

News from Bear-Paw Regional Greenways
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* * *ANNOUNCEMENT * * *

TOM WESSELS TO SPEAK AT BEAR-PAW REGIONAL GREENWAYS' ANNUAL MEETING ON
FEBRUARY 10TH, 2007

DEERFIELD N.H., January 4, 2007 – Bear-Paw Regional Greenways invites their members, friends, and the public to its 12th year Annual Meeting scheduled for February 10th, 2007. Bear-Paw will be celebrating the addition of five conservation easements and almost 220 acres to their list of lands protected! Bear-Paw now holds 16 easements protecting 1,135 acres and has assisted on other projects protecting another 1,233 acres. The meeting will be held at Coe-Brown Academy on Route 4 in Northwood and registration begins at 9:00 AM.

After a brief business meeting and the presentation of awards, Tom Wessels will discuss his latest book, "The Myth of Progress." His presentation offers a critical examination of the reigning notions of progress through the lens of complex systems science. Tom offers a provocative critique of Western progress from a scientific perspective. He demonstrates how our current path toward progress, based on continual economic expansion and inefficient use of resources, runs absolutely contrary to three foundational scientific laws that govern all complex natural systems. He contends that it is a myth that progress depends on a growing economy. Demonstrating that all environmental problems have their source in the Myth of Progress's disregard for the Laws of Sustainability, he concludes with an impassioned argument for cultural change.

Tom is a professor of Ecology and founding director of the Masters Degree Program in Conservation Biology in the Department of Environmental Studies at Antioch University New England in Keene, New Hampshire. He is former Chair of the Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation which fosters environmental leadership through graduate fellowships and organizational grants. He has conducted workshops on the natural history of landscapes throughout the United States for more than 25 years. Tom is also author of "Reading the Forested Landscape: A Natural History of New England and "The Granite Landscape: A Natural History of America's Mountain Domes, from Acadia to Yosemite."

After the presentation and a lunch that will be provided, we will take a snowshoe trek or hike through a local conservation area. This will be a moderately strenuous walk. Snowshoes may be needed and proper dress is required. 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.

Pre-registration is strongly recommended so that Bear-Paw can plan appropriately so please register at info@Bear-Paw.org or 463-9400 by February 6th to reserve your place. This event is open to the public and this year a \$15.00 donation is requested to offset the cost of the event.

Bear-Paw Regional Greenways is a non-profit land trust led by resident volunteers who are concerned about the loss of natural areas throughout the organization's seven town service area of Candia, Deerfield, Epsom, Northwood, Nottingham, Raymond, and Strafford. Bear-Paw exists to safeguard important wildlife habitat and travel routes, water resources, working farms and forests, scenic vistas, and

recreational opportunities. The organization is committed to ensuring that the region's most important natural features continue to be available for future generations and is working to promote voluntary land protection through outreach, technical assistance, and education. For further information about how to become a member, land protection options for landowners or volunteering with the land trust, please contact Daniel Kern at Bear-Paw Regional Greenways, Post Office Box 19, Deerfield, NH 03037, 603 463-9400, or info@bear-paw.org. You can also visit their website at www.bear-paw.org.

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