

## *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 20<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> 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
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>32,637.92</b>

**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
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>29,632.71</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>3,005.21</b>



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