



# Annual Report for 2008

Prepared for Annual Meeting, February 9, 2009

*Moose Mountains Regional Greenways' mission is to identify and protect important natural resource areas, including water resources, farm and forest lands, wildlife habit, recreational areas, cultural and scenic areas; to educate others about these efforts; and to join protected lands to form greenways.*

Moose Mountains Regional Greenways eighth year, 2008, was a memorable one, for this year we reached a milestone in helping to conserve over 4000 acres. Among the most notable projects were the Jappe property in Milton Mills and the very recently conserved Holm property in New Durham. We also continued with our efforts to increase public awareness of the importance of conserving the Moose Mountains Regional Greenways region's natural resources. Our efforts paid off because even in these difficult economic times we had a very successful financial membership response. Our members truly believe in MMRG's mission. Highlights from the year are documented in the following report.

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## **MMRG Helps Conserve 284 Acres Along Salmon Falls River**

Moose Mountains Regional Greenways recently celebrated the conservation of 284 acres along the Salmon Falls River in Milton Mills. Former owner Howard Jappe, with the support of his family, transferred his land to the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. The Forest Society will manage the property as one of its permanently conserved forest reservations. A coalition of the Forest Society, Siemon Trust, Milton Conservation Commission, and Moose Mountains Regional Greenways, three government agencies, the owner's generous bargain sale, and the additional donated easements accomplished what none of these partners could have done alone.

## **Viewers Choice Winner**

MMRG entered a nearly life-sized moose scarecrow in the Wolfeboro Area Chamber of Commerce's 6<sup>th</sup> annual Scarecrow Festival. More than 70 scarecrows could be found all over town. The moose was looking at a map of MMRG-facilitated conserved lands on a "tree" that also included moose habitat facts. This display not only won the Viewers Choice award but also took first place in the Organizations category. Many thanks to Spider Web Gardens, of Tuftonboro, for donating the materials and space to build the moose.

## **Moose Mountains Regional Greenways Adds Staff**

MMRG hired a part-time Education Coordinator, Kari Lygren, to help organize and carry out our organization's events. A resident of Milton Mills, Kari brings a background in sales, marketing and office management.

Clay Mitchell assumed the position of Director of Land Conservation in May. Clay's is also a familiar face around the region. He has provided planning services to the Town of Middleton for the past two years and completed a cost of services project for the Town of New Durham. Clay has degrees in Environmental Law, Natural Resources and Earth System Science, Anthropology and Classical Archaeology.

Dawn Evans joined Moose Mountains Regional Greenway as Executive Director. Dawn manages the organization's public outreach, membership development and fundraising activities, among other responsibilities. Dawn holds a BS in Environmental Conservation and served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in South America. She has experience teaching Middle and High School and in business management. She currently serves on the board of the Wolfeboro-Tuftonboro Land Bank, the Tuftonboro Recycling Committee, and the Board of Directors of The Community School in South Tamworth.

## **Twenty Attend Local Workshop for Conservation Commissioners**

Twenty conservation commissioners and community leaders traveled from towns from Wolfeboro to Barrington to attend a workshop on the duties of Conservation Commissions. The workshop, titled "The Basics and Beyond," featured Executive Director of the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions, Carol Andrews. Andrews described the responsibilities of Conservation Commissions as defined by New Hampshire state statute and fielded questions both basic and complex, ranging from dredge and fill permitting to pending legislation on conservation financing coming up before the NH State House of Representatives. The workshop was funded by grants from the New Hampshire Estuaries Project and the New Hampshire State Conservation Committee's "Moose Plate" grant program.

## **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Woods, Water and Wildlife Festival**

Hundreds of adventurous people spent the day at the Woods, Water and Wildlife Festival held at Branch Hill Farm in Milton Mills. This was the sixth Festival put on by Moose Mountains Regional Greenways and UNH Cooperative Extension. It took the combined efforts of almost 100 volunteers, supporters, sponsors and community members to make this day such a successful event. New this year were a traveling barnyard and a colorful hay maze. Over \$30,000 was raised by this event underwritten by the Siemon Company and Branch Hill Farm. We are grateful to the following local business for making the day possible: D.F. Richard, Eastern Boats, EOS Research Ltd., Farmington Fish and Game Club, Forest Pump and Filter, Index Packaging, Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, Lisa Stewart Devonshire Realty, Massage Therapy and Acupuncture, Piscataqua Hounds, Proulx Oil and Propane, and Teneriffe Mountain Blueberries.

## **Brookfield Couple Donates Conservation Easement on 70 Acres in Brookfield**

Seventy acres in Brookfield will remain forever undeveloped thanks to the generosity of a Brookfield couple. Tom and Dulcie Lavender donated a conservation easement on their land, which includes more than 4,000 feet of frontage along Pike Brook. Pike Brook and its adjacent wetland complex provide important habitat for finfish, brook trout, painted turtle, crayfish, freshwater clams, various frogs, toads and birds, while the surrounding wooded landscape provides habitat for bear, moose, coyote, deer, and many other creatures. The property has several walking and bridle trails, including a section of snowmobile trail currently used and maintained by the 7 Lakes Snowmobile Club. Finally, the land overlays a stratified drift aquifer that supplies the private wells of many Brookfield and Wakefield residents. Moose Mountains Regional Greenways coordinated the project, and the Lavenders chose Strafford Rivers Conservancy to hold and monitor the conservation easement.

## **Local Landowners Learn about Conservation Options**

UNH Land and Water Extension Educator Phil Auger and Moose Mountains Regional Greenways Director of Land Conservation Clay Mitchell presented a workshop titled “Tax Incentives for Landowners: Basic Income and Estate Tax Issues Related to Land Conservation” on May 19 at the Moose Mountains Regional Greenways offices in Union, NH. The workshop was attended by almost 40 landowners. The workshop was presented by Moose Mountains Regional Greenways and UNH Cooperative Extension, and funded by New Hampshire Estuaries Project and a New Hampshire “Moose Plate” grant.

## **MMRG Conserves 120 Scenic Acres in Wakefield**

In partnership with the Strafford Rivers Conservancy, landowner Darayl Remick, and the Town of Wakefield, Moose Mountains Regional Greenways has facilitated the permanent preservation of 120 scenic acres of field and forest in Sanbornville, NH. Located just north of downtown Sanbornville on Witchtrot Road, the Remick property can be appreciated by travelers as they pass the picturesque fields and forests. The land is adjacent to another 131-acre conserved parcel and features excellent soils for farming and haying. In fact, more than 80 percent of the property’s soils are classified as ideal for agricultural use.

## **MMRG Co-sponsors Nature Walk at Teneriffe Mountain Blueberries**

Moose Mountains Regional Greenways and Strafford Rivers Conservancy partnered to present a Hawk and Nature Watch and Walk field workshop. Naturalist Mark Suomala led the participants on a gentle climb up Teneriffe Mountain, a recently conserved 102-acre property owned by Moose Mountains Regional Greenways’ Chairman of the Board Steve Panish. The walk was funded through the New Hampshire Estuaries Project and Moose Plate Grant as part of Moose Mountains Regional Greenways’ public outreach and education initiative.

## **New Durham Couple Donates Conservation Easement**

New Durham residents Don and Gail Holm donated a conservation easement on 33 acres to the Town of New Durham. The Holm property has 1,300 feet of frontage on 62-acre Shaw’s Pond, a water body that has approximately half of its shoreline undeveloped. The property of Don and Gail Holm provided the first link in what will be a greenway between the already preserved areas at Copple Crown, Moose Mt, and Beaver Brook Wildlife Management Areas. The town of New Durham holds the easement and Strafford Rivers Conservancy holds the executory interest.

## **MMRG Completes Two-year Public Outreach Project**

Moose Mountains Regional Greenways completed work on a two-year public outreach and education initiative funded by the NH Estuaries Project “Thanks for all the maps and reports. Now what do we do with them?” MMRG provided each of its member communities with local maps and data detailing 10 high priority wetland areas within each town as well as NH Fish and Game wildlife maps. MMRG was recently presented with an \$8500 check for completion of the grant requirements.