Wachusett Greenways



2011 Annual Report



In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks.

—John Muir



Standing Strong and Looking Ahead

In 2011 we took a giant leap forward when we committed to the Pommogussett Tunnel and Trail project. We connected the rail trail under Route 56 and purchased 21 Miles Road to extend the rail trail along Miles Road *and* to establish a Welcome Center, office and maintenance center. The \$600,000 capital campaign reached the \$500,000 mark and the campaign will continue in 2012.

Greenways faced the challenge of the big October snowstorm, which downed hundreds of trees, and brought a silver lining when new volunteers offered to help. We welcomed youth, school and business groups, along with new Trail Patrollers. This year more than 300 volunteers helped to carry out our mission.



Wachusett Greenways presses on to connect our communities with trails and greenways in grateful partnership with the Commonwealth, Wachusett Towns, local foundations, businesses, nonprofit groups and loyal members. Since 1995, 2,440 generous donors and members have supported Greenways. In 2011 fifty volunteers gathered to continue setting the vision for Greenways. 624 members joined Wachusett Greenways. This partnership has built and now maintains more than 16 miles of the Mass Central Rail Trail (MCRT), including eight bridges and two tunnels. Greenways also built and maintains the 4-mile White Oak Trail in Holden.

Please mark your calendar and join us for Greenways' annual meeting on May 9 at Holden Senior Center. Bring a favorite dish to share as we celebrate a good year. Onward with much gratitude!

Colleen Abrams, Chair; Gordon Elliot; Christy Barnes; David Lambert; Lydia Barter (resigned 12/2011); Edward Tarquinio; Steven Dubrule; Edward P. Yaglou

In Memoriam

Robert Spindler, of Rutland, a dedicated super-volunteer for fifteen years died on April 17, 2011. Robert brought a beaming smile and can-do attitude for trail work all year.

Mark Forkey, of Sterling, an early Greenways board member, trail enthusiast and long time patroller for Greenways' White Oak Trail, died on December 11, 2011. They are missed!

At Last! A Welcome Center for Wachusett Greenways



Wachusett Greenways is no longer an organization with only a "virtual headquarters." In 2011, Greenways acquired the property at 21 Miles Road, Rutland. According to Christy Barnes, a Greenways Director, "21 Miles" will serve as Greenways' "first bricksand-mortar headquarters." Here, visitors will find a place to gather for a warm welcome

and a cold drink, and to learn about local natural history and trails. Christy continues "it will not only serve as a Welcome Center and office but will link two sections of the Mass Central Rail Trail along the Miles Road property." The Center will open in 2012 as soon as the building is made fully accessible.

Christy, who is leading the development of "21 Miles," says "the center will house tools and equipment for the Greenways work crews who help build and

maintain the trails. In addition, we hope to have a supply of passive recreational equipment for the public to use, such as bicycles, skis and snowshoes."

Already, the "Let's Go" program, under the direction of Howie Fain, a Worcester East Middle School teacher, keeps its bicycles at 21 Miles, which is located just a stone's throw from the rail trail.



Christy adds that the welcome center "represents our mission to connect the Wachusett communities with trails and greenways, while being good stewards of the land, in partnership with other kindred organizations throughout Central Mass."

Special thanks go to many volunteers: Roland Veaudry, Dave Camarra and Doug Hagman contributed all mowing, and snow, leaf and brush removal. Architect Dan Ferguson contributed the design for accessibility. John and Linda Rives and Chuck Belanger donated many hours preparing the house. Nativity School, Vertex Pharmaceuticals and many other volunteers pitched in throughout the year.

The Pommogussett Tunnel Challenge

Last summer, with a time limit of 6 weeks between closing Route 56 and the annual Central Tree Chowder Challenge in Rutland, Wachusett Greenways faced its own challenge. To allow unimpeded construction, Pommogussett Road (Route 56) had to be closed, a tunnel beneath it for the Mass Central Rail Trail installed, and the highway rebuilt and paved – all in a few short weeks.

While the town waited and watched, workers took down trees and excavated

before lowering sections of the tunnel into place with a crane, then put rubber gaskets between sections, waterproofed the joints, backfilled, built wing walls and finished drainage work.

On Aug. 11, five weeks after shutting down Pommogussett Road, and with more than a week to go to the popular chowder fest, the road reopened to motorists. Underneath the road, bicyclists and other users of the rail trail began streaming through the long-awaited tunnel.



The Pommogussett
Tunnel, which is just north
of Rutland center, cost
\$300,000. Funding came
from Massachusetts
Department of
Conservation and
Recreation Partnership

Matching Funds Program Grants and from many donations to the Wachusett Greenways Pommogussett Tunnel and Trail Campaign.

Engineered by Thompson-Liston Associates, with Ken Strom in the lead, the 80-foot long concrete tunnel was made by Hanson Pipe and Precast in 11 custom-made pieces to allow a 10-by-8 ½-foot passageway under the road. Northern Construction Service was the contractor for the project, and neighbors Steve Mann, Pia Nielson and Norma Johanson contributed easements to help make it possible.

Happy Trails, Courtesy of Patrollers

The surprise October 2011 snowstorm brought out many volunteers to clear the trails, not least the loyal team of the Wachusett Greenways Trail Patrol. In Sterling, which was hard hit with fallen branches, the Fire Department also pitched in on the trail, along with patroller Bruce Baker.

With 31 members, the Trail Patrollers aim to keep walkways clear and trashfree throughout the year. They walk the trail every two weeks or more and following storms, only reporting problems that require a trail work crew. Patroller Everett Reynolds began handing out maps and membership envelopes to folks he meets out on the trail, many of whom are not members. Several have joined WG.

All sections of the trail are covered, though Trail Captain Paul Hennessey would like additional Trail Patrol members on several sections. Duties include removing branches and litter from the trail, drainage ditches and parking lots. Call or e-mail Paul at 508-886-6317 or peh01543@charter.net if you can patrol a section.

Wachusett Greenways Trail Patrollers

Contact Information for Assistance

Patroller Captain, Paul Hennessey 508-886-6317 peh01543@charter.net

MCRT Maintenance Coordinators,

Colleen Abrams, 508-829-3954 or 508-479-2123 colleen.abrams@verizon.net or Gordo Elliott 508-753-0420 or bolststwo@charter.net

MCRT Task Force Chair, Ed Yaglou 978-355-2539 egyaglou@verizon.net

MCRT

Brian Toohey, Sterling – Cider Mill to Gates

Sterling Cub Scout Pack #34, 978-422-7185, pack34@comcast.net

Bruce Baker, **Sterling – Cider Mill to Gates** 978-422-6253, brucesbaker@comcast.net

David G. McClure, West Boylston, Oakdale

dgmcclure@yahoo.com

Mike and Rachel Peckar and family, West
Boylston – Oakdale

508-835-2949, fog@fognet.com

Greg, CJ and Alex Ward, West Boylston, Oakdale entrance to Holden, at Manning Street

508-835-4389, wardinator@verizon.net

Evan and Jim Schakenbach, Holden – River Street to W. B. line and River to Manning to Route 31 jdschak@charter.net, eschak@gmail.com

Sheila Dibb, Rutland – Glenwood to 56

dibb209@charter.net Hank and Viv Ouellette, **Rutland** –

Pommogussett Tunnel to Miles Road MCRT parking

houellette@charter.net, vivoue30@charter.net, and

Carol Moore, and

Jere and Rachel Bradley, 508-829-9735, jererachel@gmail.com

Everett Reynolds, Rutland –
Pommogussett Tunnel to Charnock
Hill tunnel
508-886-2181, trainman019@yahoo.com

Bruce Ruderman, Rutland – Miles to Charnock Hill tunnel ruderman10@charter.net

Bob Hill and Gail Hartman, Rutland – Miles to Charnock Hill tunnel 508-886-0196

Paul Hennessey, **Rutland** – **Charnock/Barrack/Whitehall** 508-886-6317, peh01543@charter.net

Robin Peters, Rutland – Whitehall (state park entrance) to Midstate Trail 508-886-6541, dancingstonefarm@aol.com

Beth Hunt, Rutland – Route 122/Midstate to Muddy pond outlet and ramp to Route 122 small parking 508-882-3686, hunt1887@charter.net

Joan Killough-Miller and Aria, Oakham – Muddy Pond outlet to Coldbrook Road jkmiller@wpi.edu

Fred and Becki Hamel, Oakham – Route 122 crossing to Coldbrook Road 978-355-0146, rahamel@yahoo.com Don Inglis, Oakham – Route 122 crossing to Coldbrook Road 978-355-0185,

Walter "Jim" Potter II, Oakham/Barre – Route 122 crossing to Ware River Crossing

donaldinbarre@yahoo.com

978-355-2168, barreptters@hotmail.com

Jack Perreault, White Oak Trail, Holden 978-534-3984, perreault00@msn.com

Mike Peckar, White Oak Trail, Holden 508-835-2949, fog@fognet.com

Ride, Pancakes, Ride — an End-to-End Story

Last May 21, some 30 adventurous cyclists gathered at 8 AM at the Cider Mill in Sterling, to ride the Mass Central Rail Trail end-to-end. Led by Greenways Board member Ed Yaglou and his team, their goal was to reach Rutland center by

11 AM, in time to enjoy a hearty pancake breakfast (see sidebar), and then ride on to the western trail head in Oakham.

"Nearly all reached their destination after an invigorating ride on the rail trail and the adjoining public roads in between," said Ed. "Along the way, we rode past historic landmarks, like Springdale Mill, across bridges we've built spanning the beautiful Quinnapoxet River, and up the long Rte. 56 hill into Rutland. There we welcomed the respite of a pancake breakfast."

Their strength renewed, the cyclists pedaled the final miles through the dramatic Charnock Cut and Charnock Tunnel, through Rutland State Park, across the newest and longest MCRT bridge at Rte. 122, before reaching the current western trail head at Coldbrook Road in Oakham.

Pancakes, Anyone?

The anticipation of steaming pancakes, sausage and all the fixings was on every rider's mind as they climbed the challenging hills into Rutland. Several riders reunited with old friends and shared hugs before they sat down to enjoy the Greenways sponsored community breakfast. The theme was Rutland Rallies 'Round the Rail Trail. "In all," recounts Lynne Amsden, Chief Cook and Bottle Washer of the event, "our 12 hard-working volunteers served about 75 hungry folks, including the cyclists. It was our way of celebrating Greenways' work on the new Pommogussett Tunnel and the new Greenways visitor's center on Miles Road."

Work Parties to the Rescue!

After the record-setting
October 2011 snowstorm
wreaked its havoc in Central
Massachusetts, Wachusett
Greenways work parties were
formed to begin MRCT trail
cleanup. The storm had dumped
more than a foot of snow, and
thousands of trees and tree
limbs, many still with their
leaves, came down. Power was
knocked out, roads were closed –
and the MCRT was a mess. WG

President Colleen Abrams said hundreds of trees fell on the section between River Street and the West Boylston entrance alone.

West of Coldbrook Station in Oakham

dozens of volunteers pitched in to remove trees and limbs that covered much of the already cleared trail. Greenways expects the western section of the trail, more than a mile from Coldbrook Road to the Ware River crossing, to be cleared by May so contractors can

begin their work. The sloping terrain between the Mass Central and the Boston & Albany railroads presents a challenge, both to those cutting the trail and to those building it, according to Gordon Elliott, a Wachusett Greenways board member who helps oversee trail maintenance.

Trail users can thank the dozens of people, including Greenways members, other trail actors can

users and Scouts, who joined the effort to remove the debris, using chainsaws to cut the big pieces and good old-fashioned muscle power to haul everything aside and away.

New Plans for Springdale Mill Interpretive Site

Though rain-threatening skies led the Springdale Mill Committee to cancel its annual celebration this past September, the committee was kept busy maintaining the historic riverside site. Located about midway between the West Boylston and River Street



(Holden) Mass Central Rail Trail trailheads, the mill site is a testament to the Wachusett region's manufacturing past. Dedicated in 2003, the mill site features a footpath around the foundations and permanent signage that explains how the mid-19th century woolen mill worked and the workers lived, and excavation of the nearby worker housing foundations.

This year a Greenways supporter donated an electric golf cart, which is now used to haul tools to and from the site and remove forest debris. The Committee maintains the Site, including mowing and removing brush. This year the Committee sealed all the edges of the signs and removed a giant yellowjacket nest from a wooden bench. Luckily there was only minor damage from storms this past year. Dick and Ruth Spaulding and their son Roger also patrol the site periodically, to mow and keep the paths open. Plans for the future include clearing the flume of brush to make it more visible, developing a printed pamphlet and Web version of the interpretive site, and, of course, resumption of the annual family Springdale Mill Celebration in September 2012.

Wachusett Greenways is grateful for the fine stewardship of the mill site by its committee. Members include Chair Ruth Spaulding, Colleen Abrams, Jim Lafley, Janet Olson, John Scannell, Chuck Skillings and Ed Yaglou.

Greenways Membership Grows

In 2011, 624 individuals, families, and businesses from 77 towns in 15 states joined the Greenways ranks, including 58 new members. Last year's membership was 605. We are encouraged by our members' continued support, which plays such a crucial role in day to day operations. Membership fees, based on the calendar year, also support our trail events and programs, trail maintenance activity and outreach to members.

Besides the annual membership fee, in 2011 585 supporters generously contributed to the MCRT Fund to construct the tunnel under Pommogussett Road (Rte 56) and to prepare our new Welcome Center at 21 Miles Road in Rutland.

During 2012, Wachusett Greenways will invite loyal supporters and new friends to help complete the Pommogussett Tunnel and Trail campaign and contribute toward the Greenways match for Rail Trail construction in Oakham and Barre. Every dollar of the fund will be used for actual rail trail construction and will leverage matching grants. Major donors of \$5,000 or more will be recognized with a bench inscribed in their honor on the trail. Donors of \$1,000 or more will be recognized together on an engraved post at a trailhead. Donor support is vital to our efforts.

Membership services: Karl Barry

Reach out to New Friends

'Welcome!' is a favorite greeting given at the rail trail and community events. Greenways participated in the Rutland 4th of July parade, UMass Med Center Earthday Fair and several community fairs this year. Hospitality volunteers also conducted trail counts and offered maps, membership info and t-shirts as rail trail entrances during 2011.







Not Taken for Granted!

The shared vision of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and several Worcester area foundations makes new trail connections possible.

A DCR Recreational Trails Grant assisted in the completion of rail trail surfacing from Muddy Pond to Coldbrook Road including placing a large new box culvert at Parker Brook in Oakham to replace a failed culvert. The DCR Recreational Trails program also provided a new grant that will help construct the MCRT between Coldbrook Road, Oakham and the Ware River crossing in Barre where Greenways will install a new bridge during 2012.

Generous grantors moved Greenways toward completing the \$600,000 Pommogussett Tunnel and Trail Campaign. The DCR Partnership Grant program provided a grant to help install the Pommogussett Tunnel. We are also grateful to local foundations who supported our trail-building mission this year. They include:

George I. Alden Trust,

Ruth H. and Warren A. Ellsworth Foundation,

Kirby Foundation,

Morgan-Worcester, Inc,

Arthur Ashley Williams Foundation,

Wyman-Gordon Foundation.

You Can Spread the Word

In 2011, volunteers worked at five mailing sessions to reach out to individuals, organizations, businesses and friends. This past year a rotating group of 24 volunteers made short work of what needed to be done. At one party the crew processed 18 newsletters in 1½ hours!

Help us spread the word about the trails and opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. Consider signing on as a volunteer for one or more of our mailing parties. To add your name to the list, please contact S. Jane Arntz, mailing coordinator, at sjaj12@hotmail.com.

How WG Communicates: Newsletter, Web Page, and Constant Contact

Reaching out to our members, volunteers, and the general public is an on-going effort and one that allows us to share news about trail developments, events, and various Greenways activities. We publish our newsletter, The Greenways Connector, in both print and online versions.

A team of volunteer writers, editors and photographers meets periodically to prepare The Connector and our annual report. If you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities, please contact Greenways Connector Team Manager, Viv Ouellette at vivoue30@charter.net or at 508-829-5341.

Editors and writers include: Colleen Abrams, Grace Blydenburgh, Peder Pedersen, Tim Enman, Dave Greenslit, Ken McDonnell and Hank Ouellette. Design by Adshead Graphics; Webmaster and photographer: Hank Ouellette, houellette@charter.net.

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.

Through Constant Contact emails, we are able to share Greenways news almost as it happens. These emails are an inexpensive way to keep everyone informed of our progress, upcoming events, and other items of interest. Just as important, online communications saves trees, which would become paper for postal mailings, and fuel for the trucks that would move it. These and other savings are examples of Wachusett Greenways' stewardship of the environment, a fundamental element of our mission.

To receive The Greenways Connector online, contact Ken McDonnell, mcdonnellk@charter.net.

Smoother, Longer: MCRT Trail in Rutland

The Mass Central Rail Trail construction was wrapped up from Muddy Pond outlet in Rutland to Coldbrook Road in Oakham this year. The final steps included 'paving' the trail with stone dust for more than two miles. Greenways hired Bob Salvadore of R. D. Salvadore Excavating to complete the work. In addition Wachusett Precast built a new box culvert







to replace a failed concrete slab culvert. Finally, Mass. Department of Transportation installed new guardrail, signage and warning strips at the Route 122 crossing. Now the trail is a satisfyingly longer, safer, and smoother surface for riding and walking. Construction is planned to extend the trail from Coldbrook Road, Oakham to Barre including a new bridge over the Ware River in 2012.

Greenways is grateful for the MCRT Task Force: Ed Yaglou, Chair, Bruce Pennino, Engineer, Colleen Abrams, John Rives, John Scannell, Dave Small, and Dick Williams.



Wachusett Greenways, Inc.

Statement of Revenue and Expenses a/k/a Statement of Activities Year Ended December 31, 2011 Cash Basis

	Membership, Management and Operations	Trail Construction and Maintenance	Trail Preservation Endowment Fund	Total
REVENUE				
Grants and contributions				
Federal/state government grants*	\$ —	\$ 226,526	\$ —	\$ 226,526
Local government grants	3,347	_	_	3,347
Foundation, corporate, and other grants	_	31,600	_	31,600
Individual and corporate contributions	_	82,217	775	82,992
Membership fees	24,325	_	_	24,325
Product sales	2,162		_	2,162
Investment income	_	941	_	941
Total revenue	29,834	341,284	775	371,893
EXPENSES				
Trail construction**	_	311,707	_	311,707
Trail maintenance and restoration	_	1,034	_	1.034
Fundraising	1,430	_	_	1,430
Printing and production	5,619	_	_	5,619
Insurance	1,976	_	_	1,976
21 Miles Road expenses	5,188	_	_	5,188
Postage and shipping	2,224	_	_	2,224
Professional fees	3,875	_	_	3,875
Office supplies and expense	1,229	_	_	1,229
Donor recognition and events	1,015	_	_	1,015
Other expenses	3,033	_	_	3,033
Total expenses	25,589	312,741	_	338,330
Excess of Revenue over Expenses a/k/a Changes in Net Assets	\$ 4,245	\$ 28,543	\$ 775	\$ 33,563

^{*} Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation ** Massachusetts Central Rail Trail

Wachusett Greenways, Inc.

Statement of Cash Flows Year Ended December 31, 2011 Cash Basis

Cash and Cash Equivalents, beginning of year	\$ 130,576
Add:	
Federal/state government grants	226,526
Local government grants	3,347
Foundation, corporate, and other grants	31,600
Individual and corporate donations	82,992
Membership fees	24,325
Product sales	2,162
Investment income	941
	371,893
Less:	
Trail construction	311,707
Trail maintenance and restoration	1,034
21 Miles Road expense	5,188
Fundraising	1,430
Management and member services	18,971
	338,330
Cash and Cash Equivalents, end of year	<u>\$ 164,139</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents, end of year	
Unrestricted	
Operating fund	\$ 7,328
Temporarily restricted	
Trail construction fund	117,362
GWCF Guide grant	1,940
Kaplan Development grant	6,450
Trail maintenance fund	1,159
	126,911
Permanently restricted	
Massachusetts Central Rail Trail Preservation Endowment Fund	27,400
Springdale Mill River Walk Preservation Endowment Fund	2,500
	29,900
	\$ 164,139

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 Iim Abrams George Adams Mary Ago Jerry Albertini Arlene Aldenberg Courtney Alsdorf Larry Altobelli Lori Altobelli Doreen Amaral Lynne Amsden John Armstrong Iane Arntz Annette Aubertin Bruce Baker Dan Ballantine Doug Balko Christy Barnes Elise Barry Karl Barry Lydia Barter Wes Barter Jim Barys Nora Bateman Laura Beckwith Lydia Barter Chuck Belanger Gail Belanger Robert Bertin Jocelyn Bly Grace Blydenburgh Sam Boonen Rachel Bradley Jere Bradley Gary Brigham Alice Caldwell Barbara Campbell Pat Charbonneau Sherry Conrad Anthony Costello Bob Cox Randy Curtis Ted Del Donno Eric DeRivera Sheila Dibb Cathy Doherty Bill Dowd

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Dick Williams Jessica Woodward Jonathan Woodward Ed Yaglou Geoff Yaglou Sharon Young

Groups

Alpha Phi Omega of Worcester Polytechnic Institute Bancroft School Nativity School Holden YAHOO Wachusett Regional High School National Honor Society Eagle Scout Project Teams led by: Brian Walsh Jonathan Staruk Adam Mayer West Boylston Girl Scout Silver Award Project: Katie McKeon Christina Fallavolita Holden Cub Scout Pack 46 families Paxton Boy Scout Troop 182 Sterling Cub Scout Pack 34, Brian Toohey Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation Holden Department of Public Works

Rutland Department of

Public Works

Sterling Department of Public Works Vertex Pharmaceuticals West Boylston Department of Public Works

Donated Services/products:

Colleen Abrams, office space Karl Barry, office space Carol Morin, office space Ed Tarquinio, office space Larry Altobelli, computer consulting Norma Bedrosian, steel posts Scott Norrie, consulting guidance Nal's Paint, paint and supplies Sentry Oil, heating oil Severance Maple Products, maple syrup Cleland Blair, maple syrup Mike Peckar, web site host Jill Phelps Kern, cartographer Melissa Ruttle, Color Consulting Holden Senior Center Rutland Library First Baptist Church, Holden Dave Camarra, plowing and moving brush Roland Veaudry, plowing and mowing Doug Hagman, leaf removal Don Rich, labor, generator, drills for bollard Ed Yaglou, supplies, office space and trucking MA Department of Transportation, new guardrail and crossing signs for Route 122 Dick Spaulding, welding parade float Bruce Pennino, PE, engineering

Reduced cost services:

Love, Jarominski and Raymond, accounting Andrysick Land Surveying, surveying

2011 Wachusett Greenways Contributors

Members, Mass Central Rail Trail Construction and Restoration Donors, Mass Central Rail Trail Preservation Endowment Fund Donors

\$1,000 or More

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