

Hartland Conservation Commission 1996 Report

The Town Forest

* The Commission secured the help of graduate student Scott Davison from Antioch College to complete a Town Forest Management Plan, which included an extensive natural resources inventory, mapping, management goals, suggestions for interpretive themes, and a flagged trail through the property. The Commission is working with the Boy Scouts to set up trail construction for this summer, and will be hosting a Community Town Forest Trail-Building Day on Saturday, May 17th - join us!

Foster Meadow and Lull's Brook

* Travis Ramsey worked on the Lull's Brook Trail at Foster Meadow as part of becoming an Eagle Scout; he created a workplan, began an interpretive brochure, and coordinated a work party of Scouts to brush out the Trail. We're looking forward to the Trail's dedication at Old Home Day 1997.

Green-Up Day

* Dodging raindrops, a dedicated band of Green-Up Day volunteers enjoyed wonderful camaraderie and good food (as always) while cleaning up Hartland's roadsides.

Photo Contest

* The winning photo from last year's contest became the cover to Hartland's 1995 Town Report. This year's theme, the Town Forest, yielded over 50 wonderful photos that were exhibited at the Fourth of July. Get your cameras out for 1997's theme, The Barns of Hartland.

Land Protection

* 362 acres of prime farmland at the LeMax Farm in North Hartland are now permanently protected through the Upper Valley Land Trust. The farm scored very highly against a competitive statewide pool of potential Vermont Housing and Conservation Board land protection projects. The Conservation Commission pledged \$1500 from our Conservation Trust Fund towards the project.

* The Conservation Commission agreed to assist The Nature Conservancy to periodically monitor their Connecticut River floodplain forest properties.

And many other activities:

* Commission members participated in "A Gathering of Upper Valley Conservation Commissions", the Governor's Conference on Recreation, the LeMax Farm dedication.

Coming Attractions for 1997

- * Completing the Lull's Brook Interpretive Trail and brochure.
- * Completing the Town Forest Trail and Signs.
- * Continuing to work on land conservation by working with land trusts and landowners, establishing criteria for accepting land donations, updating our protected lands map, and fundraising for the Conservation Trust Fund.
- * Working on the Natural Resources section of the upcoming Hartland Town Plan revision.

Conservation Commission members:

Pierre Fournier and Graceann Ridlon (co-chairs), Scott Richardson (treasurer), Jennifer Waite (secretary), Andrea Ambros, Geoffrey Dates, Nancy Johnson, Dr. Charles Marrin, Philip Nothnagle (planning commission representative)