



Winter 2016

Dear Friends,

You are valued supporters of MMRG so I'd like to update you on an important organizational transition.

Several months ago MMRG started a search for a new full-time Executive Director. I am very pleased to announce that environmental scientist Patti Connaughton-Burns will join us in a few weeks as our new ED. Patti comes to us from New Jersey, where for the past eighteen years she has run her own environmental consulting firm, Wetlands and Environmental Technology, Inc. Her qualifications include a master's degree in Forest Science and instruction of graduate level classes. Of importance to us, Patti also has extensive experience in non-profit board management and board development, having served as a volunteer on several different boards and taken on significant responsibility for those organizations.



Can you tell what species of trees these are behind Patti? Patti says you can identify them from their bark. We'll post the answer in our next Greenway Gazette newsletter; watch for it in April!

The scientific knowledge, interest in conservation, and dedication to non-profit work that she brings to the position give us great confidence that we will thrive under her leadership.

Please join us in welcoming Patti to our MMRG community! We look forward to sharing with her our conservation efforts in the Moose Mountains region and moving forward in those efforts with her at the helm of MMRG.

Sincerely,

Jack Savage
MMRG Board Chair

PS- We have lots of fun events coming up and we hope you'll join us. See the enclosed list and put April 17 on your calendar for our Annual Meeting and a chance to meet Patti!

Our Board Outdoors: *Wildlife abound in the winter stillness of Union Meadows*

By Bruce Rich, MMRG Board member and Treasurer

My dog Tanner and I always enjoy a visit to the Union Meadows Wildlife Management Area owned by NH Fish and Game and located on Marsh Road, off Whippoorwill Rd in Wakefield. MMRG facilitated the purchase and conservation of this property in 2013.



On a recent, perfect winter day my wife Jennifer, Tanner and I set out for a short hike through the snow covered woods. We parked near the Branch River bridge and set off up the old logging road. Surprisingly, there were no other human tracks in the snow. Walking over the first knoll and proceeding under a canopy of white pines and hemlocks to the river bank we saw many animal tracks, however. The resident squirrels, turkeys, deer, rabbits and coyotes had all left their prints. Arriving at the river, we noticed a fallen log that spanned the stream and had obviously been used as a footbridge by many little paws. Looking at the cold river I couldn't help but think in a few months I would be back, fly rod in hand, hoping that just once the number of fish bites would exceed the number of insect bites. Pausing, back on the logging road, I couldn't help but remember the line from the Christmas carol "the world in solemn stillness lay..." The winter forest was indeed "still" but certainly not empty.

Walking further into the forest, we soon passed an old beaver pond where I occasionally see ducks in warmer weather. That day, just a few chickadees were present but I recalled one of my first winter visits when Tanner and I spotted a pair of otters swimming in the partially frozen river. Animal sightings always excite me. There was the time last winter when a good friend and I followed moose tracks along the trail and eventually found a cavity in the deep snow where the moose had laid down to rest. Other sightings, over the years, have included deer, turkeys, beavers and a porcupine. Hiking back to the truck, I felt very fortunate to have this special property so close to home and content in the knowledge it would be here for future generations to enjoy.



Bruce Rich joined the MMRG Board in 2012 and became MMRG's Treasurer in 2015. He lives on Lovell Lake with his wife Jennifer and dog Tanner. Thanks to Bruce and Jennifer for the photos of their outing at Union Meadows in early January 2016.