

HARTLAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

All community members are invited to attend our meetings, **the second Wednesday of the month**, and participate in our many projects and activities below. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact us at Natalie@dsmenvironmental.com or [Jennifer Waite, mwaite@vermontel.net](mailto:Jennifer.Waite@vermontel.net). The Commission welcomes your input!

Land Conservation and Trails

The Conservation Commission continues to work with the Planning Commission, Selectboard, Hartland Nature Club and organizations such as the Upper Valley Land Trust to conserve Hartland's natural heritage.

Members/Term	
Crosby, Guy	4/1/2008
Greenberg, Dean	4/1/2009
Hammond, Forrest	4/1/2010
McWilliams, Ken	4/1/2009
Merritt, Cordie	4/1/2009
Swanberg, Ned	4/1/2009
Starr, Natalie, <i>Co-chair</i>	4/1/2008
Van Buren, Mike	4/1/2009
Waite, Jennifer, <i>Chair</i>	4/1/2008

1) Updated Town Plan - We worked with the Planning Commission to update and improve the Natural Resources section of the Town Plan this year.

2) Land Conservation - Conservation Trust Fund - The Commission is extremely grateful to the Town for voting \$30,000 towards the Trust Fund at Town Meeting this year, the Conservation Trust Fund is even more important today as it enables the Commission to help landowners who want to keep their land open or in agricultural use and conservation, but are squeezed by rising land prices and taxes. Many of these lands have great community importance or notable natural resources such as active agricultural land, scenic hayfields or pastures, working forests, important wildlife habitat or travel corridors, a favorite swimming hole or trail, and even a scenic ridgeline.

3) Ancient Roads and Trails - With the Ancient Roads Bill passed in the Vermont Legislature 2006, the Town has until February 2009 to update the Town Highway Map and identify these roads and trails. The Conservation Commission has been an active participant in the Ancient Roads committee. With population growth and development increasing, Class 4 highways and trails become important community resources as they provide access for snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, walking, bicycling, horseback riding, fishing, and hunting. For more information on the Ancient Roads committee and their work, visit their web site (which is updated regularly) at: <http://vwww/ruralvt.com/ancientroads/index.php> and/or Gary Trachier at trachier@ruralvt.com. The committee meets regularly and welcomes new members.

Lull's Brook and Water Quality

The Lull's Brook Watershed comprises roughly 75% of the Town of Hartland. Our volunteer monitoring program tests the *E. coli* and phosphorous levels in Lull's Brook at four locations in the spring and fall of each year. We also support the efforts of the Hartland Elementary School students to study Lull's Brook.

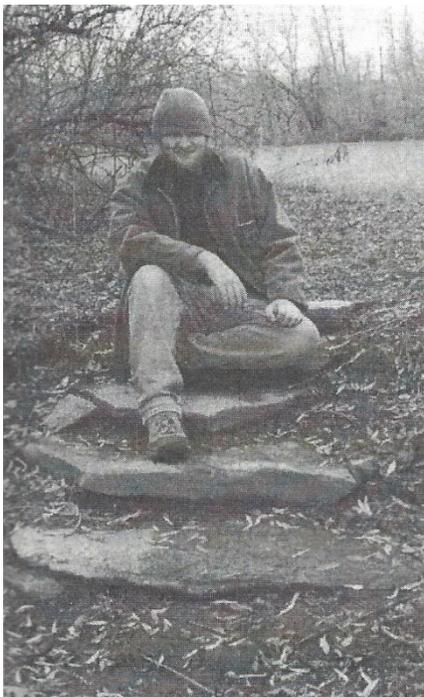


Mrs. Ziegler's 5th grade students look for benthic macroinvertebrates in Lull's Brook (and enjoy getting wet in the process!)

Other Commission Activities

1) Invasive Plant Control: we continue to clear knotweed and honeysuckle from the Foster Meadow property.

2) Improvements to Travis' Trail: Eagle Scout candidate Jonathan Boutwell organized scout work days at Travis' Trail to build new stone steps, re-route washed-out trail sections, and clear areas for classes to access the brook on field trips.



3) We hosted an evening talk by Jens Hilke of Vermont Fish & Wildlife to talk about wildlife corridors and the Upper Valley's corridor projects between towns.

4) We worked with TransCanada and the Town to work towards a land conservation option for the property at Sumner's Falls.

5) Hartland was selected by the Connecticut River Joint Commissions to be one of the model water quality monitoring sites for a large Environmental Protection Agency grant, we'll be looking to hire an intern this coming summer.

Many, many thanks to outgoing Commission member Ginny White (who is now the Town's Green-up Day coordinator) and welcome to new member Forrest Hammond!