



The Monitor

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NEWFOUND LAKE REGION ASSOCIATION

Newfound Land Conservation Partnership is Born

The Newfound Land Conservation Partnership (NLCP) is made up of three enthusiastic principal partners: The NLRA, The Lakes Region Conservation Trust, and the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. These organizations each have mission-driven interests in conserving land and water resources in the Newfound region. The NLCP provides a means by which they will collaborate to facilitate land conservation in the watershed.

As you know, the Newfound region is a very special place, with scenic slopes and ridgelines, large tracts of forested habitat, productive agricultural lands, pristine rivers and the lake, and peaceful villages. Conserving critical lands is one of the best ways to protect the water and natural resources, maintain recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike in all seasons of the year, sustain the local economy, and preserve the scenic qualities and community character.

There are a number of conservation options available to landowners, and some may include significant tax incentives for charitable donations. NLRA Program Director Martha Twombly and NLRA's revitalized Land and Watershed Committee are the local "face" of the NLCP, and will be a resource for property owners interested in learning

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Representatives of the three partner organizations sign a Memorandum of Understanding formalizing the "Newfound Land Conservation Partnership." Left to right: Boyd Smith, Executive Director, NLRA; Jane Difley, President/Forester, Forest Society; Don Berry, President, LRCT. They are joined by members of the NLRA Land & Watershed Committee members: Jon Martin, Mark Coulson, Paul Doscher, Mason Westfall, Kate Barrett, and Martha Twombly. Absent from the photo are: Peter Carey, Chair; Jennifer and Roger Larochelle, Dick Beyer, Ed McNierney, AnaLeyah North, Vin Broderick and Jack Scarborough.

Watershed Master Plan Coming Soon!

Every Acre Counts: **The Newfound Watershed Master Plan** is a 30-month, \$350,000+ project to protect water quality and quantity within the 63,000-acre Newfound River watershed. After over two years of hard work by the project team, the draft Plan is being brought to you via public meet-

ings and the Internet this Spring. With the draft Plan complete, the NLRA is scheduling meetings with every Town Board during April, May and June to present the Plan's purpose and highlights. More importantly, we are seeking questions, comments and ideas so that

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From the Executive Director

Welcome to our Spring 2009 Newsletter! I hope you all enjoyed the winter months and share my anticipation of the warmth and growth that summer will bring.

While winter is normally a time for hibernation (or play), that was not what you would expect from your year 'round water watchdog. Your Board of Trustees spent priceless creative energy building on the results of our October 2008 strategic planning session, generously and capably facilitated by Rosemary D'Arcy in the homey comfort of The Mill Ice Cream and Fudge Factory. In keeping with our long tradition of environmental stewardship and to achieve the NLRA's mission, we will commit our limited resources to three core areas in 2009:

- Organizational Development. Continue building the leadership team, expanding membership, diversifying fund-

ing sources and creating local stewardship capacity.

- Watershed Master Plan. Complete the Plan with as much local input as possible, facilitate its adoption by local Planning Boards, and assist Towns with Plan implementation.

- Land Conservation. The NLRA, founding member of the Newfound Land Conservation Partnership, will develop and implement a strategic plan to increase the pace of land conservation in the 63,000-acre Newfound watershed.

Our updated Mission Statement, crafted by our Trustees after much thought and deliberation, is our guiding light for day-to-day decisions. You are among the first to view this beacon statement – we hope you will find it as energizing as we do!

“The Newfound Lake Region Association’s mission is to protect Newfound

Lake and its watershed. The Association – through education, programs and collaboration – promotes conservation and preservation of the region’s natural, social and economic resources.”

Another unique aspect of this winter was the economy. Along with the rest of the world our Endowment and Annual Fund took hits in 2008 and early 2009, so we chased our budget projections downward, eventually ending with a budget below 2008 levels. *To eliminate the operating costs of a separate mailing, this Newsletter contains our Spring Membership renewal request.*

As your thoughts turn to the summer, remember that the NLRA is your full-time “water watchdog”. Without the warmth of your financial support we can not grow to do our year-round work protecting our clean water and scenic land!

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President’s Message

Once again, it’s been a busy winter in the watershed with real progress made in many important areas. Special thanks to our Trustees for the great job they did finalizing the Mission Statement, which is the critical lens through which we view all our activities and choices.

With only 13% of Newfound’s watershed permanently protected, the founding of the Newfound Land Conservation Partnership (see page 1) is noteworthy. The complimentary efforts of the NLCP and the Watershed Master Plan will add

substantially to the conservation and sustainability of our vital open space and clean water.

This is the first year in our history that the five principal watershed towns (Alexandria, Bridgewater, Bristol, Hebron and Groton) joined as contributing members – exciting growth from our first municipal member (Bristol) in 2007. Heartfelt thanks to those who supported us with your voices and votes at budget committee and Town meetings!

I want to thank Bill and Jeanette Fay,

who will soon be moving from the area, for their many years of hard work as volunteers and Trustees. Bill has spent hours on the lake sampling and giving boat tours, led the “Tent Set-up Brigade”, providing wise (and succinct!) counsel and lending a hand wherever most needed. Jeanette has been the cornerstone of children’s activities at the Naturally Newfound Fair, and the good woman behind Bill’s good man.

On a very sad note, long time Trustee,

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The Monitor is a publication of the Newfound Lake Region Association.

NLRA Officers and Executive Committee Members:

Don Martin, *President*; Victor Field, *Vice President*; Ken Weidman, *Treasurer*; Helga Stamp, *Secretary*;

Trustees: Peter Carey, David Carlson, Jan Collins, Bill Fay, Noah Munro, Greg Wagner

Staff: Boyd Smith, *Executive Director*; Martha Twombly, *Program Director*

NEWFOUND LAKE REGION ASSOCIATION

800 Lake St. Bristol, NH 03222 P: 603-744-8689 info@newfoundlake.org

Programs



Naturally Newfound Fair

The lovely Ash Cottage Audubon property at the head of Hebron Marsh is the site of the annual Naturally Newfound Fair. Save the date: Saturday, June 27, 2009, from 10-3. Co-sponsors this year include: Tapply-Thompson Community Center, the Slim Baker Foundation, Bristol Rotary, Bristol Lyons, Piche's Tents, and Camp Wicosuta.

We'll have:

- educational displays,
- arts & crafts,
- live animals and horse and wagon rides,
- activities for the whole family,
- great food and ice cream,
- live music.



Face-painting, Naturally Newfound Fair



The view overlooking Hebron Marsh, site of the Naturally Newfound Fair, June 27

Hot Tip! Emptying the Medicine Chest

In 2002 80 percent of river samples collected by the USGS contained evidence of drugs, hormones, steroids and personal care products. A few key tips to safely manage this new and very risky source of contamination:

- Buy only what you need to produce less waste.
- Check with your local household waste coordinator for disposal options.
- Dispose of as household trash by:
 - Keeping remains in original container.
 - Add a little water to solid waste or adsorbent (e.g. kitty litter) to liquid waste to make it unusable.
 - Double-seal container in another container or heavy bag.

The official NHDES Fact Sheet for "Emptying the Medicine Cabinet" can be found at this link. <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/sw/documents/sw-33.pdf>

Lake Host Program

Summer is just around the corner, and it's time to think about our popular Wellington State Park and public boat launch – and preventing invasive plants from coming to Newfound. We received a \$2,000 grant from the NH Lakes Association to hire student Lake Hosts – but grants are decreasing every year due to



funding cuts and an increase in lake associations applying for grants. Particular thanks go to Bridgewater for providing some monies for our 2009 Lake Hosts. Paid students will be working weekends, and our wonderful volunteers will take week-day shifts. We're always looking for more volunteers! Training is provided for free.

The cost of managing a lake or pond with an exotic weed infestation quickly becomes an extremely expensive problem for local municipalities or associations. Keeping ponds and lakes free from exotic species helps protect our quality of life and economy in New Hampshire!



Lake hosts help prevent invasive plants from coming to Newfound.

Programs

Winter Tracking Journal from the Newfound Trackers!

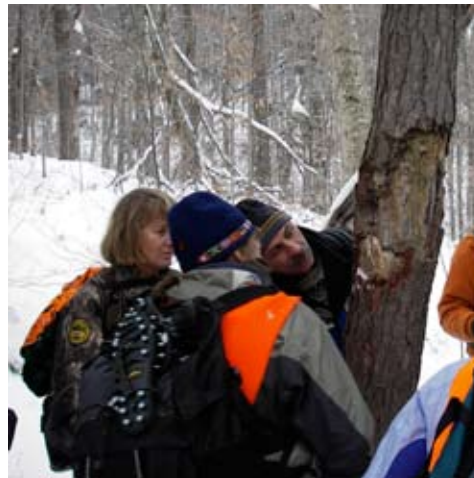
Strap on your snowshoes and follow us around the watershed! We've been exploring many new areas this winter including Hunt Road, Plymouth Mountain, Hemp Hill, and Hutchins Hill in Alexandria looking for signs of wildlife. And there's lots to see!

We begin our treks by "search imaging," a practice coined by professional tracker Sue Morse, to size up the general habitat we're hiking into. We've learned about habitat preferences of our six focal species: moose, bear, fisher, otter, bobcat and mink. So, we'll head to those kinds of habitats anticipating tracks, signs of "scent marking" or other indicators of an animal's presence.



The lone red pine across a wetland in the center of this photo tells us that it may be a likely tree for a bear to "scent mark." Bears will stand rubbing their oily fur against a tree to let others know "I'm here and stay away!" or "I'm looking for a date!" Or maybe this is a "baby sitter tree" where mama bear will put the cubs while she goes looking for food.

*"Half of tracking is knowing where to look, the other half is looking."
- Sue Morse*



Often bears will select a visible tree right on the trail to mark their presence by biting and rubbing against the tree. Sue Morse, Kay Hanson, and Roger Larochelle have come across a tree that has been marked by bears for generations.



This beech tree shows bear claw marks from years of climbing. Beech nuts provide our bears with much of their high calorie food in the fall.



Denyce Gagne stands next to a balsam fir that shows "moose barking." Moose will strip bark, and munch buds and twigs, for sustenance during the winter.



The acrobatic fisher often walks gingerly across a fallen log!

Programs



Sue Morse, Mitch Manseau, Karen Carey and John Lloyd come across a series of moose beds under the protection of a dense hemlock stand. In late winter drops of blood in the beds show the presence of winter tick, which can debilitate the animals.



If you look at the branch bent inward at the top of this beech tree: it's a bear nest! A bear sat up in the top of the tree feasting on the beech nuts to fatten up for winter hibernation.

If you'd like to join the Newfound Tracking Team on one of our outings, or to come identify tracks in your backyard, call Martha at 744-8689.

Audubon Partners with the NLRA Floating Classroom

NLRA's Floating Classroom is planning to launch out of the Newfound Audubon Paradise Point Nature Center this summer! The Floating Classroom has been utilized by the Audubon summer programs for many years. Both organizations promote water and natural resource protection through interactive outdoor education. In addition, the Center has opened a display room for the NLRA.



Floating Classroom

Hot Topic!

New Hampshire Water Resources Primer, December 2008

New Hampshire's economic well being, public health and quality of life depend on the sustainable management of our water resources. Whether it is used for drinking, manufacturing, recreation, waste assimilation or ecosystem health (or all of the above!), clean water is the cornerstone of our prosperity. The NH Water Resources Primer is the first document that covers all water-related topics of importance to NH policy makers and citizens. The full report is available on line from the NHDES at http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/wrpp/documents/water_resources_primer.pdf.

Hot Topic!

New Hampshire Climate Action Plan, March 2009

On March 25, 2009 after a year of work with over 125 stakeholders and more than 200 citizen comments, the Governor's 29-member Climate Change Policy Task Force released the New Hampshire Climate Action Plan. The goal of the Plan is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while providing the greatest possible long-term economic growth to the citizens of New Hampshire. Key opportunities include:

- Spurring growth by investing money locally that currently goes to energy imports.
- Creating jobs by developing in-state renewable energy and green technology development and deployment.
- Avoiding significant costs of responding to changing climate on New Hampshire's infrastructure, economy and citizen health.

Central to meeting these goals is preserving our working forests, which support the forest products industry, tourism and outdoor recreation; provide priceless ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration and wild life habitat; and protect our water quality and quantity. The full report is available on line from the NHDES at http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/air/tsb/tps/climate/action_plan/documents/032509_nhc-cptf_final_cap.pdf.

WATERSHED MASTER PLAN

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the final Plan is a useful and effective tool for every watershed community.

The following is the Plan review schedule – your engagement is most necessary!

- Mid-April through mid-June. NLRA meets with local Boards to summarize the Plan, listen and answer questions.
- Early May. Draft Plan on NLRA Web site <http://www.newfoundlake.org/watershedmasterplan/themasterplan.html>.
- June 15: Public workshop, draft Plan. Watch local media, NLRA Web site for details (<http://www.newfoundlake.org/events/calendar.html>).
- July-August. Draft Plan open for public comments (contact Boyd Smith at

nlra.Boyd@metrocast.net, 744-8689; or Steve Whitman at swhitman@jhtplanning.com, 536-5037).

- September 14 (tentative). Public workshop, final Plan. Watch local media, NLRA Web site (<http://www.newfoundlake.org/events/calendar.html>). Copies to Towns and on-line (<http://www.newfoundlake.org/watershedmasterplan/themasterplan.html>).

- Fall 2009. Work with Planning Boards to adopt pertinent sections of Plan and key recommendations.

Please take the time to be part of this important project! This unique opportunity to prepare for the future is funded by the NH Department of Environmental Services, with substantial match from project partners.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Continued from page 2

volunteer, and friend Joe Allison passed away unexpectedly in March. Joe supported the Association for years – serving on the Membership Committee, leading fund-raising efforts, sampling water quality and captaining our pontoon boat for local school children. Our sincerest sympathies to his widow Joan and their family.

Don Martin, President

FROM THE EXECUTIVE

DIRECTOR Continued from p. 2

Thanks for the opportunity to be part of such an important and effective organization.

See you around the watershed!

Boyd Smith, Director

CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP

Continued from page 1

more about conserving their land. The NLCP will assess and prioritize potential conservation opportunities while the LRCT and the Forest Society will carry out land conservation transactions. This initiative is funded by a grant from the NH Charitable Foundation and private donations.

Save the Date!

NLRA Annual Meeting
and Potluck!

Saturday, July 18, 2009
4–7 pm.

Paul Doscher, VP for Land Conservation for the Forest Society, is our guest speaker, discussing the Quabbin to Cardigan initiative and the Newfound Land Conservation Partnership.

And last year's potluck was a big success! You don't want to miss it!

Membership

2009 Membership Renewals – Many Hands Make Light Work!

An old saying, but oh, so true! The Newfound Lake Region Association is deeply grateful to all our nearly 650 individuals, families and business members – without your “many hands” we could not be your full-time water watchdogs! This edition of *The Monitor* gratefully recognizes all who supported us in 2008. Friends new and old know about the many services we provide to the Newfound Region. This Newsletter and our Web site (www.Newfoundlake.org) contain lots of information about who we are and what we have accomplished. Now let me take a moment to explain some of the organization’s “nuts and bolts”.

- The NLRA supports two full-time staff, responsible for all our programs, volunteer coordination, communications and community outreach, organizational development, administration and capacity building.

- We count on the support of families, individuals and businesses. Last year, only twenty percent of our income came from other sources, such as the Watershed Master Plan grant.

- Nearly 60 percent of donations are for Membership renewal while 40 percent are from our Annual Fund campaign. Roughly 30 percent of our members contribute to both fundraising efforts. We are grateful to every one of you who does your part!

Our Fall 2008 Annual Fund, in large part due to the economy, was 15 percent below 2007 levels and about 30 percent below our 2008 goal. As such, we are currently using our cash reserves (savings) to close this income gap. This is not a sustainable practice.

To respond to the economic downturn we have reduced all our costs, from personnel to operations. For example, our

Membership renewal request has been combined with this Newsletter to save roughly \$1,000. Yet ours is not an expense gap so much as an income gap – there are no more cuts to be made without sacrificing our hard-earned gains of the past few years.

The NLRA is recognized as the leading conservation steward for the Newfound Region. With our focus on the Watershed Master Plan, the newly-created Newfound Land Conservation Partnership and our community outreach and education, our influence and effectiveness

are on track for lasting success.

Even in these economic times, water needs protection, and we’re still the Region’s best resource for doing it. While times are tough, we hope that you will see donations to the NLRA as an excellent investment. Our work helps protect your Newfound experience, local property values and the economy for the future.

Please renew your membership in the Newfound Lake Region Association today at your highest level, so we can work for you to keep Newfound’s water and land clean and beautiful!



This is your Annual Renewal Form!

(Please make copies for your family and friends!)

Renew

Join

2009

Membership Form

Member support is vital to help us protect the Newfound Watershed.

Please renew your membership or join NLRA today!

Please mail this form and your check, payable to NLRA, to:
NLRA, 800 Lake St. Bristol, NH 03222.

Name

Email address:

Permanent Mailing Address:

Summer Mailing Address:

Please check here if you are interested in receiving email communications (web-based newsletters, annual report, news updates).

Membership Categories:

- Steward \$2000+
- Newfounder \$1000-\$1,999
- Sustaining \$500-\$999
- Supporting \$250-\$499
- Maintaining \$100-\$249
- Family \$50-\$99
- Individual \$35-\$50

Volunteer opportunities:

Please check all that apply.

- Lake Host/Invasive Species Protection
- Water Quality Monitoring/Education
- Watershed Mapping/Land Conservation
- Events/Publications/Outreach
- Membership Development
- Strategic Planning

Calendar

May 26

"Communities and Consequences," 6–8 pm, PSU–Boyd Science Building, \$10 for public, free to Town Board Members.

June 15

Watershed Master Plan, Draft Roll–Out (location TBD)

June 27

Naturally Newfound Fair, 10 to 3, Ash Cottage Audubon, Hebron

July 7

"Taste of Newfound," 5:30–7:30, Bridgewater/Hebron Elementary School, Contact the Newfound Chamber at newfound.chamber.org

July 18

NLRA Annual Meeting, 4–7 pm, Potluck, location TBD, Guest Speaker: Paul Doscher, Society for the Protection of NH Forests,

September 14

Save the Date! Final Watershed Master Plan – Presentation and Workshop for local Boards and community leaders, location TBD

Workshops and Events – Check www.newfoundlake.org for updates!

Have you renewed your membership for 2009? See the membership form on page 7.



♻️ Printed on recycled paper.

Visit our website for new information and upcoming workshops: www.Newfoundlake.org

This is your Annual Membership Renewal! See page 7.

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Non-Profit Organization
US Postage
PAID
Keene, NH 03431
Permit No. 142