

Moose Mountains Regional Greenways

Annual Report for 2006

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2006 Annual Report

Conserved 120-Acre Wakefield Waterfront Property

More than 120 acres along Union Meadows will be conserved thanks to a creative conservation agreement crafted by Moose Mountains Regional Greenways. Featuring healthy forests, waterside walking trails, and a variety of important wildlife habitats, the land has been enjoyed by bird watchers, fishermen, walkers and snowmobilers for years. When the owners of the property were ready to sell the land, MMRG identified a conservation buyer, who conserved more than 120 acres. The Town of Wakefield purchased the property's development rights, and Strafford Rivers Conservancy agreed to hold the conservation easement.

Presented Woods, Water and Wildlife Festival

Moose Mountains Regional Greenways partnered with UNH Cooperative Extension to present the Woods, Water and Wildlife Festival at Branch Hill Farm in Milton Mills, NH. Visitors young and old enjoyed guided walks and talks with nature experts, workshops and demonstrations on tree farming, a live bluegrass concert, and hands-on craft projects and demonstrations – all designed to provide greater insight into the natural world. Plus, we introduced MMRG's first-ever Cow Chip Bingo event! Thanks to the generous support of our members, event underwriters and sponsors, we were also able to raise more than \$20,000 to support our continuing mission.

Conserved 178 Acres in Farmington

MMRG partnered with a conservation-minded landowner, the Town of Farmington, and the NH Department of Fish and Game to conserve 178 acres along Farmington's pristine Mad River. With an extensive trail network, 2,700 feet of river frontage and rolling wooded terrain, the property features excellent habitat for creatures that live on both land and water. The property owner agreed to sell the land to the Town of Farmington for nearly half its appraised value, and the NH Department of Fish and Game purchased the easement. Situated on the south side of River Road off Route 11 in Farmington, the property will remain open to the public for hiking, hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling.

Increased Membership 20 Percent

In the last quarter of 2006, MMRG launched a series of membership development drive that focused upon the residents of Farmington, Middleton and Milton, as well as past workshop participants and Moose Mountain project supporters. Our efforts resulted in 90 new members in 2006!

Added Staff

To meet the increased demand for its services in the region, MMRG has brought back past Executive Director Joyce El Kouarti. El Kouarti will return to the Executive Director role to focus upon membership development, public outreach and education, fundraising and organizational capacity building. Past Executive Director Cynthia Belowski now serves as the MMRG's Director of Land Conservation. She now works directly with landowners and MMRG's conservation partners to conserve our region's most special natural areas.

Organized 2 Nature Walks

More than 30 people attended a guided walk of a recently conserved property along Wakefield's Union Meadows. UNH Cooperative Extension Educator and MMRG Board Member Bob Craycraft described some of the water resources that make the property "conservation worthy," and UNH Cooperative Extension Educator Matt Tarr explained how this healthy forest helps sustain a thriving wildlife community.

MMRG and the NH Department of Fish and Game led a walk through the recently conserved Dubois property in Farmington, NH. With 178 wooded acres sloping down to the Mad River, the land is home to a variety of creatures that live on both land and in water. Fish Habitat Biologist John Magee of NH Fish and Game described the importance of the river environment and the land that drains down into the river.

Awarded \$8,500 NHEP Grant

The New Hampshire Estuaries Project has awarded MMRG an \$8,500 grant to undertake a public outreach and education initiative titled, "Thanks for all the maps and reports. Now what do we do with them?" MMRG previously provided each of its member communities with local maps and data detailing 10 high priority wetland areas within each town, as well as wildlife habitat maps produced by NH Fish & Game. MMRG proposes to work with the land use boards of its member communities to help them use these tools to identify local conservation priorities and strategies. The grant will also cover the costs involved with coordinating two nature hikes and a river run, and developing conservation displays for each MMRG member town.