

## President's Message

This fiscal year has presented both great challenges and opportunities for North County Land Trust. The economic down turn has impacted our organization to some extent. We have completed some very large land protection projects and initiated new ones that will continue into FY2010.

From a financial perspective, we were able to achieve revenues of \$68,167 (97% of our revenue budget of \$70,600). Several grants related to land protection projects came through and member donations showed slight increase over FY2008. On the expense side, we were able to hold expenses to \$58,767 (93% of our expense budget of \$63,000). The result yielded a net income of \$9,400 that put us on a solid footing to start FY2010.

Over the past year, the NCLT accomplished much as reflected in the "2009 Year in Review" section of this report. In spite of a down economy, NCLT has secured funding from Federal, State, and Local governments for land protection. With the decline in real estate development, land owners are looking at the financial benefits of conserving their land. NCLT has engaged with Mass. Department of Fish and Game and local city government on two large conservation projects in Fitchburg and Gardner that will permanently protect a total of four thousand acres of land in water supply watersheds for these communities. In addition, we have completed the Southern Monadnock Plateau Forest Legacy Project in Westminster & Ashburnham and have initiated a new SMP III project involving properties in Fitchburg and Gardner. The NCLT is continually looking for new conservation opportunities and welcomes input from our members and local community organizations.

I want to commend the efforts of our staff. Janet Morrison, NCLT Executive Director, has done an excellent job in both land protection projects and management of finances. Our new Administrator, Laurie Nehring has been instrumental in supporting land protection grant applications, memberships, communications, and fundraising.

I would like to acknowledge the important contributions over the past 6 years of former board member and Treasurer Norman LeBlanc. Norman's knowledge and active participation on the board greatly contributed to NCLT's financial sustainability. I am pleased to introduce Elaine Mroz who joined the NCLT Board in February 2009 and who now serves as Treasurer. In April 2008, Marty Litwiller also joined the NCLT Board. Unfortunately, Marty's life was cut short by a tragic motorcycle accident in October. Marty was a life long outdoorsman who was also involved in his community. Marty also served his country for 23 years in the National Guard. Although new to the NCLT, Marty's contribution will be missed by all of us.

In closing, I would like thank our Members, Contributors, Staff, and Board of Directors who continue to be generous in donating both their time and money to ensuring the success of our land trust.

Alan Rousseau, President

## 2009-The Year in Review

### Land Protection Projects – *Some Successes!*

**Southern Monadnock Plateau.** NCLT has completed the conservation of 425 acres of forests and farmland land in Westminster, as part of the Southern Monadnock Plateau Forest Legacy Project, a regional land conservation project which will protect over 2000 acres of land in Westminster and Ashburnham. This was the culmination of a five-year project which required NCLT to successfully navigate the complex requirements of state and federal grant programs. As a result of NCLT's efforts, the Town of Westminster spent approximately \$300,000 in municipal funds to conserve land worth more than \$2.5 million. The conservation of this land includes a permanent easement for the historic Midstate Trail that runs through the property.

**Fitchburg Watershed Conservation Restriction.** Approximately 1800 acres of the City's northern water supply watershed is now permanently protected, in the successful completion of a project NCLT initiated more than two years ago. The Mass. Department of Fish and Game purchased a conservation restriction on the land, which will provide permanent protection and open it to public access. The City must use half of the nearly \$1 million in revenues from the CR sale to protect privately owned land in the watershed. The City will continue to own and manage the land, and it will be open to the public for hunting, fishing and passive recreation.

**Fitchburg Reservoir Project.** In the culmination of a three year project, NCLT facilitated the City of Fitchburg's first purchase of conservation restrictions on private land in the northern water supply watershed, using revenues from the sale of a conservation restriction on its northern watershed land (see above), state water supply protection grants and private funding from the Open Space Institute (provided through the efforts of project partner, The Trustees of Reservations). This project conserved 175 contiguous acres of sensitive watershed land in Ashby and Ashburnham, including Rice Pond and the northern face of Jewell Hill, valued at more than \$1.5 million at a cost to the City of less than \$100,000.

### Goals for Fiscal Year 2010 – *Realistic Expectations:*

1. **Land Protection Projects:** We expect our work in the following areas to result in successful land conservation projects: Fitchburg's water supply watershed, Gardner's water supply watershed, and Southern Monadnock Plateau Forest Legacy Project (Phases II & III), protecting land in Ashby, Ashburnham, Fitchburg and Gardner.
2. **Community Partnerships:** In partnership with the Fitchburg Greenway Committee, and The Trustees of Reservations, the City of Fitchburg and others, NCLT is working toward the completion of a new riverfront park in Fitchburg (Gateway Park) and the extension of the Nashua River Greenway. We are working with the same partnership to complete and implement a Management Plan and trail system for the 1800 acres of City of Fitchburg watershed land that has recently been opened to public access.
3. **Membership and Fundraising:** We are working hard to manage the impact of the economic downturn, by identifying new friends and partners in the region who understand the community benefits of NCLT's conservation areas and our land conservation work. We will continue to engage local landowners, businesses and community leaders in our conservation work and to reach out for the support we need to achieve local and regional conservation goals.
4. **Organizational Development:** This fall NCLT will engage in an Organizational Assessment, to evaluate the strengths of the NCLT organization and to identify areas that need improvement. Using the results of this assessment, we will seek grant funding to help us improve our organization.

Janet Morrison, Esq., Executive Director

## New Members

Kristen Anderson  
Neal Anderson

Deb Carey  
Mark DuBois

Thomas Flanagan & Rebecca Rice

James & Ann Gaffney  
David and Carolyn Gordon

Justin Lamsa  
Mark Landry  
Rene Lavoie  
Martin & Lynette Litwiller

Elaine Mroz

Dan Nigrosh

Cristina Palmieri



**2009 Financial Report**  
*(July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009)*



**Board of Directors:**

**Alan Rousseau, *President***

**Elaine Mroz, *Treasurer***

**Clayton Hobart, *Clerk***

**Trevor Bonilla**

**Paul DeMeo**

**Laila Michaud**

**Paula Packard**

**Janet Morrison, Esq.,  
*Executive Director***

**Revenues**

Membership Dues & Contributions	\$10,800
Project Cost Reimbursement	\$34,420
Grants	\$22,324
Bank interest	\$63
Other Revenues	\$560
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$68,167</b>

**Expenses**

Contract Labor (Includes Land Stewardship & Protection)	\$45,172
Conferences & Memberships	\$835
Insurance	\$824
Printing & Copies	\$1170
Office Supplies & Miscellaneous	\$700
Postage and Delivery	\$629
Computers & Software	\$483
Telephone	\$853
Travel	\$1212
Professional Services (Land Project Expenses)	\$6465
Stewardship Expenses	\$424
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$58,767</b>

**Net Income** **\$9,400**



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- \*Year in Review***
- \*Members and Contributors***
- \*2009 Financial Report***