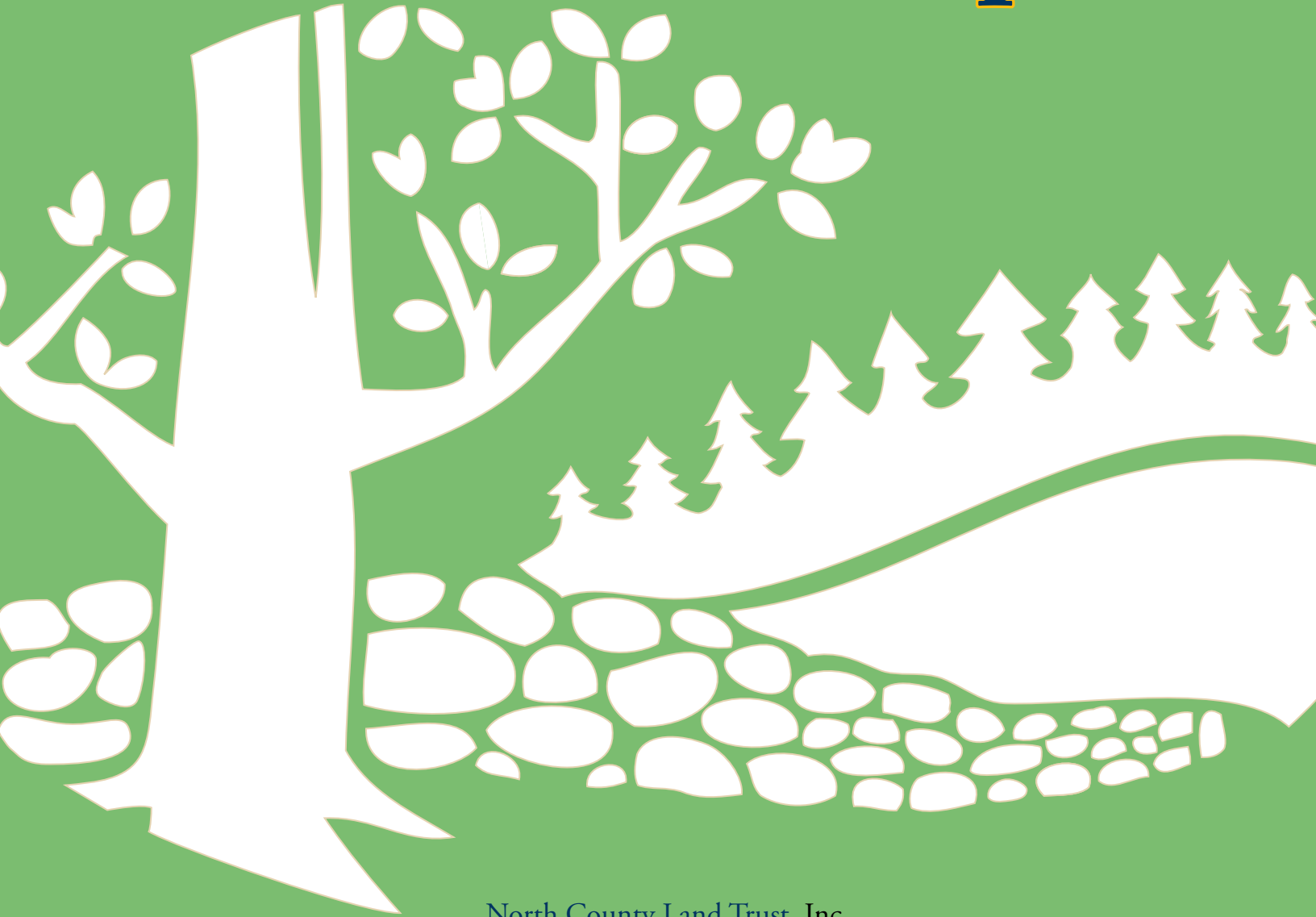


NORTH COUNTY
Land Trust, Inc.



2014 Annual Report



North County Land Trust, Inc.

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2014 ANNUAL MEETING Hollis Hills Farm in Fitchburg

NCLT's 2014 Annual Meeting was an opportunity to celebrate the renewal of local agriculture in Fitchburg and our region. Hollis Hills (formerly Marshall) Farm hosted NCLT and various vendors in the first Fitchburg Harvest Fair. The morning was rainy, but that did not stop participants from enjoying the farmers' market, live music, apple picking and hay rides.



NCLT's Annual Meeting featured Jim Lattanzi, owner of Hollis Hills Farm. Jim talked about his decision to purchase the farm and the future of local agriculture in our region.

NCLT Executive Director, Janet Morrison reviewed completed land conservation projects and the donation of several new conservation areas.



Marshall Farm (now known as Hollis Hills Farm) has been an agricultural landmark in the City of Fitchburg for over 200 years. Famous for its Marshall McIntosh apple, the farm has been revitalized since its purchase by the Lattanzi family in 2014, with an expansion into vegetable crops, cattle, pigs and chickens. NCLT's AmeriCorps Member, Desiree Hamelin created a poster history of the farm, based on documents and artifacts provided by the Marshall Family and the Fitchburg Historical Society.



Jim Lattanzi (left), Desiree Hamelin (center) and her parents discuss farming matters in a field on Hollis Hills Farm overlooking the City.

The founding of Marshall Farm in 1781 was commemorated with a coin issued for Fitchburg's Bicentennial Celebration in 1992.



Environmental Education, Owl Prowls & Urban Partnerships

NCLT has long had a special relationship with Fitchburg and its riverfront parks. Starting with the creation of Riverfront Park in 2003 and more recently with Gateway Park, which opened in 2011, NCLT and the Fitchburg Greenway Committee, in partnership with the City of Fitchburg, have offered vision and provided leadership to transform urban “brownfields” into beautiful parks



More than 200 people participated in the first “Egg Hunt” held at Fitchburg’s Gateway Park. In April, NCLT’s AmeriCorp Member, Charlotte Levy helped the Friends of Gateway Park organize this event, in partnership with the United Neighbors of Cleghorn.

Students learned about owl adaptations, including keen hearing, night vision and silent flight. On a later field trip to at NCLT’s Underwood Rd. Conservation Area, environmental educator, Laurie Nehring led an evening “Owl Prowl” for students and their families..



For the third consecutive year, [North County Land Trust](#) offered an environmental education program to public school students in Hubbardston. Funded by a generous donation from Tom and Mary Robinson of Hubbardston, this program served 65 3rd grade students at the Center School.

NCLT expanded the number and variety of our Nature Talks and Walks, holding 7 guided nature hikes on NCLT’s conservation areas in Fitchburg, Gardner, Hubbardston and Templeton. In addition, we offered 9 Nature Talks to Seniors and families in Fitchburg, Gardner, Hubbardston, Lancaster, Lunenburg and Templeton.

NCLT’s AmeriCorps Member, Charlotte Levy discusses wildlife tracks at our February Winter Wonders Hike on Rome Conservation Area in Gardner



NCLT Director and MAS Certified Birder, Clay Hobart (far left) led a birding walk on NCLT’s Dwelly Farm in Templeton

Land Conservation Projects

Quabbin Reservoir to Wachusett Mountain Forest Legacy Project

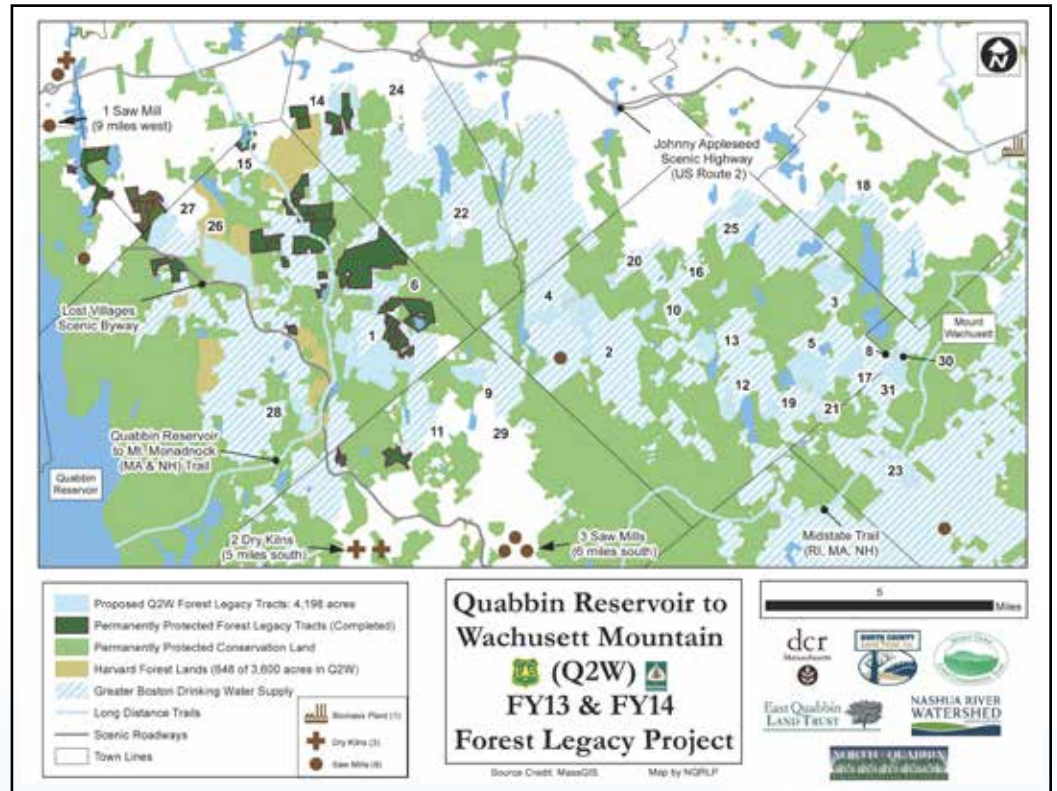
North County Land Trust and our conservation partners have begun work to conserve nearly 4,200 acres in 6 communities, between the Quabbin Reservoir in the west to Mount Wachusett in the east. The Quabbin Reservoir to Wachusett Mountain Forest Legacy Project (Q2W) will augment a conserved landscape that permanently protects drinking water, unique wildlife habitats and important working lands in this region. Federal Forest Legacy funding totaling over \$7 million will leverage other funding sources and donations to conserve land valued at more than \$10.5 million.

North County Land Trust is working with our Q2W partners, Mass. DCR Division of Water Supply Protection and the Fitchburg Water Division to protect 9 tracts of land in 3 communities, totaling 1,113 acres:

Hubbardston, 6 Tracts - 1,056 Ac.

Westminster, 1 Tract - 15 Ac.

Princeton, 2 Tracts - 42 Ac.



Zins Conservation Area

First Tract Completed in the Quabbin to Wachusett Forest Legacy Project

Land Donor, Leigh Zins (left) friends and NCLT staff gather for the public opening of Zins Conservation Area in Princeton.

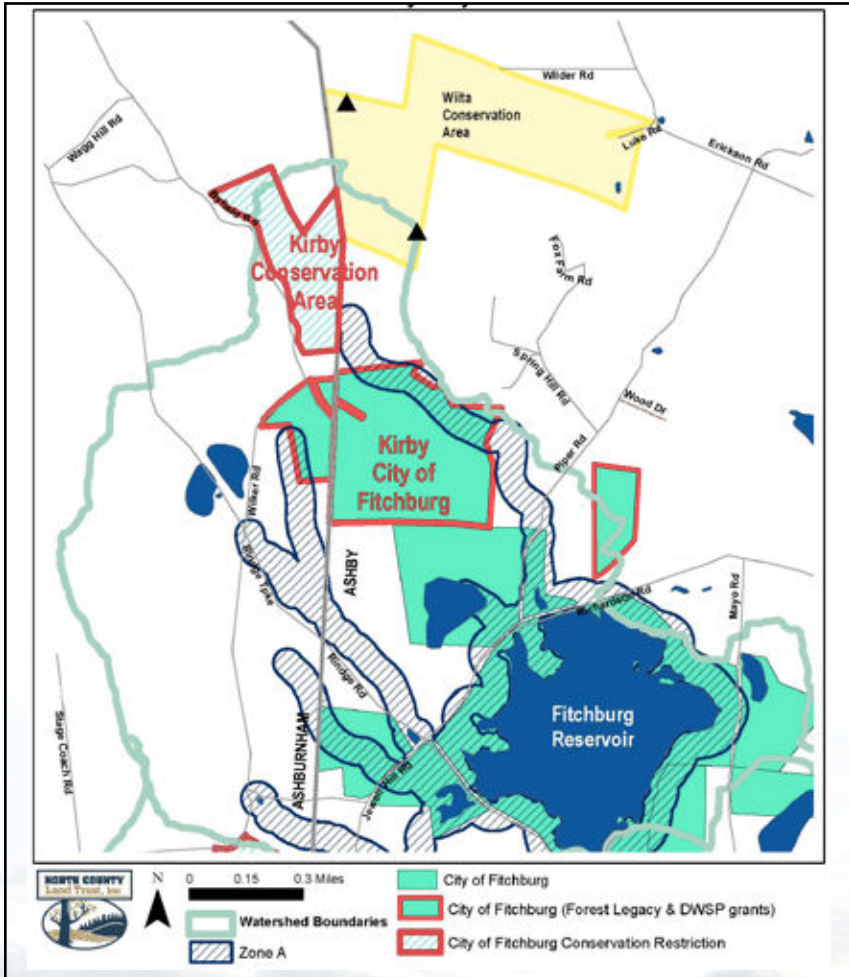


Zins Conservation Area is a 7 acres property in Princeton, donated to NCLT in 2014. This property is strategically important, as it connects two large blocks of protected open space totaling more than 4,000 acres: Fitchburg watershed land around Bickford Pond Reservoir to the north and Mass. Audubon's Wachusett Meadows Sanctuary and the Wachusett Mountain State Reservation to the south and east. Zins Conservation Area will protect West Wachusett Brook, a tributary to Bickford Pond Reservoir, part of the City of Fitchburg's public water supply system. Zins CA is one of NCLT's newest public access conservation areas.

Land Conservation & Other Projects

Kirby Project: Protecting Fitchburg's Northern Watershed

With grant funding from the state Drinking Water Supply Protection Program, a landowner donation and a modest outlay of funds from the Fitchburg Water Enterprise Fund, NCLT helped the City to protect 163 acres of privately owned land in its northern water supply watershed. In a two part project, Helen Kirby donated a 53-acre parcel of land in Ashburnham to NCLT late in 2013. Then in 2014, she sold 110 acres located in Ashburnham and Ashby to the City of Fitchburg, retaining 10 acres around her house. NCLT conveyed a conservation restriction on our 53-acre parcel to the City. Kirby Conservation Area is NCLT's first public access conservation land in Ashburnham.



Fitchburg Reservoir

NCLT's work in 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.

Supporting Local Agriculture

CENTRAL MASS. GROWN. North County Land Trust is a partner in a new initiative to promote local agriculture in central Massachusetts. Central Mass. Grown connects local farmers and producers to stores and restaurants, and promotes the value of local food to consumers.



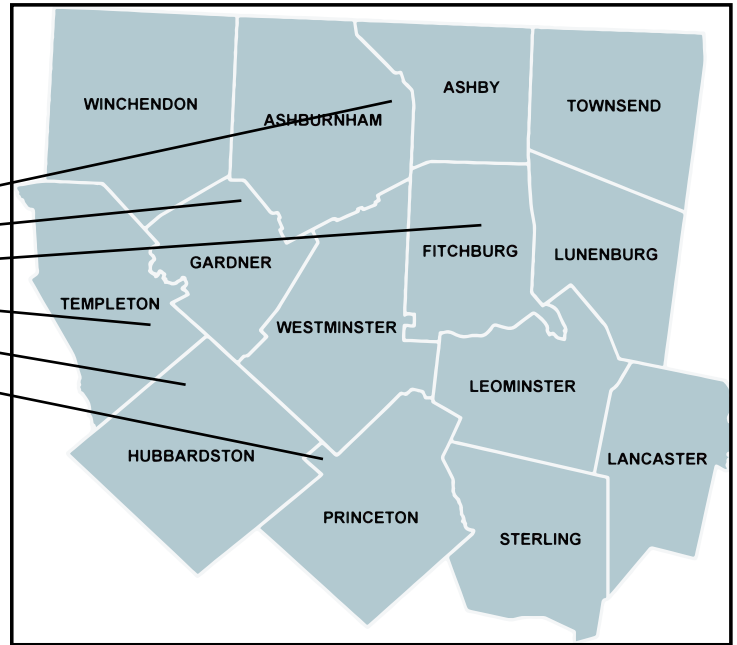
FARMLAND INVENTORY PROJECT. This year, we launched our North Central Mass. Farmland Inventory Project, to collect important information about farming in each town and city in our Focus Area, including the number of farms, farm acres in production and what is produced. We are working with Agricultural Commissions to map the farms and farmland in their communities, identifying not only where the farms are now, but also where productive farm soils have been reforested. Farmland that has been reforested can be protected and later reclaimed for future agricultural uses.

Land Stewardship 2014

Our Conservation Areas

North County Land Trust manages 6 public access Conservation Areas within our 14 community Focus Area:

Kirby Conservation Area	53 acres in Ashburnham
Rome Conservation Area	175 acres in Gardner
Crocker Conservation Area	150 acres in Fitchburg
Dwelly Farm	69 acres in Templeton
Underwood Road Conservation Area	65 acres in Hubbardston
Zins Conservation Area	7 acres in Princeton



Our Conservation Restrictions

North County Land Trust holds Conservation Restrictions (CR's) on 7 properties in four communities. The CR's prohibit development, while allowing activities such as forestry, farming, recreation, and other uses that protect natural resources.

Wiita Conservation Area	175 acres in Ashby
Echo Hill	43 acres in Fitchburg
Overlook Reservoir	30 acres in Fitchburg
Gateway Park	12 acres in Fitchburg
Hollis Road	61 acres in Lunenburg
Northfield Road	21 acres in Lunenburg
Norcross Hill	62 acres in Templeton

Underwood Road Conservation Area

The United Way Day of Caring is a great opportunity for volunteers and non-profits to work together to get important work done. On September 18th, a team of 8 volunteers worked with our AmeriCorps member, Desiree Hamelin and NCLT staff to clear trails on Underwood Road Conservation Area in Hubbardston.



Our trail work day on April 12th was a huge success, with student volunteers from Fitchburg High School joining NCLT Directors and friends, working to clear and mark a half-mile trail on Crocker Conservation Area.

Crocker Conservation Area

With the help of dedicated volunteers, we worked to prepare our most popular conservation area for the City of Fitchburg's 250th Anniversary. Trail clearing and marking are continuing, as we develop new trails made possible by our timber harvest in 2012. In April, we celebrated the restoration of Fitchburg's historic Town Pound, which is part of the conservation area. Members of the Crocker Family, donors of Crocker CA, were on hand for the dedication of the restoration to Bigelow Crocker, Jr. and Jeanne Crocker. We thank Fitchburg Boy Scout Troop 41, Philip Jordan of the Fitchburg Historical Society and master carpenter, Philip Cacioppo for their invaluable help in this restoration effort.

A new gate and a stone monument were part of the Fitchburg Town Pound restoration project.



Membership and Financial Reports

Membership Report

Benefactors

John Henshaw
 Susanne Richey
 Alan Rousseau
 Lucy & Thomas Abisalih
 Dr. Robert & Christina Babineau
 Richard & Helen Brockelman
 Brian & Lisa Cote
 Martha Crocker & Thomas Leonard
 Rollstone Bank & Trust
 Can-Am Machinery, Inc.

Sponsors

Laila Michaud
 Karen Tucker

Supporters

Lucilla Crocker
 Marshall Dennis
 Gardner Fish and Gun Club, Inc.
 Joan Gould
 John & Joyce Kemp
 Jackie Leger
 Maureen & Andy Nguyen

Supporters

Roger & Serra May Plourde
 Thomas & Mary Robinson
 Wachusett Brewing Company
 Carolyn & S.C. Winslow
 Malcolm & Marie Wright

Members

Eric Alitalo
 Marie Auger
 Ralph & Judy Baker
 Samuel Blair
 Dr. John Bogdassarian M.D.
 Trevor Bonilla
 Christopher Bramley
 Jassy & Tom Bratko
 Philip Cacioppo
 Deborah & Charles Cary
 Larry Casassa
 Laretta Conlon
 Todd & Caroline Lee Crocker
 Ted & Diane Cushing
 Paul & Jean DeMeo Susan Edwards
 Allan Foster
 Dr. James Hammond Jr. & Annie Wiley

Members

Clayton Hobart & Amanda Graham
 Carrie Harris
 Ashok Hingorany & Achla Madan
 Paula Lanson
 Edwin Howard
 Dorcas Hurd
 Brandon Kibbe
 Helen Kirby
 David & Barbara Krashes
 Norman & Annette LeBlanc
 William Marshall
 William Millington
 Dr. John Murphy M.D.
 North Medford Club
 Peter & Nancy Orni
 Allen & Barbara Rome
 Arlene Rome
 Henri Sans Jr.
 Meriwether Schmid
 Kimball Simpson & Kathleen Donaghue
 Marion Stoddart
 Christopher & Peggy Williamson
 Norman Wironen

Financial Report - (July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014*)

Revenues		
Member Contributions	\$22,834	
Grants	\$2,500	
Fund Distribution	\$15,000	
Sale of Conservation Restriction	\$23,750	
Fees	\$10,297	
Project Cost Contributions	\$26,939	
Misc Income	\$1,800	
Total		\$103,120
Expenses		
Payroll & Stipends	\$79,328	
Office	\$16,452	
Insurance	\$2,333	
Travel	\$3,001	
Project Costs	\$13,192	
Professional Fees	\$7,239	
Programs & Stewardship	\$5,175	
Total		\$126,720
Net Income		-\$23,600
*First fiscal year of transition from cash to accrual accounting.		



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alan N. Rousseau, *President
Gardner*

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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

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John C. Kemp
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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 FY2014. We have been able to continue on a steady path in land conservation through our success in land conservation projects, stewardship of NCLT conservation areas, and educational/outreach programs.

In the first year of our transition from cash to accrual accounting, funds recognized in earlier years allowed us to complete conservation projects in FY2014. While revenues of \$101,120 did not cover expenses totaling \$126,519 for FY2014, we do not anticipate similar results in FY2015. The NCLT Board and Staff continue to focus on achieving financial sustainability for the organization.

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 53 acre Kirby Conservation Area and the 7 acre Zins Conservation Area. The Kirby project also included an additional 110 acres in Ashburnham and Ashby water supply watershed land sold to the City of 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. The NCLT has begun to expand our land conservation scope in the area of agriculture through our partnership in Central Mass Grown, a new initiative to promote a "buy local" food system in central Massachusetts. Our stewardship work on NCLT properties included major projects on the Underwood Road Conservation area in Hubbardston and Crocker Conservation Area in Fitchburg. Charlotte Levy, our AmeriCorps Member, expanded our Nature Walks and Talks program with 5 guided hikes in five communities and 7 nature talks on subjects ranging from wildflowers to the effects of climate change in our region. Our Environmental Educator, Laurie Nehring, led guided "Owl Prowl" nature hikes on two NCLT conservation areas and taught an environmental education program to 63 3rd Grade students at the Center School in Hubbardston. Ryan DeMeo, NCLT Office Manager, did an excellent job in keeping our administrative operations running smoothly throughout the entire year.

I want to recognize the important contributions of former board members, Jim Walsh and Dick O'Brien. A longtime AMC member and hike leader, Jim was active on our Land Committee during his tenure from 2011 to 2014, and he was especially helpful in leading volunteers in trail maintenance projects on Crocker Conservation Area in Fitchburg. During his year of service on the Board from January 2013 to January 2014, Dick provided invaluable expertise in both forestry and land management.

In closing, I would like to 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

March 2015