



Hartland Conservation Commission 2004

In 1977, Vermont passed legislation to establish municipal conservation commissions. *The major goal of a conservation commission is to establish community responsibility for community natural resources.* Vermont's commissions provide conservation leadership and steward a town's natural resources; Hartland's Commission has been active since 1989.

**Want to help out? Give an hour or a day!
We have many opportunities:**

- pull up or chop down invasive plants such as Japanese Knotweed and bush Honeysuckle at Foster Meadow;
- help out teachers at a school field trip to do water quality testing at Lull's Brook;
- do some trail work – build stone steps, fix a sign, field check a trail opportunity;
- fundraise to build our Conservation Trust Fund;
- grab trash bags and take a clean-up walk along your road – you can do this anytime, but if you want free munchies for your efforts, help out with spring Green-Up Day (1st Saturday in May) and Fall Green-Up Day (October).

Here's what we did in 2004:

Conservation Work with Hartland Elementary School

- Blazin' Barrels Workshop and Theater Production for K-4 and 6th graders, with the Association of Vermont Recyclers

- Lull's Brook Community Mapping Project; school kids testing the water quality of Lull's Brook

Outreach and Education

- Leave No Trace Training booth at Old Home Day
- Old Home Day & library exhibit on invasive Japanese Knotweed and on our Conservation Trust Fund
- "Building Local Conservation Leadership" workshops

On-the-Ground

- Fall Green-Up Day; our third annual event, making a noticeable improvement on many of the roadsides
- Invasive Plant Control at Foster Meadow (aka "Weed-wacking parties"); continuing our efforts to eradicate invasive riverside plants and encourage native vegetation
- Foster Meadow Trail Management Plan and new stone steps; thanks to a partnership with the Boy Scouts and scout Joseph Comstock, a beautiful new set of steps was built on the trail behind the library.

Conservation Planning

- Refining our conservation map
- Sumners Falls site assessment
- Conservation Commission member packets created

**HARTLAND CONSERVATION
COMMISSION REPORT (continued)**

We can help you fund your land conservation project!

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, Deb Jones, Tom Ramsey (Co-chair), Brett Simmons, Natalie Starr (Treasurer), Ned Swanberg, Jennifer Waite (Chair), Ginny White (Clerk), and friend of the Commission Heather Morse.

Many thanks to outgoing member Geoff Dates for his exceptional contributions to the Commission for many years!

FALL GREEN-UP DAY

This past fall, the Hartland Conservation Commission once again sponsored a Fall Green-up Day. This year was the biggest turnout yet, in what is now becoming a Town of Hartland tradition. We would like to express our appreciation to all of our friends, neighbors, and town organizations that turned out to give our town one last clean up before the snow fell. Pictures below were taken during 2004 fall Green-up Day.



Scouts of Hartland Troop 235 scour Martinsville Road as Troop Committee member Mary Jo Ramsey looks on.



Scouts Joey Comstock and Eric Meunier gather trash near Martinsville Bridge.