Wachusett Greenways



2010 Annual Report

Moving to Unite

In 2010 we looked back over fifteen years and took a giant leap forward when we committed to the Pommogussett Tunnel and Trail project. The Pommogussett project is our most ambitious yet, allowing us to connect the rail trail under Route 56 and along Miles Road and to establish a Welcome Center, office and maintenance center at 21 Miles Road. The campaign to raise \$600,000 continues in 2011.

In February 2010, volunteer leaders gathered to examine our strengths and opportunities as we reviewed our accomplishments of a decade and a half and set goals to move forward. The Greenways mission — connecting the community with trails and





greenways — stands. We continue working to link people with each other and with the land through the shared work of trail building and by offering healthful outdoor events.

One goal was to double our membership in 2010. We did not reach the goal, but membership did grow from 508 to 609 — a healthy increase. The MCRT grew again as we built a new mile of trail in Oakham between the 122 crossing and Coldbrook Road, installing a 110' bridge (our longest yet) over Parker Brook. Some 300 volunteers helped make it all happen.

Now we're looking ahead to a dedication in Rutland when the 'Pomm' project is complete and to a 20 year celebration in 2015. With your help, momentum is growing. Onward: one step, one smile, and one pair of helping hands at a time.

Thank you!

Wachusett Greenways Directors

Colleen Abrams, President Steve Dubrule, Clerk Chris Nichols, Treasurer Karl Barry Gordo Elliott Stan Miller Ida Nystrom John Rives Ed Yaglou "Keep up the wonderful work on the rail trail!! It gives joy to many people."

> 12/2010 William and Erika Higgins, Holden

Pommogussett Tunnel and Trail Campaign

Launched in 2010, the Pommogussett Tunnel and Trail Campaign in Rutland is our most comprehensive effort yet. This project comprises the installation of the rail trail tunnel under Route 56 north of Rutland center during summer of 2011, the establishment of a Greenways Welcome Center and office at 21 Miles Road,

and conservation of fifteen acres of woodland where the trail will be connected along Miles Road. Greenways purchased the land and small house at 21 Miles in December 2010, and will work to make the Welcome Center accessible to all so that it can open in 2011.

Lydia Barter stepped up to chair the campaign with support from Ted Robbins as the grants coordinator.





The total cost of this major undertaking is \$600,000. As of June 2011, the campaign had raised \$450,000. Support comes from the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation Partnership Grants, local foundations, and generous individual donors. Greenways volunteers are seeking support from

Greenways members and the community to complete this campaign.

Photos from top: Miles Road Welcome Center; Rt. 56 where the rail trail tunnel will be located; Historical photo showing the original Pommogussett bridge in the background.



Events Around the Year

Bike riding on trails, heading out on cross country skis or snowshoes, canoeing around a pond, bird watching, and hiking – Wachusett Greenways offered all these opportunities to enjoy nature as free outings during 2010. Most of these events took place in the Wachusett region, led by enthusiastic and knowledgeable members, but some outings were farther afield.



In May the bird watching trip was at the Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge, and bike enthusiasts rode 24 miles on the Minuteman Bikeway. Have you a favorite trail or activity or expertise about nature you'd like share? Contact Chris Nichols and volunteer to lead an outing.

Chris Nichols, Events Chair christinichols37@msn.com



Members Matter

Wachusett Greenway membership grew to 605 members in 2010. Members hailed from 54 towns in 9 states. In contrast, our 2009 membership was at 509. Membership in Wachusett Greenways plays a crucial role in our day-to-day operations including trail events and programs, trail maintenance activity and outreach to members. Membership is on a calendar year basis.

In 2010, over 450 supporters contributed \$34,500 to continue construction of the Mass Central Rail Trail. These gifts enable us to make steady progress in building the MCRT.

Greenways initiated the Pommogussett Tunnel and Trail Campaign in 2010. Member donations are key to the capital campaign to construct a tunnel under Pommogussett Road in Rutland (Rte 56) and to prepare our new welcome center at 21 Miles Road in Rutland.

Greenways keeps a cumulative record of your gifts. When your donation total for MCRT construction reaches \$5,000 you will be recognized with a bench inscribed in your honor on the trail. Donors of \$1,000 or more are recognized together on an engraved post at a trailhead. Every dollar you give for the MCRT Construction Fund is used for actual rail trail construction. Your donations are also maximized when they help match government grants.

Membership services: Karl Barry

Trail Goes West Again

In 2010 we completed the initial construction of 1.2 miles of new trail stretching west in Oakham from Route 122 to Coldbrook Road near the Oakham/Barre border. Along the way, the trail crosses over Parker Brook on a new 110 foot bridge, the longest we have installed to date. The bridge was manufactured by

ConTec, formerly Continental Bridge, which produced the Quinapoxet Bridges. Greenways contracted Bob Salvadore of R.D. Salvadore Excavation to extend the trail. Mark Sadowski of East Hill Enterprises installed the footings for the bridge at Parker Brook. Astro Crane of Stow expertly lowered the span





into place. All this work was accomplished with the support of Greenways members and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Partnership and Recreational Trails Grants.

Wachusett Greenways made plans to repair damage brought



on by heavy rains in 2010, including the installation of a new culvert for the slab bridge near Muddy Pond, which was undermined by last year's storms. Once again, Bob Salvadore will handle the heavy lifting for this project.

WG Mass Central Rail Trail Task Force Edward P. Yaglou, Chair Colleen Abrams Bruce Pennino

John Rives Dave Small, DCR Dick Williams

Trail Patrollers Needed

Patrollers help to maintain the MCRT and the White Oak Trail. They regularly walk a designated section of trail, pick up litter and fallen branches and clear blockages in drainage. Other duties may include trimming and cleaning up the parking areas, and using a blower to clear leaves and pine needles. When major maintenance is required, patrollers contact the trail patrol captain.

"Thank you for all that you do!"

12/10 Kim Ferguson, Holden

THANK YOU to the following patrollers:

- Sterling, Cider Mill to Gates Road Bruce Baker, Joe Petruccelli and Sherry Conrad, Brian Toohey and Sterling Scouts
- West Boylston, Oakdale to Holden line David McClure family

• Holden, Manning Street to West Boylston line — Evan and Jim Schakenbach.

- Holden, River Street to West Boylston line Gerald Teran
- Rutland, Glenwood Road to Route 56 Sheila Dibb, Steve Mann and Pia Nielson
- Rutland, Miles Road to Charnock Hill Road Bob Hill and Gail Hartman, Bruce Ruderman
- Rutland, Charnock Hill Road to Whitehall Road (east) Paul Hennessey
- Rutland, Whitehall Road (east) to Midstate Trail Robin Peters
- Rutland, Midstate Trail to Whitehall Road (west) Beth Hunt
- Holden, White Oak Trail Mark Forkey



Additional patrollers are needed for four sections of the rail trail. One section is in Holden: Manning Street over the hill to Wachusett Street (Route 31). Three sections are in Rutland: Wachusett Street to the Holden line, the section parallel to Route 68; Whitehall Road (west) to Route 122 crossing; and Route 122 to Coldbrook Road. Those interested should contact Paul Hennessey, patrol captain, at 508-886-6317 or peh01543@charter.net.

You've Got Mail

In 2010, volunteers worked at seven mailing sessions to send five mailings out to individuals, organizations and businesses members and friends. During the largest of these sessions, 2,054 renewal letters were sent out. Usually these mailing parties are held on a weekday morning at the First Baptist Church in Holden.

Twenty-five regular volunteers, plus two new families from the "Give a Day, Get a Disney Day" program helped with the mailings. New volunteers are always welcome, and joining the mailing crew is a good way to catch up with old friends and make new ones. At the same time, you will be supporting the important task of getting the word out about Wachusett Greenways' events and activities.

To add your name to the mailing party list, please contact S. Jane Arntz, coordinator, at Sjaj12@hotmail.com or 508-829-7396.

"Keep up the good work!!"

12/10 Neil Feldman, Central Ma Podiatrists

Grant News

Our work is possible through farsighted, generous support of our partners including the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and several Worcester area foundations.

During 2010 the DCR Partnership Grant program and the DCR Recreational Grant program helped fund the construction of the rail trail in Oakham from the Route 122 crossing to Coldbrook Station. This trail section included purchase and installation of the new 110' bridge over Parker Brook and construction of the trail.

A DCR Recreational Trails Grant awarded in 2010 will assist in completion of the trail surfacing from Muddy Pond to Coldbrook Road and repair of the damaged slab bridge over Parker Brook in 2011.

Generous grantors helped launch the \$600,000 Pommogussett Tunnel and Trail Campaign. The DCR Partnership Grant program provided a grant for engineering and purchase of the concrete culvert in 2010. DCR awarded a second Partnership grant early in 2011 to help with the installation of the Pommogussett tunnel. Five wonderfully generous local foundations, George I. Alden Trust, Fred Harris Daniels Foundation, Fletcher Foundation, Hoche-Scofield Foundation and Stoddard Charitable Trust, each stepped up to contribute a total of \$140,000 to the Tunnel and Trail campaign. The Frances Alexander Foundation, Marla Maykel Fund at the Greater Worcester Community Foundation and Walmart Foundation also contributed.

We are grateful for the generous financial support, and for the vote of confidence provided by such a distinguished group of funders. Thank you!

Springdale Mill Celebration Draws a Crowd

The annual Springdale Mill Celebration was held on a beautiful day in September 2010. The site is a mile and a half equidistant from Oakdale (West Boylston) and River Street (Holden) next to the rushing Quinapoxet River. Folks can wander along paths and view remnants of the mill and village. Interpretive signs give



onlookers a glimpse into 19th century mill life and history.

Chas and Deb provided music and commentary throughout the day, while Lori Lecuyer from Wachusett Fitness







organized a walk or run in memory of three year-old Dylan Seymour. Students from WPI also volunteered to paint faces and organize games for the children. The railroad engine was a big hit with many youngsters and provided many photo ops. As usual, visitors to the site enjoyed the delicious food prepared by the Spaulding family and committee members.

The 2011 Celebration will be held on September 24. As chairwoman, Ruth Spaulding, noted "The Springdale Mill Site is another fabulous addition to the Wachusett Greenways Trails." The Springdale Mill committee also maintains the site and welcomes helpers.

Springdale Mill Committee:

Ruth Spaulding, Chair	Janet Olson
Colleen Abrams	Chuck Skillings
Jim Lafley, DCR	Ed Yaglou

The Crew Tends the Trail

Unlike 2009, when so much time and effort were spent clearing ice storm debris from the rail trail and White Oak Trail, the year 2010 enabled work crews to get

right down to clearing for new rail trail construction. "2010 was much more of a building year than a cleanup year," said John Rives, board member and coordinator of maintenance. Volunteers cleared the trail from Route 122 a mile west to Coldbrook Station.

Dozens of families took advantage of Disney's Give-a-Day, Get-a-Day program, in which they earned a day at Disney World for a day of service. These enthusiastic



crews experienced winter trail clearing in the snow west of the Rte. 122 crossing, spring clearing at the Trout Brook upper field, and planting for trail entry landscaping.

Three Eagle scout projects were carried out this year. Brian Walsh of Holden Troop 175 developed an interpretive sign and a platform covering the old water tower near the depot at Miles Road in Rutland. He also helped clear the trail. Adam Mayer of Troop 306 Rutland began his project on the White Oak Trail working from the Sterling Road entrance including sign repair and clearing a one mile section of the trail of storm debris. Jon Staruk, Holden Troop 175, also worked on the White Oak Trail. He focused on the trailhead amenities at North Street and clearing the adjacent trail section.

West Boylston Girl Scouts, Katie Laraba and Christina Fallavolita began their Silver Award projects as they planned a very special day on the trail for brownies





and other junior scouts and set their sites to improve the bulletin boards on the West Boylston section of the rail trail. Go scouts!

Maintenance continued on existing trail sections. Employees of Vertex Pharmaceuticals of Cambridge got into the day-ofservice spirit on the Sterling section of the rail trail. In a single day, they placed hundreds of large stones to reinforce eroding banks

on both sides of the Quag bridge. Work is underway to fix a culvert near Route 122 in Rutland. Here, volunteers took down several trees to make way for the heavy equipment needed to take apart the damaged culvert. In West Boylston, other volunteers removed invasive trees and plants and mulched the gardens.



Getting the Word Out: Keeping Our Supporters Informed

Reaching out to our members, volunteers, donors and the general public is a never-ending job, and one that lets us share news of our trail developments, events,

and other Greenways activities. Our local news outlets help spread the word. We publish our newsletter, *The Greenways Connector*, in both print and online versions, though we encourage online reading to save trees and expense. And we use communications via e-mail to keep our audience.

A team of volunteer writers, editors and photographers meets periodically to prepare *The Connector* and our annual report. Enjoy any of these tasks? We welcome new volunteers to the team! Please contact team leader Viv Ouellette at vivoue30@charter.net or 508-829-5341.

Greenways Connector Team: Manager: Viv Ouellette (508-829-5341); Editors and writers: Colleen Abrams, Grace Blydenburgh, Peder Pedersen, Tim Enman, Dave Greenslit, Ken McDonnell, Ida Nystrom, Nancy Isabella, Nancy Rio, Hank Ouellette; Design by Adshead Graphics; Webmaster and photographer: Hank Ouellette, houellette@charter.net, 508-829-5341; Email outreach: Ken McDonnell, mcdonnellk@charter.net, 508-829-0336.

A Legacy of Service

Four devoted friends died during the past year leaving a legacy of graceful service and hospitality. Bob Price, Bob Spindler, Ed Ayers and Gene Martel will all be missed for their warm smiles, persistent hard work and dedication to the community.



Robert (Bob) Price (January 5, 2010) was among the very first members and donors to Wachusett Greenways. Bob was an astute community leader who donated his services to incorporate Wachusett Greenways and several other local non-profits. Bob and his wife, Ruth, combined their great affinity for walking and for stewardship by taking long walks along the Quinapoxet River and on Malden Street in Holden, picking up any litter along the way.



Eugene (Gene) Martel (January 19, 2011), with his wife Hazel, offered hospitality behind the scenes at Greenways annual meetings and other big events. He enjoyed serving with a big smile and joke or good word. Gene and Hazel stayed till the end for 'clean-up' and enjoyed freeing others to visit.



Edward (Ed) Ayers (February 7, 2011), with his wife Olympia, planted and cared for the gardens at the rail trail entrance in West Boylston for more than a decade. Ed loved to walk, garden and polka. He and Olympia were an informal welcoming team who greeted trail visitors with warm smiles and kind words.



Robert (Bob) Spindler (April 17, 2011) was a steady presence on the trail clearing team who encouraged others and readily helped wherever he was needed by Greenways. Bob boosted Greenways throughout the community and with his Rutland Lions. Bob was also a Wachusett Earthday volunteer contributing for nearly two decades.

> "We Holden Sr. Walkers love the rail trail. My husband, Andy, videotaped it."

> > 12/2010 June Fagerquist, Holden

Wachusett Greenways, Inc.

Statement of Revenue and Expenses a/k/a Statement of Activities Year Ended December 31, 2010 Accrual Basis

	Membership, Management and Operations	Trail Construction and Maintenance	Trail Preservation Endowment Fund	Total
REVENUE				
Grants and contributions				
Federal/state government grants*	\$ —	\$ 93,154	\$ —	\$ 93,154
Local government grants	2,429	—	—	2,429
Foundation, corporate, and other grants	1,000	125,650	_	126,650
Individual and corporate contributions	_	91,882	400	92,282
Membership fees	19,333			19,333
Product sales	2,683			2,683
Investment income		5,679	800	6,479
Total revenue	25,445	316,365	1,200	343,010
EXPENSES				
Trail construction**	—	165,274		165,274
Trail maintenance and restoration		391		391
Fundraising	552			552
Printing and production	4,940	_		4,940
Insurance	3,382			3,382
Special events	372			372
Postage and shipping	2,064			2,064
Professional fees	1,850			1,850
Supplies and equipment	1,562	—	—	1,562
Donor recognition	2,102			2,102
Other expenses	1,798	_		1,798
Total expenses	18,622	165,665	_	184,287
Excess of Revenue over Expenses a/k/a Changes in Net Assets	\$ 6,823	\$ 150,700	\$ 1,200	\$ 158,723

* Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation ** Massachusetts Central Rail Trail

Wachusett Greenways, Inc.

Statement of Cash Flows Year Ended December 31, 2010 Cash Basis	
Cash and Cash Equivalents, beginning of year	\$ 237,719
Add:	
Federal/state government grants	82,686
Local government grants	13,429
Foundation, corporate, and other grants	86,650
Individual and corporate donations	98,698
Membership fees	19,813
Product sales	2,683
Investment income	6,479
	310,438
Less:	
Trail construction	165,336
Trail maintenance and restoration	765
Acquisition of property, plant, and equipment	233,000
Fundraising	552
Management and member services	17,928
	417,581
Cash and Cash Equivalents, end of year	<u>\$ 130,576</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents, end of year	
Unrestricted	
Operating fund	\$ 3,083
Temporarily restricted	
Trail construction fund	88,726
GWCF Guide Grant	1,940
Kaplan Development Grant	6,450
Trail maintenance fund	1,252
	98,368
Permanently restricted	
Massachusetts Central Rail Trail Preservation Endowment Fund	26,625
Springdale Mill River Walk Preservation Endowment Fund	2,500
	29,125
	\$ 130,576

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 James Adams Joanathan Adams Terry Adams Arlene Aldenberg Terrance Allberg Larry Altobelli Lori Altobelli Doreen Amaral John Armstrong S. Jane Arntz Annette Aubertin Karen Aubuchon Dave Bagge Bruce Baker Doug Balko Christy Barnes Lvdia Barter Wes Barter Jim Barvs Laura Beckwith Alyssa Belanger Chuck Belanger Gail Belanger Jen Belanger Mike Belanger Ron Berry Robert Bertin Grace Blydenburgh Rachel Bradley Barbara Campbell Amy Carmichael Andrew Carmichael Kaitlin Carmichael Pete Carmichael Sherron Carson Pat Charbonneau Sherry Conrad Lizette Cordeiro Denvse Corio Grace Corio Bob Cox Pat Culhane Eric DeRivera

Chris Desprez Jon Desprez Nicholas Desprez Tina Desprez Sheila Dibb Jack Downes George Dresser Steve Dubrule Tom Dunne Eamon Durkan Kaleigh Durkan Liam Durkan Mairead Durkan Rebecca Durkan Gordon Elliot Tim Enman Lisa Fahev Lydia Fahey Owen Fahev Zachary Fahey Asa Floyd Dan Floyd Deborah Floyd Kiely Floyd Betty Fogg Mark Forkey Andrea Freeman John Gau Ann Gillespie Rocky Goodreau Cathy Graham Dave Graham Dave Greenslit Claire Gurney Pat Hackett Sue Hall Gavin Halloran Jack Halloran Jamie Halloran Maryellen Halloran Persis Hamilton Gail Hartman Paul Hennessey Bob Hill Macyn Hill



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Ioe Petrucelli Tom Pitman Frank Puffer Everett Reynolds Tina Rier Nancy Rio Betty Ripley Milt Ripley John Rives Linda Rives Ted Robbins Amy Roode David Rosenfield Bruce Ruderman David Rvan Bobbye Samdahl John Scannell Evan Schakenbach Iim Schakenbach Fred Schwartz Karen Shapiro Lynne Silver Dave Simmerer Michele Simoneau Chuck Skillings Ann Spaulding Dick Spaulding Maggie Spaulding Roger Spaulding Ruth Spaulding Bob Spindler Andrea Stone Bill Stuart Alex Sullivan Dave Sweetman Gerald Teran Jennifer Tharp Kristi Tharp Richard Tharp Don Thompson Art Tirella Craig Toney Joge Tsang Liz Tsang Greg Ward Clare White Marcia White Steve White Dick Williams Ionathan Woodward Ed Yaglou Geoff Yaglou

"We use the trail in West Boylston, Sterling and Clinton every week. Thank you"

12/2010 Frannie, Bob and Lily Hodge, Clinton

Groups

Alpha Phi Omega of Worcester Polytechnic Institute Bancroft School Brian Toohey and Sterling Cub Scout Pack #34 Brian Walsh, Eagle Scout Holden Troop 175 Jonathan Staruk, Eagle Scout Holden Troop 175 Adam Mayer, Eagle Scout Rutland Troop 306

Donations of Goods and Services

Andrysick Land Surveying (surveying services at a discount) Bagel Inn Blue Plate Chas & Deb Clearview Orchards Color consulting and decorating, Melissa Ruttle Doug Hagman Landscape First Baptist Church, Holden Glen Alt Holden Senior Center Howard Hastings Jill Phelps Kern John & Linda Rives Nal's Paint Sandra Fritscher Sentry Oil Towns of Holden, Rutland, Sterling and West Boylston MA Department of Conservation and Recreation

2010 Wachusett Greenways Contributors:

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

\$5,000 or More

Brigham Hill Foundation Loree and Gerry Burns Ted and Linda Robbins Brian and Lea Ann Scales Edward and Grace Yaglou

\$1,000 to \$4,999

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\$500 to \$999

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