

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

About US

Bear-Paw Regional Greenways is a land trust established by resident volunteers, who are working to conserve open space through landowner outreach, education, land protection, and community assistance.

Our Goal is to safeguard important wildlife habitat and travel routes, water and other natural resources, the region's inherent natural beauty, and local recreational opportunities.

Our Mission is to create a network of voluntarily protected lands in our region which connects with the larger network in southeastern New Hampshire.

We Envision a region of scenic beauty and sustained rural character, where human habitat is set within a viable network of natural resources preserved for present and future generations to enjoy.

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Unique Natural Features

Conservation Land Forests: Stewardship and Management

By Charlie Moreno, Consulting Forester

Forests, especially when protected by a conservation easement, offer an outstanding opportunity for thoughtful stewardship and long-term management. Forest “stewardship” means, quite simply, caring for the land. At the heart of forest stewardship, lies a deep relationship – that between the landowner or caretaker and the land. Forest “management,” a direct consequence of stewardship, implies several things – knowledge, planning, implementation, and long-term monitoring of results.

Forest Knowledge

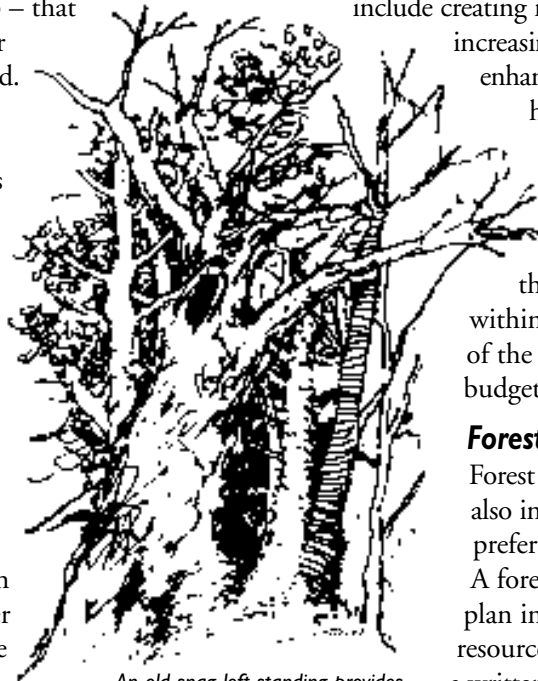
Forest management is first about acquiring knowledge of the land, the beginning spark of building a kinship with the forest. A landowner should know about the property's boundaries, natural features, and special places. Gaining knowledge of the property's natural resources – particularly soils, water, wildlife, and timber – usually requires assistance. Professional foresters are uniquely trained to provide practical assessment and mapping of these resources, though in-depth analysis of any one resource, such as wetlands, can be acquired by working with a professional

specializing in that particular field.

Another important area of knowledge is “self-knowledge” in relation to the land. This means clearly defining what is important to you as landowner, and making a summary of objectives. For example, objectives may include creating recreational trails, increasing timber value, enhancing wildlife habitat, and/or controlling invasive plants. Management objectives must then be considered within the constraints of the landowner's budget.

Forest Planning

Forest management also involves planning, preferably on paper. A forest management plan includes natural resource assessment, a written summary of landowner objectives, recommendations for managing these objectives over time, and a logistical plan for accomplishing the work. The plan may include forest data and financial projections. Natural resource maps, which provide a “bird's-eye” snapshot of the property, can be as important to the process as chainsaw, compass and bug dope.



An old snag left standing provides excellent wildlife habitat.

Continued on page 4

A Note FROM THE CHAIR

How about those maps! We hope that sometime in this last year you've had an opportunity to review the maps we created using a grant from the New Hampshire Estuaries Project, as authorized by the EPA pursuant to the Clean Water Act. We accomplished the project in conjunction with the Society for the

Protection of NH Forests.

The maps included Water Resources, Aerial Base Map, Significant Wildlife Habitat Areas, Natural Resources Co-occurrence as well as a layered map allowing different views of the various map details.

Bear-Paw delivered a complete set of maps to our member towns last year at a Conservation Roundtable. During the Roundtable, we reviewed each of the maps with representatives from the Conservation and Open Space committees, and discussed how they can be used to identify significant land, by natural resource features, that are prime targets for conservation.

Several towns have displayed the maps prominently in the town offices or local library and are using the maps regularly. Some individuals also purchased extra copies of the maps for personal use.

We hope these maps afford all of us a new way to look at our natural resources and an informative tool to use in planning and conservation.

My best regards,

Cody Cramer
Board Chair

A Greenway Grows in Deerfield

New Easement Adds to Core Conservation Area *By Frank Mitchell*

The protected land in one of the largest unfragmented blocks of land in the Bear-Paw region increased recently thanks to a generous donation of a conservation easement by Donald Willoughby of Kensington. In August, 2004, Don completed the conservation easement donation of 28 acres of his land on Cilley Road in Deerfield. Bear-Paw Regional Greenways holds the primary interest in the easement, with the town of Deerfield holding executory (or back-up) interest.

The Willoughby Conservation Easement is a well cared for wooded parcel that abuts a large property with a conservation easement held by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. That parcel abuts Pawtuckaway State Park, making the Willoughby Conservation Easement a direct addition to this very important core conservation area in the Bear-Paw region.

We applaud Don Willoughby's donation as well as the support of his family during the transaction. We also thank the Deerfield Conservation Commission and Select Board for their cooperation in this collaborative project. 🐾



A stone wall lines a path on the new Willoughby easement.

PHOTO CREDIT: SHERRY GODLEWSKI

Join Us for a Roundtable Workshop

Topic: "Towns and Conservation Easement Issues"

It is cause for celebration when a town sets aside some serious money in a conservation fund or even passes a conservation bond appropriation. Soon after the celebrations, however, some important questions arise:

- How do we decide where to spend that money?
- What are the responsibilities of conservation easement holders?
- What organization is best suited for the perpetual burden of holding the easements?

These and other questions will be discussed at a Roundtable Workshop to be held on **Thursday, October 28th, at the Raymond High School, 7-9 pm.**

The session will be a two-way discussion with conservation experts and community volunteers on key issues that communities and conservation organizations are experiencing with conservation easements.

The workshop is being co-sponsored by UNH Cooperative Extension and Bear-Paw. There is no charge, but pre-registration is requested. Call Phil

Auger at the Rockingham County Cooperative Extension Office, 679-5616, for more details and to pre-register.

Please join us and bring your questions and ideas to this important Roundtable. 🐾

Annual Meeting Set for February 12

Author Kevin Gardner will be Guest Speaker

Mark the date, Saturday, February 12, 2005, for the Bear-Paw annual meeting. Kevin Gardner, author of *The Granite Kiss: Traditions and Techniques of Building New England Stone Walls* will be the featured speaker. Since 1985, Mr. Gardner has been a feature writer and producer for New Hampshire Public Radio. His pieces on arts, history, and culture have been aired on National Public Radio. Since 1999 he has been the Master teacher for

the Shakespeare for Performance course at the St. Paul's School in Concord.

The meeting will feature not only Mr. Gardner's presentation, but reports, awards, and good food. Following these indoor activities, and depending upon weather and snow depths, there will be a walk on conservation lands in the Bear-Paw area. Details and the location of the meeting will come with your invitation in January. 🐾

Cordwood to Headline October 23

Down From The Hill #5 Features Bear-Paw Bluegrass Band

In the spring of 2002 when Bear-Paw held its first Down From The Hill, four local musicians joined their talents for that event and their bluegrass band, Cordwood, has been playing local venues ever since. Al Pratt, Bear-Paw board member from Strafford, is the band's lead guitar and banjo player. Walt Kutylowski from Deerfield is the bass guitarist. Wini Young, Bear-Paw board member from Northwood, plays guitar and banjo. Her husband, Bob, is on mandolin. All four members are vocalists and songwriters.

Cordwood and other New England bluegrass, folk, and Celtic bands will play at **Down From The Hill #5**, a Bear-Paw fundraiser, on Saturday, October 23rd, 7-11 pm, at the Deerfield Town Hall. Refreshments will be provided. Donation is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 10. 🐾



Wini Young, Bob Young, Al Pratt, Walt Kutylowski

PHOTO CREDIT: DAN BUSH

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.

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

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

**Thank you for
your generous
support!**

What's new WITH US?

We're Moving!

Bear-Paw is making tracks to a new office across town. For nearly a decade we have enjoyed the generous gift of space in the top floor of the Menard's Parade Properties office building. This year it became clear that with a growing list of projects and the increasing work required, we would need more physical space for files, equipment, maps, and a second paid staff member.

We'll move into our new two-room office in the former P.K. Lindsay building in Deerfield Parade later this fall. Our mailing address, telephone number, e-mail, and website will remain the same.

A New Executive Director

Late this summer the Board reluctantly accepted the resignation of Sherry Godlewski, our executive director. Sherry has worked very hard this year as both the half time Bear-Paw directorship and her home based businesses were expanding. She has decided to concentrate her considerable energy on her own businesses, but fortunately will remain a Bear-Paw member.

Dan Kern of Greenland has accepted the post of new executive director. Dan is well known in southern New Hampshire in conservation circles. He is on the Board of the Seacoast Land Trust, on the Planning and Select Boards of Greenland, and led the effort that saw the passage of Greenland's conservation bond. Once on board, he will help hire a part-time office administrator. We welcome Dan to this time of transition and expansion at Bear-Paw.

Open Space Lands

Calendar of Events



Down From The Hill #5 • October 23 • 7-11 pm • Deerfield Town Hall

An evening with bluegrass, folk and Celtic bands. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children under 10. More about the local band Cordwood inside.

Roundtable Discussion • October 28 • 7 pm • Raymond High School
"Towns and Conservation Issues" See details in the article inside.

Annual Meeting • February 12, 2005

A talk by author, Kevin Gardner, good food, and a walk on conservation land. Details to come in January.

Conservation Land Forests, continued from page 1

Implementation

Implementation of plans is the third leg of forest management. With forests, silvicultural management is key. Silviculture is the long-term strategy a forester uses to promote a healthy, valuable, scenic, and productive forest. Wise, long-sighted management is "sustainable", that is, not harvesting more timber than the forest is capable of growing over a given period of time, perhaps twelve to fifteen years. A second component of sustainability is not allowing the overall timber value of the forest to diminish. In fact, carefully managed forests will become more valuable over time, despite periodic timber harvests/sales.

Monitoring

Monitoring can be as simple as good record keeping from a qualitative standpoint by a

landowner's notebook of observations. Quantitative monitoring is also useful. Foresters can establish a continuous forest inventory system, with permanent sample plots, where measurements are occasionally conducted.

A final consideration of forest management is long-term tracking. Periodic analysis of the forest will help answer the following questions: Are the results of silviculture and the applied recommendations turning out as expected? Are adjustments needed in the overall plan?

With management, the landowner has the reward of realizing benefits aesthetic, financial, and environmental in a thriving forest.

Find more information at the UNH Cooperative Extension website at www.ceinfo.unh.edu. 🐾

Board OF DIRECTORS



Cody Cramer, Chair, Raymond
Wini Young, Vice-Chair, Northwood
Mark West, Treasurer, Nottingham
Betsy Kruse, Secretary, Candia

Harmony Anderson, Strafford
Phil Auger, Strafford
Erick Berglund, Deerfield
Sam Demeritt, Nottingham
Al Jaeger, Deerfield
Judi Lindsey, Candia
Frank Mitchell, Deerfield
Eric Orff, Epsom
Al Pratt, Strafford

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Dan Kern

ILLUSTRATIONS
Al Jaeger

Bear Crossing



PHOTO BY JUDI LINDSEY

A black bear crosses a trail on conservation land in Candia. A principal Bear-Paw goal is to preserve undeveloped land for safe wildlife travel routes.



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

Pickin' and singin' in Deerfield
Down From The Hill #5
Saturday, October 23, 2004
Roundtable Workshop
"Towns and Conservation Issues"
Thursday, October 28, 2004
Details Inside!



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