

News from Bear-Paw Regional Greenways
63 Nottingham Road
Post Office Box 19
Deerfield, New Hampshire 03037
(www.bear-paw.org)



CONTACT:

Daniel Kern, Executive Director

Phone: (603) 463-9400 / Fax: (603) 230-2447

Email: info@bear-paw.org, For information, please visit <http://www.bear-paw.org>

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BEAR-PAW REGIONAL GREENWAYS' ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 9TH, 2008

DEERFIELD N.H., February 14, 2008 – Bear-Paw Regional Greenways hosted more than 100 members and guests at Coe-Brown Northwood Academy for its Annual Meeting on Saturday, February 9th. A business meeting included a presentation showing the conservation successes of 2007 and land protection projects in progress for 2008. Bear-Paw recognized the generous donors of conservation easements in 2007, Ruth and Ed Fowler of Candia, Jeanne Menard of Deerfield, and David and Barbara Stewart of Epsom. There were also awards for retiring board members Erick Berglund and Wini Young. Conservation Citizen of the Year went to Rick and Jim Fernald and their sister Deb Stevens for establishing a conservation easement on their family's 2,000-acre Mulligan Forest in Nottingham. A round of applause also went to the Nottingham guests; acknowledging the Nottingham Town Meeting vote that had supported the project.

The Annual Meeting's guest speaker was Christine Schadler (wildcaniddefender@yahoo.com), a wolf and coyote researcher who has spent 28 years studying these wild canids. Her presentation had slides from her field experiences in the Rockies and the east, as well as data showing the ebb and expansion of wolf and coyote populations across the continent. She explained how the eastern coyote has evolved in a short time to an animal twice as large as its western coyote relative; very likely through some cross breeding with red wolves. Chris has found that the coyote is a successful "generalist" and she felt that the heavy hunting and trapping pressures here in New Hampshire might induce it to breed more often and produce larger litters. Consequently, those hunting methods are counter-productive in reducing coyote numbers. Chris feels that the clever, adaptable coyote, in both the east and the west, is here to stay.

Following the raffle of donated items and the hearty potluck lunch provided by Bear-Paw members, the Coe-Brown culinary department under Roberta Mongeon, and Bob Clark of the Northwood Diner, more than 30 guests and board members set off for a snowshoe hike at the Stewart family's McClary Hill Farm in Epsom (www.McClaryHillFarm.com). Among the woods, fields and wetlands, hikers spotted a variety of wild animal tracks including weasel, mink, fisher, and grouse and were able to get a real sense of the biodiversity protected there.

Bear-Paw Regional Greenways is a non-profit land trust with a mission to permanently conserve a network of lands that protects our region's water, wildlife habitat, forests, and farmland. Bear-Paw is committed to ensuring that the region's most important natural features continue to be available for future generations and works to promote voluntary land protection through outreach, education, and project assistance. The organization is led by resident volunteers who are concerned about the loss of natural areas our seven-town service area (Candia, Deerfield, Epsom, Northwood, Nottingham, Raymond, and Strafford). 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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