

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

BEAR-PAW HELD ANNUAL MEETING FEBRUARY 14<sup>th</sup>

DEERFIELD N.H., February 20, 2009 – Over 120 people turned out for Bear-Paw's Annual Meeting on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – the celebration of eight conservation easements conserving over 1,147 acres in 2008. The meeting was held at Coe-Brown Academy in Northwood.

Bear-Paw presented awards to all of the landowners that made donations of conservation easements or land to the organization in 2008. The following awards were announced: Carolyn and Pat Bedford, Randall Cooper and Candace Walworth, Edmond Cournoyer, Charlotte Kimball, the Strafford School District, as well as the Towns of Candia and Deerfield. The Towns of Nottingham and Strafford were also thanked for their assistance with projects in their Towns. Certificates of appreciation were also presented to Phil Auger and Daniel Kern for their work on the Isinglass River Conservation Project in Strafford and to Harmony Anderson for her work as Chairperson of Bear-Paw.

It also featured a presentation by Dr. John Litvaitis, UNH Professor of Wildlife Ecology, who discussed his research on the effects of roads on wildlife and habitat connectivity. Dr. Litvaitis' current research interests examine the effects of contemporary land uses on wildlife populations, especially species that are hampered by habitat fragmentation, the influences of historic land uses on present-day wildlife populations and their habitats, understanding and limiting the effects of invasive shrubs on forest wildlife, and identifying factors that contribute to wildlife-vehicle collisions.

After the presentations and a potluck lunch that was provided, about 50 of the meetings participants took a trek to Stonehouse Pond in Barrington to learn about a conservation project spearheaded by the Trust for Public Land to protect the pond permanently.

Bear-Paw Regional Greenways now holds easements protecting 27 properties and 2,310 acres and it has assisted on other projects protecting another 3,265 acres in the region. Bear-Paw 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. Established by resident volunteers, Bear-Paw works to conserve open space in Candia, Deerfield, Epsom, Northwood, Nottingham, Raymond, and Strafford through outreach, education, and land protection project assistance. Our Goal is to safeguard our irreplaceable water resources, important wildlife habitat and travel routes, and productive forests and farms. We envision a region of scenic beauty and rural character where diversity and quality of life are sustained. For 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](mailto:info@bear-paw.org). You can also visit their website at [www.bear-paw.org](http://www.bear-paw.org).

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