

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

A Valuable Tract to be Protected in Nottingham

Landowner, Town Officials, and Bear-Paw work to conserve unique property

By Phil Auger

The combined efforts of landowners Dan and Susan Comte, town officials in Nottingham, and Bear-Paw Regional Greenways will soon result in the protection of 133 more acres in the town.

The Comte property has great natural features that warrant its protection. It is located on Cooper Hill, one of the highest points in Nottingham. The 15 acres of fields have prime farm soils and are home to bobolinks, a species of concern in the state, plus bluebirds, indigo buntings and a variety of more common species. The remaining upland portions of the property are entirely wooded. The forest land, a certified Tree Farm since 1984, has been very well managed by previous owners, and Dan has continued this forest stewardship. The forest today is an excellent example of what can be done to improve woodlands that, in this case, had two liquidation timber harvests since 1920.

One of the more interesting and unique aspects of this property is a five-acre black gum dominated wetland. Staff from the USDA Forest Service Laboratory in Durham extracted tree ring samples from three of these trees and

found them to be over 500 years old, nearing the state record holder of 679 years.

Other conservation efforts in this area include the abutting twenty-acre Bock conservation easement, and ongoing projects on Stonehouse Pond and Nippo Hill in Barrington. The long term goals are to connect these projects to the 1,800-acre Samuel A. Tamposi Conservation Reserve in Barrington. The Comte property adds a large and valuable piece to this developing greenway.

This conservation project has been in the works for more than two years. The appraised value of the development rights is \$255,000, but Dan and Susan have

generously agreed to sell them for \$210,000. The Town of Nottingham committed up to \$160,000 for the easement and \$10,000 for the transaction costs which include a survey, attorney fees, and a stewardship endowment. Bear-Paw Regional Greenways has secured \$50,000 toward the project with a grant from the New Hampshire Estuaries Project and continues to apply for additional funding that



A black gum tree on the Comte property.

PHOTO CREDIT: MARK WEST

Continued on page 4

CONSERVATION
*dollars go to
work* IN CANDIA

**Come walk the 82 acres
of new public land**

Candia residents may now enjoy the results of their willingness to dedicate money to their conservation fund. This summer town officials completed a project using \$350,000 of the fund to purchase the 82-acre Girard property for the town. The

tract includes a variety of forest and wetland habitats including a border on the North Branch River. It lies on the Candia/Deerfield line directly in the Bear Brook, Pawtuckaway State Park corridor and adds another important piece in the goal of connecting the two parks with a greenway of protected natural land. The town will work with Bear-Paw Regional Greenways to establish a conservation easement for the property.



Left to right: Roger Stenbak, Jim Lindsey, Joe Miele, Joe Collette and George DeWolf take a hike in Candia's new town property.

Conservation Commission members and Bear-Paw invite the public to join them on a walk to celebrate and explore this new public land on Saturday, October 22nd, from 9-11am with a rain date set for Sunday the 23rd. Please register for the walk at info@bear-paw.org and receive meeting place directions and other details. 🐾

Natural Resource Maps—Very Pretty— But How Do We Use Them?

The beautiful natural resource maps already available in towns are important tools for protection of town character and resources, but can everyone interpret all those colored patches and squiggles? Just how can they be used to plan for the town you'd like your grandkids to see?

Join us on Thursday, October 27th, from 7-9pm at the Epsom Fire House for a workshop sponsored by Bear-Paw and the Friends of the Suncook River, and led by Eric Orff and Katy Callahan of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, and Darrel Covell, UNH

Cooperative Extension wildlife specialist. Town officials and the public are invited to participate in this session using the maps

Conservation Roundtable – Maps!
Thursday, October 27th • 7-9pm
Epsom Fire House • Epsom

as a recipe for success in town planning. There is no charge for the workshop, but please register at info@bear-paw.org so leaders may bring materials for all. 🐾

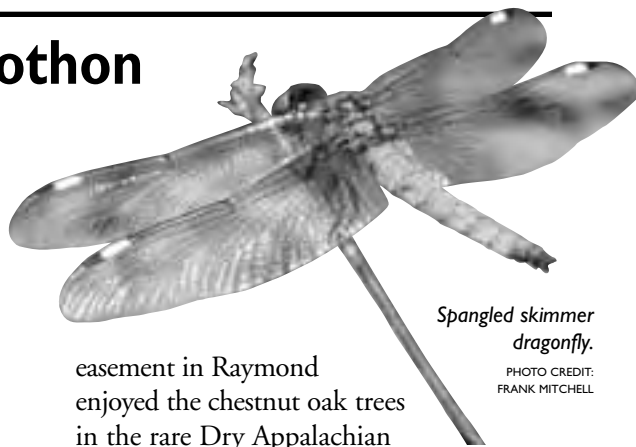
The Bear-Paw Biothon

By Mark West

Bear-Paw conducted its first Biothon on June 11, 2005, and it was a great success. Three teams of three to four members spent a very warm summer day identifying everything living on Bear-Paw conservation easements in Candia, Deerfield/Nottingham, and Raymond. This fundraising event also served to inform us of the biodiversity on our protected lands. Team members included scribes, naturalists, botanists, birdwatchers, and even an entomologist.

The most species observed for the event, 301, were on the Lindsey's 30-acre easement in Candia. John Weaver, NH Department of Agriculture entomologist, identified 119 insect species. Judi Lindsey said, "I have a new appreciation of my land and I had a blast learning about all the species on my property."

The team on the 140-acre Cramer



Spangled skimmer dragonfly.

PHOTO CREDIT: FRANK MITCHELL

easement in Raymond enjoyed the chestnut oak trees in the rare Dry Appalachian Oak-Hickory Forest on this property and identified a total of 213 species.

The 86-acre Rosenfield-Mallette easement yielded a total of 266 species highlighted by indigo bunting, red-shouldered hawk, and New England bluet damselflies.

The event raised more than \$2,000 and coincided with Rockingham Land Trust's Biothon. Following the event, teams from both Bear-Paw and Rockingham gathered at the Cramer farm for a cookout and to share the sightings of the day. 🐾

Correction!

In the Spring 2005 issue of *Bear-Paw Print* we did not report the Town of Nottingham's full partnership with Deerfield in the project that protects the 89 acres of the Avis Rosenfield and Tim Mallette property. Deerfield and Nottingham each contributed half of the funds for the bargain

sale agreement and transaction costs. We particularly regret the omission because the cooperation between officials of Nottingham and Deerfield is an important part of that project's story, and provides an excellent conservation example for other towns in the state. 🐾

A Bear-Paw Profile – Betsy Kruse

In 1975 when Betsy bought a five and a half acre wooded parcel in Candia, a neighbor pointed out a deer run across her new property. She realized that preserving just her own section of that wildlife habitat wouldn't do much good without protected lands all around, and her dream of a "greenway" connecting Bear Brook and Pawtuckaway State Parks began. Betsy became a leader and recorder of meetings in Candia and Deerfield that brought conservation commission members from area towns together to

discuss cooperative land protection efforts. She was a founder of Bear-Paw Regional Greenways in 1995, and has been an Executive Board member and our faithful secretary for all of our ten years.

Betsy is a New Jersey native, but she enjoyed her childhood summers spent at camp in Vermont and always planned to make New England her home. Following her degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, she first taught in Wisconsin, but found her way back to New England when her job search was answered by the Manchester school district. She taught physical education at a junior high school there for 14 years. After additional certification she was an elementary school counselor for another 15 years until her retirement in 1999.

The unique house Betsy had built in her Candia woods has two octagonal sections supported from central poles with radiating beams like umbrella spokes. The odd and interesting corners and angles are filled with mementos and framed photographs of her travels around the world including her latest from Egypt and Peru. Other photos are from just beyond her own doorstep where towering pines host a variety of wildlife. Though her five-plus acres aren't enough for a conservation easement, Betsy has willed her home and property to Bear-Paw. Her dream is that someday it will serve as a nature center in the middle of a completed greenway between the two state parks. 🐾



PHOTO CREDIT: DAWN CLANCY

Betsy Kruse, shown here, about to set off into the woods behind her Candia home.

MARK YOUR
Calendars!



Raptor Expert Will Speak at February Annual Meeting

Mark your 2006 calendar on Saturday, February 11th, for Bear-Paw's Annual Meeting. Ian MacLeod, a raptor specialist and the Director of the Audubon Society of New Hampshire's six Visitor Centers, will be our guest speaker. He will be discussing the natural history of raptors found throughout New Hampshire and the Bear-Paw region. You may recognize his voice from the New Hampshire Public Radio's "Something Wild" program or you may have seen his appearances on NHPTV.

We'll plan to build on what we learn about hawks and owls from Ian on an after-lunch snowshoe trek through good raptor habitat in the Bear-Paw area.

The Annual Meeting will also feature the raffle of many donated items. Bear-Paw welcomes donations from artists, writers, and craftspeople for this fundraising effort. Please call Dan Kern at 463-9400 if you'd like to make a tax-deductible contribution to the raffle.

Details for this annual event will come with your invitation in January. 🐾

Please make a contribution today!

Yes, I'd like to give to Bear-Paw.

Enclosed is my check in the amount of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 Other \$ _____

**Thank you for
your generous
support!**

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Please send your contribution to Bear-Paw Regional Greenways, PO Box 19, Deerfield, NH 03037.

Calendar of Events

A Hike in Candia's New Town Property

October 22 • 9-11am
See the article on page 2.

Conservation Roundtable—Maps!

October 27 • 7-9pm •
Epsom Fire Station
More details on page 2.

Dollars & Sense of Saving Special Places

November 1 • 7-9pm • Northwood
The economic benefits of land protection for towns.

Conservation Options and Estate Planning

November 2 • 7-9pm • Raymond
Choices and benefits for landowners.

Deerfield Coffee House

November 19 • 7-11pm •
Deerfield Town Hall
Folk and bluegrass music rock the rafters again!

Bear-Paw Annual Meeting

February 11, 2006
See the article on page 3.



Please register for any of these events at info@bear-paw.org or 603-463-9400.

Valuable Tract to be Protected in Nottingham continued from page 1


may help reduce Nottingham's commitment.

Bear-Paw is also accepting private donations to help fund this effort. Contributions of any amount will be used to offset legal, surveying, and other costs that went into this complicated project. Please take a minute to help conserve the Comte property with a tax-deductible contribution made out to Bear-Paw Regional Greenways. 🐾



The beaver pond outlet on the Comte property, one of the headwaters of the seacoast watershed.

PHOTO CREDIT: MARK WEST

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

Wildlife Habitat

Board OF DIRECTORS



Harmony Anderson, Chair, Strafford
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Betsy Kruse, Secretary, Candia

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Cody Cramer, Raymond
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Judi Lindsey, Candia
Frank Mitchell, Deerfield
Al Pratt, Strafford
Wini Young, Northwood

STAFF

Daniel Kern, Executive Director
Irene Cruikshank, Executive Assistant

ILLUSTRATIONS

Al Jaeger

Land Protection UPDATE

As of press time...

Land in Bear-Paw easements **789 acres**

Land conserved by Bear-Paw assists **1,239 acres**

Total land protected by Bear-Paw work. **2,028 acres**

Details Inside!

Owls and Hawks!



Workshops and Walks,

Deerfield, NH 03037
Post Office Box 19

REGIONAL GREENWAYS



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