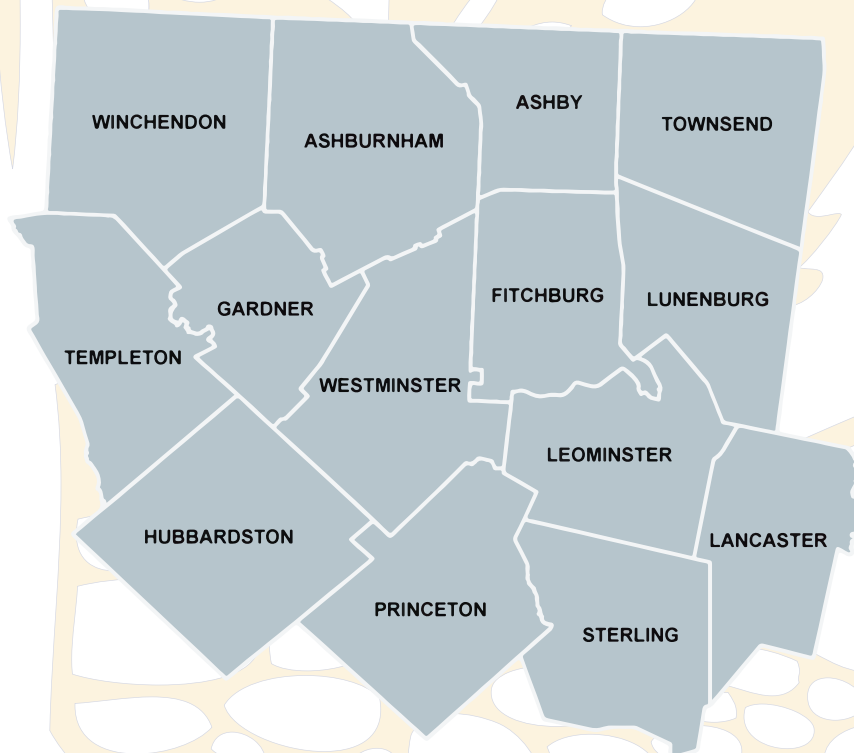


**NORTH COUNTY
Land Trust, Inc.**



2013 Annual Report

Our Focus Area



North County Land Trust, Inc.

325 Lindell Avenue - Leominster, MA 01453 978 866-3900 - www.northcountylandtrust.org

2013 ANNUAL MEETING

Dwelly Farm

NCLT's 2013 Annual Meeting was an opportunity to celebrate the public opening of Dwelly Farm. Our new conservation area in Templeton. We invited farmers and other vendors to participate in a Fall Fair, featuring local agricultural products, local artisans and local music.



22 Vendors registered for the Fall Fair, which was held on a 1-acre field on Dwelly Farm. Despite the cool and misty weather, the Fall Fair and Annual Meeting were well-attended.

Children's activities included Pumpkin Painting, led by Charlotte Levy, an AmeriCorp member working with NCLT this year.



Dwelly Farm is a 69-acre former dairy farm which was donated to NCLT in the will of David Dwelly. Dwelly Farm was owned and managed by the Dwelly family for 100 years. Three generations of the family earned their living from the farm, until the local dairy business declined in the 1980's. We are indebted to the Dwelly family for this generous donation of their land and to the Town of Templeton for their contribution to NCLT's Dwelly Farm Stewardship Fund.



James Clune played music under the tent.



Our guest speaker at the Annual Meeting was Carrie Novak, a member of the Templeton Agricultural Committee.



Local children participated in a scavenger hunt on the fair grounds.

Environmental Education and Hiking Programs

North County Land Trust Environmental Education Program in Hubbardston

For the second consecutive year, North County Land Trust offered an environmental education program to public school students in Hubbardston. This hands-on science based program for 3rd graders was funded by Tom and Mary Robinson of Hubbardston. The program was led by environmental educator, Laurie Nehring and it served 50 students in the Hubbardston Center School.



Laurie shows a video about owls to the class.

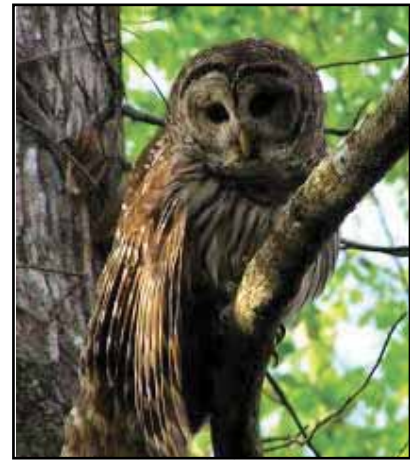
By coloring pictures of Barred Owls students learned about camouflage and predator-prey relationships.



Nature Hikes on our Conservation Areas

NCLT's hiking program included 4 hikes on our conservation areas in Fitchburg, Gardner, Hubbardston and Templeton.

We include Environmental Education in our nature walks. Our most popular hike continues to be the evening Owl Prowl, which took place this year on our conservation areas in Hubbardston and Gardner. Some students in NCLT's Environmental Education Program eagerly participated in the owl prowl held at Underwood Road Conservation Area in Hubbardston.



Laurie is known for her ability to call in barred owls at Owl Prowls.

Crocker Conservation Area in National Newscast

In February, NCLT's Crocker Conservation Area in Fitchburg was mentioned in a piece broadcast by National Public Radio about the anti-obesity program, Mass in Motion. Entitled, *Fitchburg Wins Round One in Fight against Obesity*, the piece included a story about a children's hike on Crocker Conservation Area.

Land Conservation Projects

Quabbin Reservoir to Wachusett Mountain Forest Legacy Project is Funded

The Quabbin to Wachusett project is a landscape scale project to permanently protect land in the region between the Quabbin Reservoir in the west and Mount Wachusett in the east. This region is the source of drinking water for 2.5 million people in the greater Boston metropolitan area. NCLT and our partners have been awarded Federal Forest Legacy Program funding in the amount of \$5.04 million to conserve 23 tracts of land in 6 communities, totaling over 3,000 acres of watershed land.

North County Land Trust is working with our Quabbin to Wachusett partners, Mass. DCR Division of Water Supply Protection and the Fitchburg Water Division to protect 11 tracts of land in 3 communities, totaling 1,225 acres:

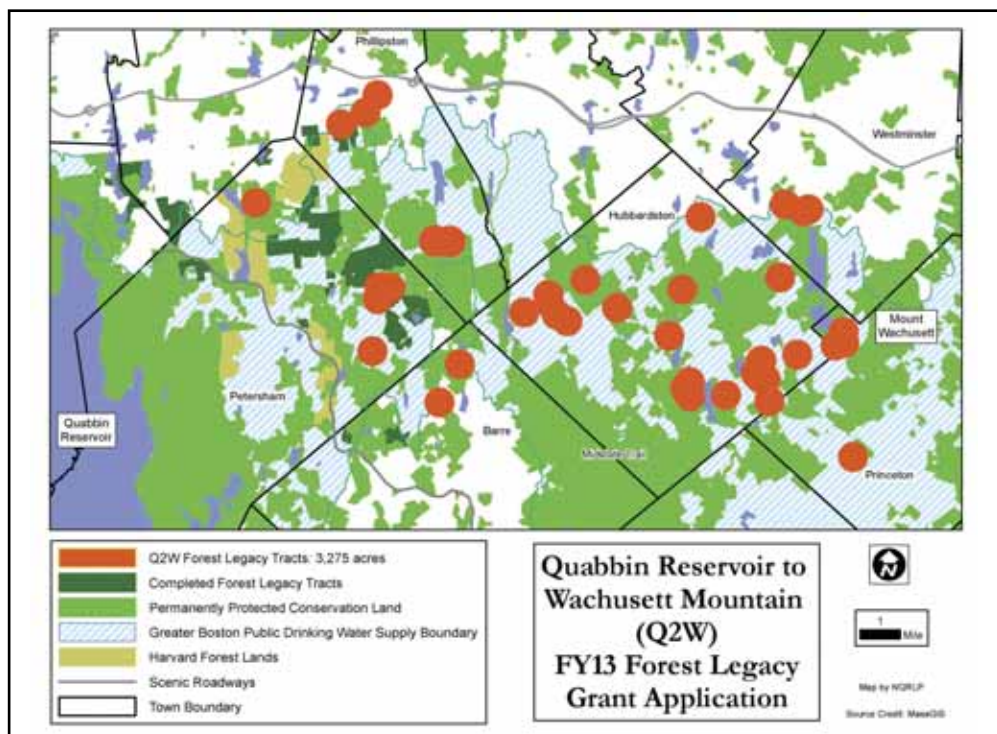
Hubbardston, 7 Tracts - 1,100 Ac.

Westminster, 2 Tracts - 83 Ac.

Princeton, 2 Tracts - 42 Ac.

Quabbin to Wachusett, Phase II

In September 2012, NCLT and our partners submitted Quabbin to Wachusett, Phase II, which would conserve an additional 1,000 acres in this region. If funded, this project would increase the protection of sensitive watershed land in the Quabbin to Wachusett landscape to approximately 4,000 acres.



Our Partners

Quabbin to Wachusett is a landscape scale conservation project created by a broad public-private partnership. Our Quabbin to Wachusett 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, the landowners who chose to participate.

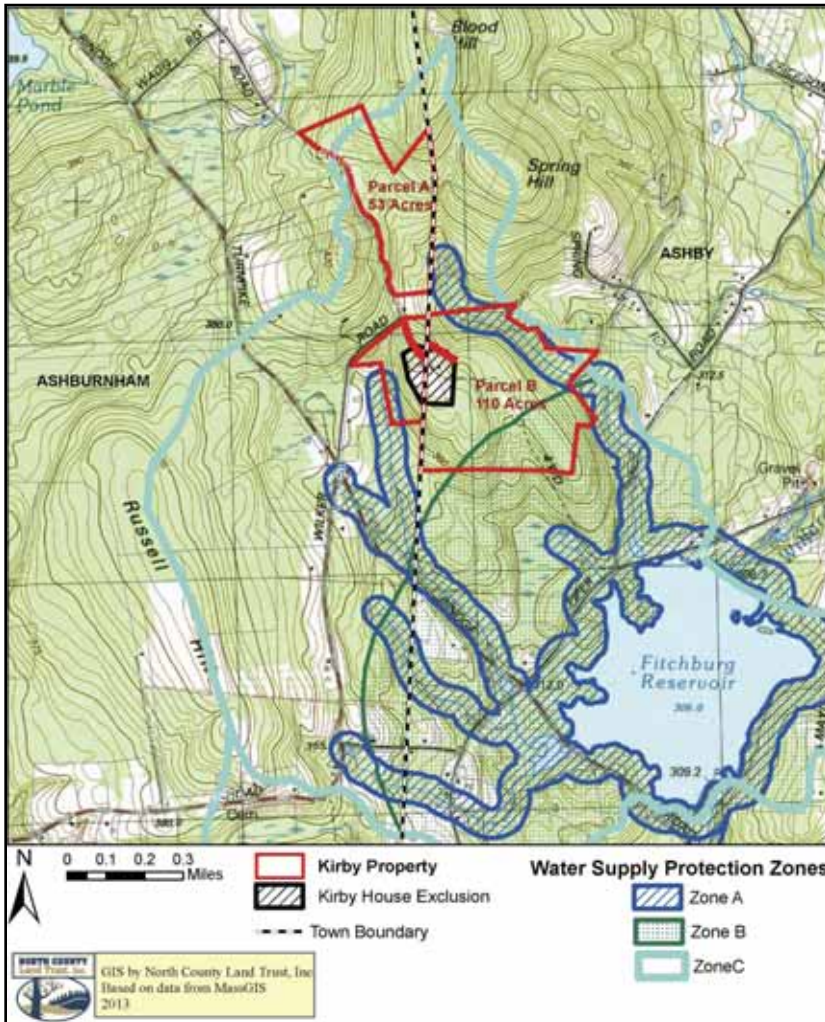
Land to be conserved in this project includes, in Westminster, 74 acres of rare North Atlantic Cedar habitat (left); in Princeton, 34 acres within both the Quabbin watershed and Fitchburg's southern water supply watershed (middle) and; in Hubbardston, 85 acres of forested land, part of a 100-acre historic farm in the Quabbin watershed (bottom right).



Land Conservation Projects

Kirby Project: Protecting Fitchburg's Northern Watershed

The Kirby Project will add 153 acres to land protected land in Fitchburg's northern water supply watershed. Located in both Ashby and Ashburnham, this forested property straddles the Town boundary on the northern tip of the watershed. The conservation of this land will protect two Zone A tributaries flowing to the Fitchburg Reservoir in Ashby. The Towns of Ashby and Ashburnham support this project.



Fitchburg Reservoir

Conserving Fitchburg's Northern Watershed

North County Land Trust and our partners have helped the City of Fitchburg to conserve 438 acres of sensitive watershed land in the City's northern watershed, which provides drinking water to Fitchburg residents. Located in Fitchburg, Ashby and Ashburnham, this watershed supplies drinking water to 4 reservoirs: Fitchburg Reservoir in Ashby and Scott, Lovell and Falulah Reservoirs in Fitchburg. NCLT's work has increased land conserved in the northern watershed by 23%, with 2,300 acres now protected.



Phillips Brook Greenway

North County Land Trust has acquired a key 2-acre parcel of land, located on Phillips Brook in West Fitchburg. A generous donation from Lillian and Alice Leger of Fitchburg enabled NCLT to conserve the first parcel in a project to create a protected greenway on Phillips Brook from West Fitchburg to Westminster, along Ashburnham State Road (Route 12). NCLT, the Nashua River Watershed Association and other members of the Fitchburg Greenway Committee are working on the Phillips Brook Greenway Project, which would allow public access to this scenic cold water stream for the first time.

Land Stewardship

Managing NCLT Conservation Areas

All NCLT conservation areas are managed for public access. It starts with mapping and documenting natural and cultural resources. We use this information to prepare management plans, which include specific plans for forest stewardship and public access. Volunteers help us manage our conservation areas by participating in trail work days and Stewardship Committees.



Students from Narragansett Regional High School, with their teacher, Alyce LaDeau prepared to rough out a new trail on Dwelly Farm.

DWELLY FARM—Templeton

Our newest conservation area was the venue for our Annual Meeting and Fall Fair on October 13th. Members and friends participated in a nature hike on a newly constructed 1 mile trail. Earlier in the year, NCLT created the Dwelly Farm Stewardship Fund with proceeds from the sale of a conservation restriction on the farm to the Town of Templeton. The Town voted to expend its Community Preservation Funds for this purpose.



NCLT Director, Jim Walsh and fellow employees of DRS Power Technology in Fitchburg, at a spring trail work day at Crocker Conservation Area.

CROCKER CONSERVATION AREA—Fitchburg

With the help of NCLT Directors, Dick O'Brien and Jim Walsh, we have been evaluating and remarking trails impacted by last year's timber harvest. We have also begun restoration of the historic Fitchburg Town Pound (located on Crocker Conservation Area), which will be restored for Fitchburg's 250th Anniversary in 2014.



ROME CONSERVATION AREA—Gardner.

This year we completed a Forest Stewardship Plan for Rome Conservation Area. This plan was funded in part by the Mass. Forest Stewardship Program and was prepared by a professional forester. The plan divides the 175-acre Rome Conservation Area forest into "stands", according to the predominant tree species. The purpose of the plan is to guide any harvesting done on the property, to insure that the forest is properly managed for recreation, wildlife habitat and forest products.



UNDERWOOD ROAD CONSERVATION AREA—Hubbardston

This conservation area is one of 23 land tracts in the Quabbin Reservoir to Wachusett Mountain Forest Legacy Project. Underwood Rd. Conservation Area is within the watershed which supplies drinking water to the greater Boston metropolitan area. To help in the protection of this watershed, NCLT is preparing to convey a conservation restriction on Underwood Road Conservation Area to the Mass. Division of Water Supply Protection.

Organizational and Membership Achievements



Accepting the Water Supply Protection grant award are Janet Morrison, Executive Director, North County Land Trust (left) and Denis Meunier, Director, Fitchburg Water Division (right). In center is Stephanie Cooper of Mass. Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

Grants Awarded

1. A State Water Supply Protection Grant was awarded to the City of Fitchburg in a project facilitated by NCLT. The grant, in the amount of \$178,525 is for the conservation of the Kirby property in Fitchburg's northern water supply watershed.
2. A Land Stewardship Grant was awarded to NCLT by the Greater Worcester Community Foundation in the amount of \$2,500 to support the preparation of baseline documentation reports for NCLT properties and conservation restrictions.

NCLT Members Recognized

Benefactors

Dr. Robert & Christina Babineau
 Richard & Helen Brockelman
 Can-Am Machinery, Inc.
 Red Line Wall Systems, Inc.
 Jeanne L. Crocker
 Martha P. Crocker
 Rollstone Bank & Trust
 Alan N. Rousseau

Sponsors

Donald Ostrowski & Wren Colle
 Carolyn C. Winslow

Supporters

Ralph & Judy Baker
 Larry Casassa
 Gardner Fish & Gun Club, Inc.
 Paula J. Lanson
 Norman & Annette LeBlanc
 Jackie Leger
 Laila H. Michaud
 Maureen & Andy Nguyen
 Roger & Serra May Plourde
 Karen A. Tucker
 Unifit Service Corporation
 Wachusett Brewing Company

Financial Report (July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013)

REVENUES

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS	\$14,658
GRANTS	\$47,119
FUND DISTRIBUTION	\$12,500
SALE OF CONSERVATION RESTRICTION	\$33,000
OTHER INCOME	\$8,481

TOTAL \$115,758

EXPENSES

PAYROLL & STIPENDS	\$65,413
OFFICE	\$7,574
INSURANCE & TAXES	\$5,292
TRAVEL	\$2,112
PROFESSIONAL FEES	\$16,293
MEMBERSHIPS & CONFERENCES	\$887
PROGRAMS & STEWARDSHIP	\$14,760

TOTAL \$112,331

NET INCOME \$3,427



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alan N. Rousseau, *President*
Gardner

Richelle M. Brown, *Treasurer*
Westminster

Clayton Hobart, *Clerk*
Leominster

Jassy M. Bratko
Hubbardston

Paul N. DeMeo
Gardner

Jackie Leger
Gardner

Laila Michaud
Westminster

Dick O'Brien
Leominster

Don Ostrowski
Fitchburg

James Walsh
Fitchburg

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Janet Morrison, Esq.
Ashburnham

BOARD OF ADVISORS

Lucy Crocker Abisalih
Land Trust Founding Family

Robert V. Antonucci, Ed.D.
President, Fitchburg State University

Philip Y. Brodeur
Venning & Jacques, P.C.

John Todd Crocker
Land Trust Founding Family

John C. Kemp
Land Trust Founding Family

Henri L. Sans, Jr., Esq.
LeBlanc & Sans, Attorneys

Marion Stoddart, *Founder*
Nashua River Watershed Association

Karen A. Tucker
Conservation Restriction Donor

Carolyn C. Winslow
Land Trust Founding Family

President's Message

North County Land Trust has had a very successful FY2013. We have been able to continue on a steady path of growth financially, through our involvement in land conservation projects, stewardship of NCLT conservation areas, and educational/outreach programs.

We achieved revenues of \$115,758 (15% below our revenue budget of \$136,100, but an increase of 12% over FY2012). Expenses totaled \$112,331 (15% under our expense budget of \$131,885 and 14% over FY2012). Expenses were managed consistent with the lower revenue expectations. The overall result was a net positive of \$3,427. Thanks to a generous grant from the Community Foundation of North Central Mass., we were able to engage the services of a fund-raising consultant to help us develop a fund-raising plan, leading to long term sustainability. As we go forward, the NCLT Board and Staff will focus on implementing this plan.

Executive Director, Janet Morrison has continued to do an excellent job in leading our conservation efforts. Important conservation projects were initiated and some came to closure, including the donation of the Kirby property in Ashburnham and the Leger property in Fitchburg. We continued our work as a partner in the Quabbin Reservoir to Wachusett Mountain Project, the #2 ranked Forest Legacy conservation project in the United States. Our stewardship work on NCLT properties included initiating a restoration of the historic Fitchburg Town Pound located on Crocker Conservation Area and maintenance projects on Rome & Underwood Road Conservation Areas and the Dwelly Farm. Environmental Educator, Laurie Nehring conducted an environmental education program that served 50 students from the Hubbardston Center School. Laurie also led 4 guided nature hikes on NCLT conservation areas.

There have been several organizational changes in FY2013. I am pleased to announce that Dick O'Brien joined our Board of Directors in January 2013. I want to recognize the important contributions of former board member, Paula Packard who served since January 2007. NCLT has also welcomed our new regional conservationist, Charlotte Levy who is serving NCLT as an AmeriCorp member. In FY2013, NCLT established a new Board of Advisors; I'd like to thank Lucy Cocker Abisalih, Robert Antonucci, Philip Brodeur, John Todd Crocker, John Kemp, Henry Sans Jr., Marian Stoddart, Karen Tucker, and Carolyn Winslow for accepting our invitation to fill this important new role.

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

Alan Rousseau, President

December 2013