total Income	32,637.92

Expenses

Contract Labor	24,257.50
Conferences	350.00
Insurance	2,313.00
Memberships	495.00
Office Supplies, copies, miscellaneous	666.40
Postage and Delivery	284.81
Travel	866.00
Professional Fees	400.00
Total Expenses	29,632.71
Net Income	3,005.21



- *President's Message***
- *The Year in Review***
- *Members and Contributors***
- *2004 Financial Report***