

A land trust conserving ribbons of green in southeastern New Hampshire.



BEAR-PAW PRINT

NEWS & INFORMATION ABOUT BEAR-PAW REGIONAL GREENWAYS

MEMBER TOWNS CANDIA DEERFIELD EPSOM NORTHWOOD NOTTINGHAM RAYMOND STRAFFORD

Our

MISSION

Bear-Paw Regional Greenways is a land trust established by resident volunteers who are concerned about the loss of open space lands. Bear-Paw envisions a series of greenways comprised of private and public lands that connect large conservation areas. Protection of this land network will safeguard important wildlife habitat and travel routes; surface waters, groundwater, and wetlands; scenic resources and recreational opportunities.

Bear-Paw is committed to ensuring that the region's most important natural features continue to be available for future generations and is working to accomplish this goal through landowner outreach, education, land protection, community assistance and partnerships.

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Unique Natural Features

Northwood Meadows: A Park for All Seasons

By Wini Young

Whether it's for a walk with a dog at 6am in July, a leaf-peeping trip in October, or a snow-shoeing exploration in February, Northwood Meadows State Park is a place to visit more than once. Fish from wheelchair-accessible ramps in the summer, meet cross-country runners in the spring and ski cross country on the bike path by the old Huckins Orchard in winter.

Snowmobiles and kayaks take their turns in this scenic park of 662 acres, one of the few in New England having universal accessibility. Park by the Northwood Meadows State Park sign on Route 4 in Northwood, walk by the old mill site on Tucker Brook, and take the right-hand fork to view the manmade Meadows Lake with Saddleback Mountain as a backdrop.

Follow the road, then the lakeside trail where you will find painted turtles sunning themselves in Turtle Cove, a boat launch, and fishing ramps with seats that invite a picnic. The stone wall that snakes across Sawdust Point, disappears into the water, and reappears on the west side is a clue to the lake's past life as a meadow. Troll Rock, a pile of boulders placed at the water's edge by the former owner, provides a place to sit and enjoy the solitude on a quiet morning, where one may catch a glimpse of beaver, moose, deer, a songbird or migrating waterfowl.

At the south end, the dam, fenced in to discourage beavers, holds back the lake, which is the headwaters of the Lamprey River that winds off southward. The wide paths of the eastside loop were built by the Pioneers of PSNH. Beyond the loop path Dashingdown Road leads to discontinued Old Mountain Road. A well marked trail leads to the Saddleback

summit. Off the road, the New Hampshire Rock marks a path that leads to Demon Pond, named for the Demmons family.

The park abuts the Forest Peters Wildlife Management Area and Carl Wallman's

conservation easement making a large tract of 1310 protected acres, an unfragmented size so important to wildlife and water resources.

The park's interesting history is documented in *History and Remembrances of the Northwood Meadows State Park* by M. Edward Burtt, who built the boulder-fringed roads and dam. The parcel was purchased by the State of New Hampshire in 1990. You'll see caretaker, George Carr, walking the loop early in the morning and at gate closing time. Stop and ask him questions. His knowledge and love of the park will add to your visit. 🐾



Footprints in the snow by Meadows Lake.

PHOTO BY SHERRY GODLEWSKI

A Note

FROM THE CHAIR

As I write this, my 5-month old son, Wyatt, is snoozing on the bed nearby. I've recently been on a Dove chocolate candy kick, and inside the wrappers are thoughtful little sayings... my favorite one is "Inspire the life of a child" and I can't help but think how he'll mimic the things I do and the values I hold.

My mind wanders and I also contemplate how things will be different for him. We have horses and we enjoy going out for a ride. What will it be like for Wyatt when he's my age? Will he be able to go out beyond our little patch of woods? Or will there be too many roads and houses and cars?



Cody Cramer with son Wyatt

I hope Bear-Paw's vision is realized and that Wyatt's generation is handed a torch that is burning brightly. I also hope his generation is interested and inclined to carry that torch.

So, inspire the lives of children. Bring them into the woods, expose them to nature, invite them to a Bear-Paw educational event, and teach them the importance of open space, clean air, clean water, and resource conservation.

My best regards,

Cody Cramer

Cody Cramer
Board Chair

Silent Woods

By Eric Orff

Nearly a half century ago, Rachel Carson's book, *Silent Spring*, awakened the American public to the environmental disasters caused by DDT and other chemicals. The awakened giant was motivated to outlaw the use of DDT in the United States, and an environmental movement was hatched in the early 1970's that included the first "Earth Day."

Another insidious disaster has infiltrated wild lands across New Hampshire and much of North America. It is not poured from a barrel but has caused an even more dramatic decline in bird numbers than even Rachel Carson imagined. The disaster is us. It is called urban sprawl and its result, habitat fragmentation. It is our houses, roads, golf courses, malls, parking lots and whatever else we have deemed necessary for our human civilization.

This habitat fragmentation has caused a significant decline in the numbers of songbirds called neotropical migrants in the last two decades. Neotropical migrants are the colorful songbirds that live and breed here through the spring and summer, yet migrate vast distances to Mexico, Central and South America, or the Caribbean each winter. The blackpoll warbler, for example, migrates non-stop for 2,300 miles on an 86-hour commute from eastern North

America. Other migrants such as red eyed vireos, scarlet tanagers, song sparrows, meadowlarks, and ovenbirds are among over twenty species familiar in the past that are recognized to be in decline today in New Hampshire.

Studies have laid much of the blame for the decline on the loss of large tracts of land of over 500 acres to development. Fragmented woodlands may no longer host songbirds for a variety of reasons. Skunk and raccoon numbers explode with the availability of our trash and pet foods and little natural control. They can efficiently sweep small woodlots clean with their foraging. Even our lovely housecats take a large toll. Smaller lots increase "edge effect" which encourages competing species such as jays, starlings, cowbirds and even crows which prey on the eggs and young of the songbirds.

In parts of Rockingham and Merrimack Counties Bear-Paw Regional Greenways is making a significant difference by helping to preserve large blocks of habitat over 500 acres, and by adding additional acreage to existing protected lands. You can give song to our forests of the future through Bear-Paw's conservation efforts and your local conservation commission. 🐾

Pawtuckaway's Cerulean Warblers

By Pam Hunt, Audubon Society of NH

Mention Pawtuckaway State Park to birders in New Hampshire, and one species will immediately come to their minds: the Cerulean Warbler. The park is famous as the only place in the state where this sky-blue songbird occurs with any regularity. Pawtuckaway's first cerulean was found on May 16, 1992, and continued into June, suggesting that it was at least thinking about breeding. The species has occurred there every year since and was confirmed breeding in 1995 and 1996. Volunteers documented four or five singing males during the 2002 breeding season.

While southeast New Hampshire is part of an expansion of the bird's range in the northeast, the Appalachian and Midwest populations have seen a significant decline. The Cerulean Warbler was recently put forward as a candidate for "threatened" status under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

Pawtuckaway's small population doesn't mean much in the broader picture of Cerulean Warbler conservation, but it does serve to highlight the uniqueness of one of southeastern New Hampshire's largest unfragmented forest blocks. 🐾



The Cerulean Warbler

PHOTO CREDIT: MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

A River Runs Through It

A new easement in Strafford

The ink will soon be dry on the documents protecting the 50 acres of Bob and Shirley Brownell's wooded property at the corner of Province and Northwood Roads in Strafford. Not only will the easement protect a section of the Buzzy Run pictured, the property contains a large pond, mixed hardwood and softwood forest, and cliff-like jumbles of rock which provide a variety of wildlife habitats. Bob and Shirley worked with both Bear-Paw and the Strafford Conservation Commission to donate their development rights. They hope this will inspire neighbors to consider conservation easements as well. 🐾



Buzzy Run on the Brownell Easement

PHOTO BY GOWDY & FARRELL INC.

Second Annual Vernal Pool Walk

Saturday, May 1st • 9am • Meet at George B. White Building, Deerfield

Come join Bear-Paw members and friends on the Second Annual Vernal Pool Walk on Saturday, May 1st. Rockingham County Cooperative Extension Forest Resources Educator, Matt Tarr, and NH Fish and Game wildlife biologist and Bear-Paw Board member, Eric Orff, will again lead the tour along two vernal pools in Pawtuckaway State Park. They will help us find and identify a variety of salamander and frog eggs, give us a glimpse of the often heard but seldom seen spring peeper, and perhaps even discover one of the elusive mole salamanders.

The walk is free and open to the public. Meet at the George B. White building in Deerfield at 9am on Saturday, May 1st for carpooling and following the group to the vernal pool locations in the park. 🐾



We would like to hear from you!

- Yes, I want to become a member of Bear-Paw.**
Enclosed is my check in the amount of:
 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 Other \$ _____
- Yes, I want to become a Bear-Paw volunteer.**
- Please send me information about Bear-Paw.**

Thank you for your generous support!

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

Please make your check payable to Bear-Paw Regional Greenways, and send to PO Box 19, Deerfield, NH 03037.

A Poem

FOR THE SEASON

By Richard W. Moore, Deerfield, NH

BIOMASS

First warm rain and here come the frogs: green frogs, brown frogs, pickerel frogs; the swift leopard frog and the slow bull frog; wood frogs, peepers, hyla crucifer threading through the snowpressed leaves onto the pavement into the headlights –

and salamanders, eight inch blue-black ambystomids with yellow spots, blue spots; Jeffersons and marbled salamanders, lungless red-backed plethodons, spring and two-lined, dusky, four-toed salamanders, inedible newts and red efts everywhere –

weeks before the warblers sift down in the dawn like bright leaves from springbare branches –

frogs and salamanders sliding, hopping, sidling on thin ankles, inturned toes plotting ancient trails to vernal pools, out of the earth, mud, root-realm, congresses of males awaiting the quiet frenzy of amphibious fornication, planting swelling jelly masses in the wan sun pools – a greater weight of them than us rising into consciousness.

Open Space Lands

Calendar of Events

Down From the Hill #4

April 24 • 7-11pm • Deerfield Town Hall
An evening of music with bluegrass, Celtic and folk bands. Admission is \$10 at the door, Children under 10, \$5. Refreshments will be provided. Bring a mug and a lawn chair and make it feel like summer!

Second Annual Vernal Pool Walk

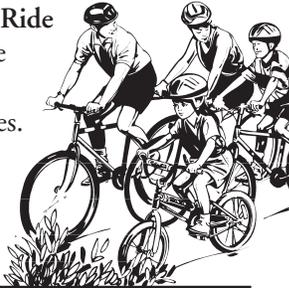
May 1 • 9am

Meet at George B. White Building, Deerfield, and caravan to Pawtuckaway State Park. See details in the article inside.

In the planning stages...

- **A Biothon:** A biodiversity and species hunt competition
- **A Land Conservation Workshop:** Open space protection training
- **An Autumn Bike Ride Fundraiser:** A bike ride and picnic – an event for all ages.

Watch for mailings about these events!



Board OF DIRECTORS



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Sherry Godlewski

ILLUSTRATIONS
Al Jaeger

Town Tracks Updates from your neck of the woods

Town Meeting wrap up:

Candia: Though the \$3 million bond proposed by the Open Space Committee failed, it was by only 4 votes. The Committee is encouraged that it was so close to the required two thirds majority needed. They will continue to work for this initiative.

Deerfield: Voters established a Study Committee to develop a comprehensive Class VI road policy, update the master plan, and design standards to protect resources provided by the Class VI road system.

Northwood: The Northwood Community Resources Committee, formed in 2003, will promote the protection of Northwood's water resources, historic sites, and open space. For information, contact Wini Young at 942-8393.

Strafford: Voters approved dedicating any profit from timber operations on Town Forest lands to the Conservation Fund. They also voted to reclassify two sections of Class VI roads to Class A trails, with abutters having 90 days to ask for reconsideration. 🐾



Contact Bear-Paw Regional Greenways at PO Box 19, Deerfield, NH 03037. Call us at 603.463.9400, e-mail us at bear-paw@worldpath.net, or visit www.bear-paw.org

Annual Meeting Notes

Tom Wessels, right, author and Professor of Ecology at Antioch, New England, spoke to 150 who attended the February 14th meeting about the clues to past land use he described in his book *Reading the Forested Landscape*. Betsy Kruse and Judi and Jim Lindsey received awards for work with conservation successes.



PHOTO BY JUDI LINDSEY

Salamanders, Frogs and Peepers – Oh My!
Join Us for a Vernal Pool Walk
Saturday, May 1, 2004
Down From the Hill #4
Saturday, April 24, 2004
Details Inside!



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