



Hartland Conservation Commission 2003

Working with 6th Graders on GIS Mapping of Lull's Brook.

The Commission is a community partner in a new effort with the Hartland Elementary School. We sponsored Deb Jones and Marsha Carmichael to train at the Vermont Institute of Natural Science's Community Mapping Program, and through this training the school received new ArcView software. This software is being used to map water quality indicators along Lull's Brook, in conjunction with the 6th grade's work on water testing. GIS (geographic information systems) is a new way of teaching geography; it goes beyond just mapping what's out there and instead can act as a useful tool for helping to make decisions. There are 7-9 testing sites along Lull's Brook.

Leave No Trace Training

Tom Ramsey headed up this worthwhile effort; he trained our Conservation Commission, eight Boy Scout leaders, and our local cub scouts. There was also training offered and Leave No Trace information at a booth at Old Home Day. The principles of Leave No Trace are simple and effective: plan ahead and prepare, travel and camp on durable surfaces, dispose of waste properly, leave what you find, minimize campfire impacts, respect wildlife and be considerate of other visitors – well said!

"Find Your Watershed Address" at Old Home Day Exhibit

Did you know that about two-thirds of Hartland is in the Lull's Brook watershed? At Old Home Day, the

Conservation Commission had an exhibit on the Lull's Brook watershed. Ginny White's class made a watershed model, Ginny and Natalie Starr coordinated a watershed map with the regional commission, and Geoff Dates provided information on how watersheds work.

Fall Green-Up Day

Our 2nd annual Fall Green-Up Day made a big difference to many roads in town – we collected over 20 bags of trash (as well as 5 tires) – thanks to all who helped. There are lots of folks in Hartland who do an excellent job regularly watching over and keeping clean a section of their own road, and you can really tell what roads this happens on! It would be great if more people could do this, then we could just have a Clean Roads party instead! Thanks to Deb and Ginny for coordinating this.

Invasive Plants Control with The Nature Conservancy/Adopt-a-Preserve

Jennifer Waite spent some time with TNC stewards staff Emily Seifert and several volunteers doing Japanese Knotweed control at the Hartland Rivershore Preserve (just north of Simon Pearce). "Control" means walking all over the preserve, peering under Ostrich Fern, scrutinizing riverbanks for any Knotweed plants and immediately yanking them out by the roots. It seems like quite a success story down there – the ferns and other natives are well established again, thanks to 5 years of work. This is a

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continuing effort, so if you are interested in a morning of weeding somewhere other than your vegetable garden, contact the commission

Other work of the Commission

- Creation of our Conservation Commission section at the Town's web site.
- Tree preservation along back roads/Road & Tree Policy.
- Welcoming the addition of 17 acres of interesting ravine land to the Hartland Elementary School grounds, providing more opportunities to study nature and ecology right at the school.
- Working with the Lull's Brook Watershed Association on projects with potential large impacts to Lull's Brook.
- Refining our Conserved Lands base map.
- Consultation with town tree warden about shoring up the New England State champion Black Walnut tree on Green Acres Farm.
- Review of draft ridgeline ordinance.
- Town officers' meeting.

A Reminder to landowners of the availability of local funds for land conservation projects!

The Hartland Conservation Trust Fund

There can be a lot of up-front costs for landowners who are working towards permanently protecting their land – survey, appraisal, etc. And later on in the process, often a local match to a larger grant is either required or encouraged – the Conservation Trust

Fund can help! The Fund was established in 1989 to support "planning and preservation of the Town's natural and cultural resources for the continuing benefit of the townspeople." We work with the Upper Valley Land Trust, the Vermont Land Trust, and the Nature Conservancy to respond to requests from landowners about conserving their property – so remember CTF as a local resource for *your* project.

Conservation Commission Members

Guy Crosby, Geoff Dates, Deb Jones, Tom Ramsey (Co-chair), Natalie Starr (Treasurer), Jennifer Waite (Chair), Ginny White (Clerk), and friend of the Commission Heather Morse.

Many thanks to outgoing members Andrea Ambros (who has been on the Commission almost since its beginning!) and Scott Richardson.