



**CHATHAM TRAILS ASSOCIATION**  
22 Grove Place, Unit 29, Winchester, MA 01890

March 2008

Greetings CTA Members,

This winter's record snowfall has provided us with some of the best conditions for cross country skiing and snowshoe hiking in years. As the sun rises higher in the sky, the snow we are enjoying will melt and flow down the trails in cascades that test the waterbars we worked so hard to install and maintain. While we hike a few more miles on snow covered trails, the CTA Board and our partners at the Forest Service are preparing for the spring maintenance of the trails.

After ten years working with CTA under the leadership of Al Cressy, Dwight Wilder and Sandy Finn, I found this first year as president has been one of learning all of the things that the CTA leaders have done and the relationships established that make CTA successful.

The success of our work is not just achieved by the boots-in-the-mud, tools-in-hand crews but with the essential hours of supportive work accomplished by members engaged in tool and sign maintenance, camp chores, office and paperwork tasks. It is the team work that makes CTA the vital program it is today and I thank each of you for your contribution to this success.

The 2007 season started with adopters hitting the trails as soon as the trails dried. Over 40 volunteers gathered Memorial Day weekend to perform the basics of trail maintenance in the cleaning and repairing of waterbars and drainage ditches, removing blown down trees and cutting brush along the trails. Our friends from Trailwrights also joined us to begin repair of an eroded and steep section located two hundred yards past the dam on the Deer Hill Trail.

The second weekend CTA members were joined by 4 new volunteers who had chosen CTA projects as their work contribution to National Trails Day, a nationwide event that brings people together in the care of various trail systems.

A highlight of this year was the first Trail Stewardship Hike at CRC. CTA volunteers joined CRC leaders leading a hike to learn about trail construction and maintenance. We observed trail features and challenges to maintenance as we hiked along the Deer Hill Trail. The high point of the hike was repairing a wet area on the trail and constructing over twenty feet of bog bridge, a feature that will not only keep hikers out of the mud but will protect the land along the trail corridor. Everyone returned to camp a little dirty and very excited. Bill Coss, one of CRC's hike leaders for the week and an admitted skeptic about the plausibility of a vacationer trail crew said simply, "you've made a believer out of me, trail work is fun."

During the summer, CTA members led students from Summit Achievement on several improvement projects. Finally closing out our 2007 season in September, the Board members joined Trailwrights and completed the rock steps begun on the Deer Hill Trail.

The 2008 season sees CTA and the Forest Service once again working cooperatively in assessing the trail conditions and planning work projects. This collaboration is done in part by careful review of the previous year's work, reports turned in by trail adopters and the knowledge of damage sustained by the trails as a result of winter conditions. Due in part to the record snowfall, this year's work will be potentially challenging and everyone's help will be needed.

Our first 2008 trail weekend will be Memorial Day weekend, May 23-26. The annual membership meeting will be held May 24<sup>th</sup>. The second weekend, May 31-June 1<sup>st</sup> is listed as a National trails day event when we will tackle some trail improvement projects.

Meals, lodging and work projects require preparation and planning, please register for the trail weekends as soon as you are able. You may register for the trail weekends at our website [www.chathamtrails.org](http://www.chathamtrails.org) or by contacting volunteer coordinator Sandy Finn (603-232-1721, [sandycta@comcast.net](mailto:sandycta@comcast.net)) or by returning the Volunteer Registration form, by mail to: Sandy Finn, 1163 Island Pond Road, Manchester NH 03109.

In addition to basic trail maintenance and work weekends, other projects for 2008 are:  
CTA members are working with the Forest Service and CRC to staff and improve the Brickett Place Wilderness Information Center.

John and Sandy Finn are leading the efforts to make new signs for our trails (painters needed on the weekends).

Members are developing designs for an embroidered patch, membership cards and a brochure to introduce CTA to hikers and visitors.

CTA will lead two Trail Stewardship hikes for CRC guests this summer

CTA has an important role in keeping Evans Notch and Cold River Camp a premier hiking destination. Trail maintenance on the work weekends is only one part of our work. We need the help of all our members. Consider throwing your hat in the ring as part of the membership or tool committees; perhaps work organizing and preserving CTA records or working on the website is more up your alley? Is it time to adopt a trail, renew your membership or make a donation? Better yet, recruit a new member and introduce them to the fun and fellowship of CTA!

Your work and commitment to the trails are both noticed and appreciated. Hikers express their thanks as they pass, CRC hike leaders and hikers write notes of thanks in their trip reports and the USFS, who cannot do all the work required with their limited resources, recognize our contribution to the quality of the WMNF.

Thank you for all your support for CTA, CRC and the WMNF. I look forward to seeing you this spring as we meet renew friendships, meet new friends and spend some time on the trails of Evans Notch.

Happy hiking,

Michael V. Zlogar  
CTA President

**Register early for the trail work weekends!**

The annual meeting is Saturday May 24, 7:30 p.m. at Cold River Camp