

President's Message

It is with great pleasure that I report to you that the state of the North County Land Trust (NCLT) is strong. We are well positioned to fulfill our mission. We have an active Board of Directors, a dedicated Executive Director, and a growing membership.

The NCLT, founded in 1992, has been focused on land conservation for 16 years. 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. We are a regional land trust with a geographic focus on 22 cities and towns of northern Worcester County and northwestern Middlesex County.

Over the past year, the NCLT has accomplished much, as reflected in the "2008 Year in Review" section of this report. We have met or exceeded our goals in all areas. One of our most important accomplishments has been in developing new revenue sources and managing our expenses to yield the highest Net Income in NCLT history.

The NCLT Board has developed a realistic set of goals for Fiscal Year 2009 in the areas of Land Protection Projects, Community Partnerships, Membership & Fundraising, and Organizational Development. We will accomplish these goals by working closely with landowners, local & state government, and land conservation partners such as the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership and The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR).

I would like to acknowledge the important contributions over the past 8 years of former board member Brandon Kibbe, Land Agent for Mass Wildlife. Brandon's knowledge and active participation on the board greatly contributed to many of NCLT's accomplishments during this period. Also, I am pleased to welcome Laila Michaud who joined the NCLT Board in May 2008. I thank both our long time and new members who continue to be generous in donating both their time and money to ensuring the success of our land trust.

In closing, I want to honor the memory of Bigelow Crocker, Jr., a founder of North County Land Trust and donor of the Crocker Conservation Area, who passed on late last year. As his final gift to the land trust, "Big" he and his family endowed the Crocker Fund. We will always be grateful for the vision and generosity of Bigelow Crocker and the Crocker family.

Alan N. Rousseau, President

2008*-The Year in Review

*This is the first year of our new fiscal calendar, which began July 1, 2007 and ended June 30, 2008.

Land Protection Projects – *Some Successes!*

Southern Monadnock Plateau. At year-end, our largest land conservation project was funded by the federal Forest Legacy program. The \$2.5 million grant will protect over 1,000 acres in Ashburnham and Westminster in the Midstate Trail Corridor. NCLT's work in the Town of Westminster will result in the protection of over 460 acres of forest, wetlands, and agricultural lands, through conservation restrictions.

Schenck Farm. Westminster was also the site of a successful conservation project which protected an historic farm that had been marketed for development. Working with the Town of Westminster and a local farmer, NCLT helped to secure grant funding which protected the farmland and returned it to active farming, while also preserving the forestland and protecting over ½ mile of the Midstate Trail.

Our Conservation Areas – *Historic Preservation*

Crocker Conservation Area and Overlook Conservation Restriction. In addition to our 150- acre conservation area in Fitchburg, NCLT holds a conservation restriction on 30 acres of City-owned land which includes Overlook Reservoir. This reservoir is scenic a destination for trail users, featuring an historic granite block gatehouse. Unfortunately the gatehouse had fallen into disrepair. NCLT was able to secure volunteer services, and donated labor and materials (worth more than \$20,000) to restore the gatehouse to its original condition.

Our Organization – *Growing with Community Support*

North County Land Trust continues to grow stronger each year, with new members, new Directors and new sources of revenue. We have been heartened by the support of the Town of Westminster for our work on the Southern Monadnock Plateau project and the Schenck Farm project. We had a strong response to our local membership drives in Westminster and Gardner. We are grateful for the community support for our conservation areas in Fitchburg and Gardner.

The Conservation Community – *Partnerships for Success*

NCLT is active in the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition and in other groups which help us to achieve our land protection mission. Partnerships enable us to undertake large regional land protection projects, like the Southern Monadnock Plateau project and to leverage and share resources, to achieve important land protection goals in the community.

Goals for Fiscal Year 2009 – *Realistic Expectations:*

1. **Land Protection Projects:** We expect our work in the following areas to result in successful land conservation projects: Fitchburg Water Supply watershed, Fitchburg Steam Line Trail Extension, Gardner Water Supply watershed, Russell and Jewell Hills in Ashburnham and the Midstate Trail corridor in Westminster.
2. **Community Partnerships:** In partnership with The Trustees of Reservations, NCLT is hosting a series of land conservation forums this fall at the Doyle Conservation Center in Leominster. In addition to providing useful information, we hope these forums will enable us to work more effectively with landowners and community leaders, to achieve shared conservation goals.
3. **Membership and Fundraising:** In these difficult economic times, we will continue to engage local communities in our conservation work and to reach out for the support we need, while also seeking support from community members who have a special capacity to contribute.
4. **Organizational Development:** We will continue to work hard to show we deserve the support we need to continue our work. We expect to expand our Board of Directors and we hope to increase the participation of our members in the stewardship of our conservation areas.

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

New Members

Richard and Sylvia Ahlin
AMC/Midstate Trail
Marie and Michael Auger
Ralph and Judith Baker
Lynn Bjorklund and Alan Petty
Andrew Boucher
Richard and Helen Brockelman
Donna and Gordon Brownell
Deb Cary
Doug and Laura Casker
Larry Casassa
Stephanie Cassano & Alfred Crocker
Mark and Nancy Chapdelaine
Chapdelaine Truck Center
Nancy Creamer
Paul DeMeo

John Fairbanks
Edward Gagne
Gardner Fish and Gun Club
David and Concetta Havlin
Ronald and Dorcas Hurd
Ned LaFortune
Paula Lanson
Laila Michaud
North Medford Club
Gilbert and Joan Parks
Mona and James Rice
Peter and Margaret Romano
Arlene Rome
Brian Rusak
Gerald St. Hilaire
Carolyn and Fred Sellars
David Streb
Beth and Jim Walsh
West End Beagle Club
Norman Wironen
Malcolm and Marie Wright



2008 Financial Report



Board of Directors:

Alan Rousseau, *President*

Norman LeBlanc, *Treasurer*

Clayton Hobart, *Clerk*

Trevor Bonilla

Sharon Cronin

Paul DeMeo

Laila Michaud

Paula Packard

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

Revenues

Membership Dues & Contributions	\$37,219
Grants	\$24,000
Bank interest	\$160
Total Revenues	\$61,379

Expenses

Contract Labor	\$37,185
Conferences & Memberships	\$1,085
Insurance	\$1,899
Printing & Copies	\$1,133
Office Supplies & Miscellaneous	\$514
Postage and Delivery	\$878
Travel	\$684
Professional Services	\$2,000
Land Stewardship & Protection	\$3,500
Total Expense	\$48,878

Net Income \$12,501



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**Year in Review*

**Members and Contributors*

**2008 Financial Report*