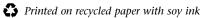


# 2009 Wachusett Greenways Annual Report



## A 15-Year Labor of Love, with Gratitude

As we move ahead into 2010 we thank each person who has helped Greenways grow over the past 15 years. Connecting our community with trails and greenways is a wonderful challenge. The connections built between partners, volunteers, business donors, members and each neighbor who enjoys the trail are our true reward.



In 2009 we faced the tests of the great beaver washout, the ice storm cleanup, new trail construction and a constrained economy. Together we rose to the challenge.

Onward we go with gratitude to each of you!

Wachusett Greenways Board of Directors: Colleen Abrams, President Steve Dubrule, Clerk Chris Nichols, Treasurer Margaret Lock

Ken McDonnell Stan Miller Ida Nystrom Ed Yaglou

## **Golden Hospitality**

Greenways participates in community events including Holden Days and the Sterling Fair, where we offer trail maps and answer questions about trail progress and events. Photos of points along the rail trail, hardworking volunteers and enthusiastic trail visitors are always an attraction.

Greenways volunteers also offer hospitality tables at trailheads from





spring through fall. Here neighbors can purchase shirts, hats, walking sticks and statewide maps. Volunteers also hand out free maps to the Mass Central Rail Trail and the Trout Brook/ White Trail system. Serving on the hospitality team is a great way to meet your neighbors.

## Wash Out Brings Out Rail Trail Supporters

Hard on the heels of the December 2008 ice storm, which toppled trees across significant sections of the Mass Central Rail Trail, spring 2009 saw heavy rains combine with a beaver-dammed culvert

leading to a washout of the MCRT in West Boylston. But just as Wachusett Greenways and partners turned out to clear the trail after the ice storm, so they rose to the challenge of repairing the washout. Private donors, the Town of West Boylston and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation





and Recreation all contributed funds and services to the effort. Greenways contracted Bob Salvadore, of Salvadore Excavating in Barre, to lead the repairs, with Jim Ryan and Randy Southwick ably assisting in the construction. The West

Boylston DPW improved the drainage ditches from the washout west along the West Boylston section of the trail. The DCR installed a new fence extension along the trail entrance to prevent bank erosion. In addition to funds, Greenways, the Town of West Boylston and DCR all contributed time and services to help complete the restoration.

Trail users offered rave reviews and streamed back to enjoy the trail. The much-improved trail has held up beautifully through some heavy rains. On the last Saturday of September, Wachusett Greenways held a triple celebration, including re-dedication of the restored trail, the annual Family Fun Day, and the Springdale Mill Celebration. Representatives of Wachusett Greenways, the Towns of West Boylston and Holden, DCR, state legislators and Salvadore Excavating united for the ribbon-cutting as an enthusiastic crowd welcomed the reopening of the trail.

## **Events in Every Season**

E vents took us outdoors for hikes, snowshoe walks, cross country skiing, admiring birds and spring flowers, paddling canoes, exploring tracks and riding bicycles. In all seasons Greenways folks





enjoy free outings to visit favorite familiar trails and to explore new paths. All members are invited to lead events which help introduce others to nature in our own 'backyard.'

## **Our Members Count**

In 2009, membership remained robust; our membership roster totaled 508 families, individuals and businesses from 52 towns and 11 states. And welcome to our 41 new members! Membership in Wachusett Greenways plays a crucial role in our operations, supporting our year-long calendar of trail events and programs, trail maintenance activity and outreach to members.

As we continue to build new sections and restore the rail trail, donor support is as vital as ever. In 2009, despite the dramatic downturn in the economy, 395 of our devoted supporters contributed

\$46,559 to continue the work of building and restoring the Mass Central Rail

Trail, a 34% increase over 2008. Every contribution is used to construct more of the rail trail and helps with matching grants. We recognize major donors of \$5,000 or more with installation of a granite bench, inscribed in their honor, on the trail. Donors of \$1,000 or more are recognized collectively on an engraved trailhead granite post.

"It was a pleasure working with everyone last Saturday. There's nothing wrong with hard, dusty, dirty, wet and limitless work...when everyone pulls together as they so often do on trail work."

Dave, Rutland

Membership services: Karl Barry

## Heading West into Oakham

As promised, in 2009 Wachusett Greenways achieved significant progress extending the Mass Central Rail Trail (MCRT) west into Oakham. This new section of the trail parallels Route 122 for about three-fourths of a mile from Muddy Pond, in Rutland, to the railbed crossing at 122. First hard-working Greenways volunteers readied the site for contractor Mark Sadowski, of East Hill Enterprises. Over many days last summer, our dedicated trail crews felled hundreds of trees and cleared and chipped brush.

Following the engineering design of Greenways' volunteer Bruce Pennino, Mark lowered the railbed embankments on both sides of the Parker Brook 1938 washout. He then excavated for and built two sturdy abutments to support the bridge. Greenways hired Chris Kolofsky to



prepare the steel bridge frame donated from Boston's Big Dig project. Mark transported the structure and set it onto the abutments using his large excavator plus an extension arm.

Once the bridge frame was in place, Greenways hired Peter Scott to install the six-inch thick deck timbers, attach robust steel railing posts and build the railing system. The railings enable users to view the beautiful stream below while keeping little ones safe. All told, the new Parker Brook Bridge is a handsome display of engineering and



construction expertise.

Mark then moved east and raised a fallen slab bridge. He rebuilt the damaged abutments using large stones, which came from the former bridge over the Rutland State Park entrance road near the old West Rutland RR station.

Finally, Mark removed soil, stumps and rocks from the railbed, graded



and dug ditches for proper drainage, and trucked in rough and processed tailings left from the Quabbin Reservoir aqueduct construction to form a crowned base for the trail bed.

We expect to engage a paving contractor during the summer of 2010 to put down and compact the stone dust top surface for this section of trail. Plans for 2010 also include trail construction from the Route 122 crossing west to Coldbrook Road in Oakham. This will include a

110-foot steel bridge similar to the stately Jeremiah and Charlotte Kaplan bridges in Holden.

MCRT Task Force: Ed Yaglou, Chairman, Colleen Abrams, Bruce Pennino, John Scannell, Dave Small, Dick Williams

## **Moving Ahead with Generous Grantors**

Grants received in 2009 will assist in the construction of the Mass Central Rail Trail in Oakham from Route 122 to Coldbrook Station. Greenways received a generous MA Department of Conservation and Recreation Partnership Matching Grant of \$68,800 which was used to help purchase the 110-foot bridge for the Parker Brook crossing west of Route 122.

The Recreational Trails Grant program administered by the Greenways and Trails Program of the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation through the Federal Transportation Enhancements program is a vital support for the development of the MCRT. The 2009 grant of \$50,000 will be instrumental in the construction of the trail in Oakham.

The George I. Alden Trust provided an unsolicited grant of \$15,000. The Alden Trust has been a very generous supporter and the surprise grant was a great encouragement to Greenways volunteers. The grant will be used to help build the underpass for the rail trail at Route 56 in Rutland.

WalMart provided a grant of \$1,000 for rail trail construction. Sam's Club has been a generous supporter of Greenways big community events including Family Fun Day and the Springdale Mill Celebration. In 2009, Sam's Club made a grant of \$1,800.

## Meander at the Mill

The Springdale Mill Site is a wonderful place to tarry in any season and learn about the history of the woolen mill. Some folks stop there for a rest on the benches while crosscountry skiing. Others gather for a summer picnic and an opportunity to teach their children about life in the 1800s.

The Committee cared for the Site during 2009 by clipping brush, mowing trail edges and dragging away fallen branches. They also planned the September celebration there.

Springdale Historic Site Committee: Ruth Spaulding, Chair, Colleen Abrams, Jim Lafley, Janet Olson, Chuck Skillings, Ed Yaglou



## Join a Mailing Party

In 2009 and early 2010 volunteers worked together to get five mailings out to individuals, organizations and businesses. Usually these mailing parties are held on a weekday morning at the First Baptist Church in Holden.



Our mailing list has grown. The largest output of 2,296 items required 22 trays from the Post Office. Jane Arntz, coordinator of the mailing parties, strongly encourages Greenways members to request that they receive mailings on-line.

This past year 28 different volunteers helped with the mailings. This is a great time to get the work done while socializing with Greenways members. As an added attraction, Jane serves coffee and sometimes biscotti!

To add your name to the mailing party list, please contact Jane Arntz, coordinator, at Sjaj12@hotmail.com.

## Patrollers are Active in 2009



Dedicated trail patrollers look after the Mass Central Rail Trail and White Oak Trail throughout the year. Each patroller selects a section of trail and walks it regularly to remove fallen branches, keep the drainage clear and remove any parking lot litter. Patrollers check the trail before or during big rains to make sure the drainage is not

blocked and to help prevent washouts. If a large trail repair is needed or a tree has fallen, the patroller contacts coordinator Paul Hennessey, and the Greenways volunteer team will take care of the problem.

If you would like to become a patroller, contact Paul at 508-886-6317 or peh01543@charter.net. New patrollers are needed for three sections of the rail trail: Rutland at the Wachusett Street entrance east to the Holden town line; Oakham at Muddy Pond outlet west to Route 122 and Oakham at Route 122 west to Coldbrook Station. Paul enjoys walking the trail, where he has an opportunity to meet people and to learn about their trail interests. He also appreciates the excellent work of the patrollers.

White Oak Trail Lucy Banks

Sterling – Cider Mill to Gates Rd. Bruce Baker Brian Toohey and Sterling Cub Scout Pack #34

West Boylston – Oakdale to Holden Line David McClure Mike and Rachel Peckar and family

Holden/West Boylston – Mill Street to River St. to Oakdale Laura Beckwith

Holden – Manning Sreet to West Boylston line Evan Schakenbach James D. Schakenbach

Holden – River Street to West Boylston line Gerald Teran

Rutland – Wachusett St. to Holden line David Henrichon Rutland – Glenwood Rd. to Route 56 Pia Nielsen, Steve Mann Sheila Dibb

Rutland – Miles Rd. to Charnock Hill Tunnel Bob J. Hill, Gail C. Hartman Bruce Ruderman Everett Reynolds

Rutland – Charnock Hill tunnel, to Whitehall Rd., State Park entrance Paul E. Hennessey

Rutland – Whitehall Rd. at State Park entrance to Midstate Trail Robin Peters

Rutland/Oakham – Midstate Trail to Muddy Pond culvert Beth Hunt

Greenways lost a good friend and a devoted trail patroller when Pauline Cloutier (photo above in center) died on November 18. She watched over her favorite the "over the hill" rail trail connector from River Street to Manning Street to Mill Street in Holden.

## Trail Care...Clearing All Those Downed Limbs

In December 2008, a devastating ice storm felled hundreds of trees and scattered debris throughout the Mass Central Rail Trail and White Oak trail systems. Faced with the daunting task of repairing what nature had torn asunder, dozens of committed volunteers gathered together in a show of support for our trailways to deal with nature's wrath. These dedicated folks worked tirelessly



to help reopen the trails. They included the Wachusett Greenways volunteer trail crew and trail patrollers as well as community groups and neighbors. Our friend Dick Williams, of Overlook Services,







donated his skill to keep volunteers' chain saws in good working order. Special thanks go out to the many volunteers who gave of their time and talent over thousands of hours throughout 2009.



## StoryWalk: A Great Pairing



When Margaret Lock learned about StoryWalk in Vermont, she promptly imported it for the rail trail here. The StoryWalk program, which displays the pages of a book along a trail, actively engages children of all ages as they enjoy nature and a good story.

Volunteers assist Margaret by helping to laminate, paint, staple, drill, and pound stakes into the ground.

The stories receive steady praise from trail visitors:

"We think this is awesome! Thanks"

"I like reading the book to my cousins" (ages 6, 5, 4, 3, 3, 4, 2)

*"Julia runs from page to page giggling. We all have great fun. Mom's a teacher and we view the connection between nature and reading as a winning combination"* 

"Excellent idea – nature, exercise and education wrapped up into one!" (And from Assumption College running team)"LOVED THIS! MORE PLEASE!"

## Double the Fun with Family Fun Day and Springdale Mill Sharing the Celebration

On Saturday, September 26, Wachusett Greenways welcomed families and friends to the rail trail and to the Springdale Mill Site in West Boylston and Holden. Due to spring flooding of the trail caused by beaver dam activity, Family Fun Day had been postponed until the fall. With the reopening of the trail in September, Family Fun Day and the popular Springdale Mill Celebration joined forces to celebrate the re-dedication of the trail.



In order to encourage visitors to take the 1.5 mile trek to the Mill Site from the



Oakdale entrance, a variety of activities were interspersed along the trail. Face painting, a nature scavenger hunt, bugs in a bucket, and old-fashioned games drew the attention of youngsters as they proceeded along the trail. Storyteller Gwen Callahan captured the attention of







the children with her fascinating tales. The StoryWalk, Danny and the Dinosaur, led visitors of all ages to the Mill Site, where hearty food was served. Chas Paddock and Deb McDonnell provided excellent musical entertainment with old favorites and original songs.

## Greenways Communication: Newsletter, Web Page, Constant Contact and Outreach

Getting the news out to supporters and the general public about trails, events, and projects is a high priority for Wachusett Greenways. Outreach to and from local newspapers provides timely news of Greenways events. The *Greenways Connector* is published on a quarterly basis. The *e-Connector* via Constant Contact is our email-based version of the newsletter.



Wachusett Greenways encourages readers to select the online version of the newsletter.

Our website, **www.wachusettgreenways.org**, continues to keep members and the general public aware of Greenways happenings and coming events. Through secure web links on our website, folks can donate to Wachusett Greenways.

The newsletter and annual report team meets and prepares each edition. If you like to write, and share ideas about newsworthy subjects, you would be welcome to join our team by contacting Viv Ouellette vivoue30@charter. net or by calling 508-829-5341.

*Greenways Connector Team:* Viv Ouellette, manager, Colleen Abrams, Grace Blydenburgh, Peder Pedersen, Tim Enman, Ken McDonnell, Ida Nystrom, Nancy Isabella, Hank Ouellette; Design by Adshead Graphics; *Webmaster and photographer*: Hank Ouellette (shown in photo), houellette@ charter.net, 508-829-5341; *Constant Contact Designer and outreach*: Ken McDonnell, mcdonnellk@charter.net; *News Outreach*: Margaret Lock

#### Statement of Revenue and Expenses a/k/a Statement of Activities Year Ended December 31, 2009 Accrual Basis

	Membership, Management and Operations	Trail Construction and Maintenance	Trail Preservation Endowment Fund	Total
REVENUE				
Grants and donations				
Federal/state government grants*	\$ —	\$ 113,649	\$ —	\$ 113,649
Local government grants	2,513	11,000	—	13,513
Foundation, corporate, and other grants	800	16,200	_	17,000
Individual and corporate donations	_	32,664	1,533	34,197
Membership fees	18,102	_	—	18,102
Product sales	1,794	_	_	1,794
Investment income		10,631	880	11,511
Total revenue	23,209	184,144	2,413	209,766
EXPENSES				
Trail construction**	—	264,350	—	264,350
Trail maintenance and restoration	_	43,527	_	43,527
Fundraising	1,681	_	_	1,681
Printing and production	4,958	_	_	4,958
Insurance	3,378	_	_	3,378
Special events	532	_	—	532
Postage and shipping	2,277	_	_	2,277
Professional fees	1,750	—	—	1,750
Supplies and equipment	2,625	—	—	2,625
Other expenses	2,345	_	_	2,345
Total expenses	19,546	307,877		327,423
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenses a/k/a Changes in Net Assets	\$ 3,663	\$(123,733)	\$ 2,413	\$(117,657)

\* Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

\*\* Massachusetts Central Rail Trail

#### Statement of Cash Flows Year Ended December 31, 2009 Cash Basis

Cash and Cash Equivalents, beginning of year	\$ 366,709
Add:	
Federal/state government grants	113,649
Local government grants	2,913
Foundation, corporate, and other grants	19,007
Individual and corporate donations	30,428
Membership fees	18,666
Product sales	1,794
Investment income	11,511
	197,968
Less:	
Trail construction	264,350
Trail maintenance and restoration	43,093
Fundraising	1,681
Management and member services	17,834
	326,958
Cash and Cash Equivalents, end of year	\$237,719
Cash and Cash Equivalents, end of year	
Unrestricted	
Operating fund	<u>\$ 9,101</u>
Temporarily restricted	
Trail construction fund	200,554
GWCF Guide Grant	1,940
Kaplan Development Grant	6,450
Trail maintenance fund	(9,683)
	199,261
Permanently restricted	
Massachusetts Central Rail Trail Preservation Endowment Fund	26,762
Springdale Mill River Walk Preservation Endowment Fund	2,595
	29,357
	\$237,719

## Volunteers, Donors of Services and Partners

#### THANK YOU for many hours of generous service! Please forgive any errors or omissions and please let us know of our error.

Colleen Abrams Jim Abrams Diane Abramson Sue Abramson Arlene Aldenberg Larry Altobelli Lori Altobelli Christie Amaral Doreen Amaral S. Jane Arntz Bob Authur Bruce Baker Eddie Baldarelli Robin Baldarelli Dan Ballantine Lucy Banks Christy Barnes Karl Barry J. Nora Bateman Laura Beckwith Andrew Bellesis **George Bellesis** Robert Bertin Trevor Bertin Phil Blake Grace Blydenburgh Rachel Bradley Gwen Callahan Parker Callahan Rod Callahan Barbara Campbell Sandy Carlson Sherron Carson Pat Charbonneau Mark Coccio Ronda Coccio Iean Costello Christina Del Donno Sheila Dibb Rocco DiVerdi Jack Downes Steven Dubrule Tom Dunne Gordo Elliott Tim Enman Katie Fleming

Mark Forkey Andrea Freeman John Gau Bill Gauld Rocky Goodreau Cathy Graham Dave Graham Claire Gurney Sue Hall Persis Hamilton Howard Hastings Paul Hennessey David Henrichon Bob Hill Tom Holzgraf Cameron Horton Nancy Howe Pat Hummon Beth Hunt Don Inglis Bill Johansen Dana Jones Chris Iones Dennis Kane Judy Kane Jeff Keay Scot Keay Michael Keimig Stephanie Keimig Stephen Keimig William Keimig Michael Kent Zachary Kent Jill Killough-Miller Mary Kolofsky Karin Komenda Walker Korby Dee Kormeluk Dotty Kormeluk **Jim Laflev** Lori Lamberto Megan Lamberto Brian Lesher Margaret Lock Nancy Lucier Geri MacDonnell

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#### Groups:

Alpha Phi Omega of WPI Bancroft School Eagle Scout Philip Blake with Fitchburg Troop Eagle Scout Mike Kent with Holden Troop #175 Eagle Scout Zach Kent with Holden Troop #175 Eagle Scout Cameron Horton with Holden Troop #182 Holden YAHOO (Young Adults Helping Out Others), leader Ken O'Brien Rutland Boy Scout Troop and Cub Scout Pack #306, leader Stephanie Keimig Rutland Central Tree Middle School Mountain Bike Club members, leader Chris Stark Sterling Cub Scout Pack #34, leader Brian Toohey West Boylston Cub Scout Pack #151, leader Karen

#### **In-Kind Services**

Dorman

Includes items such as chain saw repair, office space, phone and computer services, mowing, plowing, trucking, legal and accounting fees, engineering, consulting, food, paint and more.

Jim and Colleen Abrams Allatar Hardware and Software Solutions Andrysick Land Surveying Adshead Graphics AF Amorello & Sons Karl Barry Best Buy CAPA Corporation Central Tree Middle School Clearview Farm George Dresser First Baptist Church, Holden Gear Works Cyclery Andy Greene Holden Department of Public Works Holden Police Department Leroux Meats Love, Jarominski & Raymond Mass Central Railroad Corporation Massachusetts DCR/DWSP

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#### Partners

Massachusett Department of Conservation and Recreation:

- Commissioner: Rick Sullivan
- DCR Greenways and Trails Program: Paul Jahnige, Amanda Lewis
- DCR Watershed Division: Jonathan Yeo, Bill Pula, John Scannell, Dave Small, Rick Matthews and Rangers, Rebecca Budaj, Dan Clark, Ken MacKenzie, Kiana Koenen
- Moore State Park: Denis Melican and Lois Breault
- Rutland State Park: Fran Tyburski, Rick Qualters Massachusetts Department of Transportation Town of Holden
- Town of Oakham
- Town of Rutland
- Town of Sterling
- Town of West Boylston

### 2009 Wachusett Greenways Contributors: Members, Mass Central Rail Trail Construction and Restoration Donors, Mass Central Rail Trail Preservation Endowment Fund Donors

#### \$1000 or More

George I. Alden Trust Anonymous I Richard and Janice Helle Kristin Hojnoski Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Partnership Fund Grant Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Recreational Trails Grant Sam's Club #6649 Wal-Mart Foundation

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