



Hartland Conservation Commission 2002

Invasive Plants Control Work Parties

Invasive plants such as Knotweed (some people call it “bamboo”) and Honeysuckle are an increasing problem along many of our rivers and streams. They can take over acres of land in just a few years, and form such a dense plant layer that they interfere with the life cycle of many native woody and herbaceous plants, including rare species. Repeated cuttings, particularly before the plants go to seed, are an effective and cost-conscious control method, but very labor intensive.

We had two very successful work parties this year along Lull’s Brook. Rose Paul, stewardship specialist for The Nature Conservancy, met with us to demonstrate a variety of control techniques for Japanese Knotweed; TNC has two floodplain forest sites along the Connecticut River in Hartland and has worked for the last 5 years to hand cut knotweed 4 times during the growing season, so they have a lot of experience in this! Later in the fall, we cut and pulled invasive honeysuckle along Travis’s Trail behind the Library. Anyone who hates meetings but loves loppers and clipping give us a call – they’ll be lots more opportunity next year!

A New Nature Trail at the Hartland Elementary School

Commission member Ginny White (a Hartland Elementary 3rd grade teacher) worked with her class, the Commission, and Nick Lamoureux and Hartland’s Boy Scout Troop to create a new Nature Trail at the Elementary School. The Commission donated 5 rhododendron bushes and Nick coordinated the donation of wood chips and coordination of 2 work days to put the trail in. An interpretive booklet and a wonderful collection of nature guides (donated by Andy Stewart) are available to borrow from the School office should you want to check out this nice little trail! Ginny and the Commission will continue to expand on this “schoolyard habitat” project.

I-91 Interchange Planning

The Commission participated in this project, working with townspeople and the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Council to come up with a range of options for the future of the interchange lands. There was very good attendance at the two public meetings.

Helping Get New Conservation Commissions Started

The Commission participated in a program sponsored by the Vermont Association of Conservation Commissions to help get more CCs started in the Upper Valley; of the 33 VT towns in the Upper Valley, 17 have Conservation Commissions. We gave a slide show talk about the history of Hartland’s Commission, and the variety of projects we’ve been involved in over the last 13 years. Commission members also reported on our current projects at the annual Gathering of the Upper Valley Conservation Commissions.

Leave No Trace Training

The Commission helped to sponsor attendance by Tom Ramsey and 3 other local Scout leaders to a terrific two-day training at Mt. Cardigan.

Fall Green-Up Day

We decided to start a new tradition this year, an after-the-leaves-fall-but-before-the-plows-come-out roadside cleanup – thanks to some dedicated picker-uppers, we got over 30 bags of trash and some much cleaner roadsides!

Conservation Commission Members:

Andrea Ambros, Guy Crosby, Geoff Dates, Tom Ramsey, Scott Richardson (Treasurer), Natalie Starr, Jennifer Waite (Chair), Ginny White, and friends of the Commission Deb Jones and Heather Morse. Many thanks to outgoing members Andy Stewart, Sue Achenbach and Deb Luquer.

In 2002, we mourned the loss of Buzz Nothnagle. Buzz was an active and important person at our group. He often brought clarity and fresh perspective to muddled conversations, and humor to difficult discussions. He reminded us of the importance of our work, and how volunteering our time and effort can actually make a positive difference to the natural communities and quality of life of our town. He was extremely generous with his time, dedicating countless hours over the last year to charting invasive plants along Lull's Brook; Commission members who went along with him came back with wonderful tales of their adventures, and were amazed at how much they had learned. His intelligence, humor and gentle presence will be sorely missed.