



## CHATHAM TRAILS ASSOCIATION

Grove Place, Unit 29, Winchester, MA 01890

March 2011

Greetings CTA Members,

The winter storms were slow to start but we did see a good snow accumulations that provided us with snowshoe hikes and cross country ski adventures. It is time to put away the winter gear and bring out the trail tools. Spring brings new beauty to the hills and forest as the trees will start to open their buds and wildflowers bloom and also crews of volunteers to care for the trails.

While we watch the last of snow pack melt and we wait for mud season to pass, the CTA Board and our partners at the Forest Service are already gearing up for the 2011 trail maintenance season.

CTA has an important role in keeping Evans Notch and Cold River Camp a premier hiking destination. Although much of our work is done on our three work weekends, they are only one part of our trail stewardship. Caring for nearly 40 miles of trails is a year round effort. The success of our work is not just achieved by the tool-wielding crews but with the many hours of supportive work accomplished by members engaged in tool and sign maintenance, camp chores, office and administrative tasks, preserving our history and financial support. It is the combination all of these efforts that makes CTA the vibrant organization it is today and I thank each of for your contribution to this success.

### **Report for 2010**

CTA reported 1116 hours of trail work to the Forest Service; 696 hours during the spring work weekends, 138 hours during the summer and 230 hours during the fall weekend.

Trail Adopters. The season started as soon as the trails dried with 6 adopters visiting their trail and beginning to get the trails back into shape.

Memorial weekend. Forty-eight volunteers, traveling from all over the northeast, gathered Memorial Day weekend. Fifteen new volunteers joined us this weekend. Crews of 3-4 members concentrated efforts on about one mile of trail to complete basic trail maintenance, cleaning and repairing waterbars and drainage ditches. Nearly all trail mileage was visited this weekend. The number of blowdowns was many more than encountered in a "normal" spring. Volunteer invested extra efforts in corridor definition work, cutting back the brush, to open the trails to the USFS standard (4' wide x 8' high). Our friends from Trailwrights also joined us, providing technical skills and leadership. At the request of the USFS we agreed to add Spruce Hill Trail to our cooperator agreement.

National Trails weekend. June 4-6. This weekend was listed as a National Trails Day event. Fifteen volunteers worked on the middle and lower sections of the Bickford Brook Trail to remove the above average number of blowdowns. The crew worked their way down from the junction with Spruce Hill Trail cutting brush to improve the corridor of the middle and lower sections. On Sunday the crew braved a cold rainy day hiking to the upper section of the Blueberry Ridge Trail to work on basic maintenance. The crew continued corridor definition work begun by Trailwrights on the Stone House Trail.

Fall Weekend. For the first time in many years we had a fall work weekend. Twenty-three volunteers attended. The work focused on restoring the Slippery Brook Trail to standard. The waterbars and drainages were repaired and reshaped. An extraordinary amount of work was invested to cut back the brush to open the trail corridor to the USFS standard. Corridor definition was completed on the Eastman Mountain Trail.

Training. In keeping with the USFS initiatives for skill training members made presentations to the volunteers to about the USFS standards and best trail work practices with the goal of improving the quality and effectiveness of our efforts.

Trail Stewardship Hikes. For the fourth season, CTA volunteers partnered with CRC leaders to lead Trail Stewardship hikes. These hikes are our opportunity to introduce CRC guests and hikers to trail construction and maintenance and CTA stewardship activities. Bill and Patricia Darcy and Bob Goeke led the hikes this year.

Summit Achievement. Our partnership with Summit Achievement saw students make a significant contribution to our stewardship efforts. The students worked with Frank Eastman on the Shell Pond Loop Trail digging drainage ditches, improving water bars and installing a box culvert.

Brickett Place. Our partnership with the Forest Service and CRC at the Brickett Place has resulted in an increase in visitation. Through our efforts the center is open four days each week. This season the information center operated from the garage while restoration work on the house began. Rich and Smitty staffed the center four days each week providing visitors with information about the notch and trails. CTA continues to sell parking passes and trail maps at the center. Considerable restoration work has been completed thanks to a \$400,000 grant. The work will continue during the summer of 2011.

Historian. The records and documents of CTA are now in safe storage with the Chatham Historical Society. Ann Landers with the help of Barbara Eastman organized records by year dating back to our founding. Copies of key documents have been placed in the CRC Library. If you are interested in the history of CTA and CRC, plan a trip to the Chatham Library and Historical Society and peruse the collection.

Membership The roster lists over 240 members. Sixty-seven members participated in the work weekends. CTA remain an active and strong organization due to the support of all members, including financial, and help with administrative tasks.

Finance. The dues and contributions from our members is the principal source of funds and remains fairly constant. Annual expenses continue to exceed receipts by several hundred dollars with food and expenses for the work weekends is our most significant impact. Since 2005 when I was elected to the Board the net worth has decreased by about 20%.

January brought news that long time member Jack Harrington who attended every work weekend and was one of the “core” group looking out for the needs of CTA and it’s members, continued his support in the form of a bequest. The gift in the amount of \$94,000 will provide for CTA’s future. The Board is developing an investment policy that will provide income while managing the funds to sustain CTA for years to come.

The Board discussed the challenges of recruiting members to serve as officers and directors. The Board discussed a change to the by-laws and the term limits for officers and directors. The proposed by-law change will be brought to the 2011 annual meeting for action.

By all measures the 2010 season was a most successful.

### **Plans for 2011**

The first meeting of the 2011 season was February 11 at the USFS Saco District Office. Seven members attended the partner meeting with the Forest Service to review accomplishments and to explore ways to cooperatively assess trail conditions, complete basic maintenance and plan 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. The process for submitting proposals for trail improvement projects was reviewed. CTA is eligible to apply to the USFS for cost share funding for projects.

Two members, Jim Boros and Rita Blanchette, are working to update our website. The tune-up will provide the ability to post more information for members and prospective volunteers.

Our first 2011 trail weekend will be Memorial Weekend, May 27-30. Goals for this weekend include basic maintenance on all trails and an inventory of trail signs, the first step to adding needed signs and replacing damaged ones. The annual membership meeting will be held Saturday May 28 at Cold River Camp. USFS staff will present a program about the Weeks Act after dinner on Saturday.

The second weekend is June 3-6 and coincides with National Trails Day. Based on discussion at the annual meeting arrangements are made to allow members to stay until Monday if they wish. We will complete basic maintenance and tackle some trail improvement projects. Rebuilding the waterbars on the Blueberry Ridge Trail and moving a section of the Conant Trail to drier ground are on the work plan. The CRC work weekend coincides with our second weekend so we will have the opportunity to catch up with friends.

The fall work weekend is scheduled for September 30- October 2. Based on the success of 2010 we will select a trail and concentrate efforts on restoring that trail to USFS standard.

In addition to basic trail maintenance and work weekends, other projects for 2011 include our partnership with the Forest Service to improve and operate the Brickett Place Wilderness Information Center. The grant-funded restoration work on the building will continue this summer so the building will be closed to the public. The visitor information center will operate out of the garage. We will be assessing the work required to ready the exhibits for installation after the work is complete. We will continue our partnership to improve the displays and support staffing.

We look forward to leading Trail Stewardship hikes for CRC guests this summer. This is a wonderful opportunity to share our care for the trails with CRC guests.

This year marks the centennial of the Weeks Act, the landmark legislation that led to the protection of eastern watersheds and forests. Named after Massachusetts Congressman John Weeks, the act authorized the purchase of private land, primarily in the eastern US, for the protection of watersheds. The act laid the foundation for the purchase of lands to create national forests for long-term forest management and restoration, recreation, protection of lands from development and controlling wildfires (some of the most devastating wildfires occurred in 1910). The act provided funds to States to create forestry divisions to manage land and provide fire protection.

The Forest Service is celebrating this centennial with many programs and activities. Visit the USFS website or a ranger station for an updated schedule of events. They are extending an invitation to organizations such as ours to participate. This will be good publicity and a recruiting opportunity. USFS staff will present a program to CTA members on Saturday May 28 between dinner and the annual meeting.

This year I will complete my second term on the Board and five years as President. It has been a rewarding experience to serve CTA. I have met and worked with some wonderful people at the USFS, Cold River Camp and folks living in the Notch.

I am proud of the accomplishments of CTA members during my service on the Board. The mission statement was rewritten to better reflect the stewardship work of CTA. The IRS granted us non-profit status enabling us to more effectively manage our financial resources.

Our partnership with the USFS has strengthened (we had the best attendance at partner meetings). Our stewardship includes additional trail assessment and management roles and preparing proposals for trail improvements.

The trail stewardship hikes initiated by Sandy Finn are now in the fifth year. The hikes are well attended and helped promote our work. Projects at camp are included in the work plans to maintain a strong relationship with CRC.

Attendance for work weekends continues to increase and new members have joined us each weekend. The fall trails weekend has been re-established and was well attended.

Members have volunteered to serve as: Volunteer Coordinator, Sandy Finn; Tool Manager, Merritt Foster; Historian, Ann Landers; Brickett Place Liaison, Allen Cressy; website development, Jim Boros and Rita Blanchette.

The growth and success of CTA is accompanied by the need for additional overhead and administrative tasks and responsibilities. The small core leadership group is no longer adequate to accomplish all the tasks. We need active volunteers to help with projects and tasks and to assist the leaders in the key functions.

I am proposing an amendment to the by-laws as the first step to address key functions & responsibilities. The proposed change will lay the foundation to divide the work load and give more members the opportunity to participate. The proposal redefines the make up of the Board, elects the officers at the annual meeting and changes some term limits. In addition to the Officers and Board, appointments to the roles of work weekend coordinators, Historian, Volunteer Coordinator, Tool Manager, Adopter Coordinator, Nominating and Investment Committees will be made annually.

As I complete my terms as President, I find I am leaving a list of unfinished business to the incoming Officers & Board. As I look to the future years of CTA some goals are to:

- Recruit new trail adopters to increase our year round presence on the trails
- Increase participation for the second and fall work weekends
- Recruit members to lead work weekends
- Identifying members to serve as Officers and Directors
- Identify members for appointment to lead and help with key functions including tool manager, trail work planning, historian, publicity, webmaster
- Identify members for appoint to the Nominating and Investment Committees
- Continue to offer training to CTA volunteers to ensure our work is to USFS standards and employs best practices for maintenance
- Identify members who will attend one of USFS skill days (May 21, June 4, or 11)
- Develop a publicity program to include a slide show (proposed 10/2005), brochure (proposed 2007) and continue the website improvements
- Develop proposals and pursue funding for trail projects through the American Hiking Society (AHS) grants and USFS Cost share Program
- Recruit members and hikers to create and update the Trail logs for all our trails. Eight trails were logged in 2000-2000. This project involves walking with a measuring wheel and recording trail features, structures and sites where work is needed. We will provide training and equipment. Volunteers would then transcribe field notes into a log that can be used for trail maintenance planning.
- Create a financial plan including Investment Policy(draft 5/2010), Memorial Gift Policy (draft 5/2005), system for tracking product sales and an annual audit to ensure a strong future and enable us to continue our trail stewardship.

We need the help of all our members. Consider throwing your hat in the ring as an Officer or Director or to help with the essential functions of work planning, tools or perhaps administrative work or publicity. Become a Trail Adopter and contribute to the year round stewardship efforts. 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, recognizes our contribution to the quality of the WMNF.

Thank you for all your dedication, commitment and support for CTA, CRC and the WMNF.

I look forward to seeing you this spring as we renew friendships, meet new friends and spend some time on the trails of Evans Notch.

Please contact me and let me know how you can help keep CTA strong.

The website update should be live soon. Visit the site and see the new features and information.

Happy hiking,

Michael V. Zlogar  
CTA President  
[mzlogar@comcast.net](mailto:mzlogar@comcast.net)

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

**Considerable planning is required for the weekends including preparation for meals, lodging and work projects, please register for the trail weekends as soon as you can. You may register 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.**

**The annual meeting is Saturday May 28, 7:30 p.m. at Cold River Camp**

#### **2011 CTA Volunteer Registration**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I will attend:  Memorial Weekend, May 27-30  June 3-6, National Trails Day Event

Fall Weekend, September 30 – October 3

I would to like help with:  Membership  Tools  Trail Weekends  Publicity

By mail: Sandy Finn, CTA Volunteer Coordinator, 1163 Island Pond Road, Manchester, NH 03109

Or e-mail: [sandycta@comcast.net](mailto:sandycta@comcast.net)

#### **2011 CTA Membership**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is membership dues of \$5 (five dollars) per person for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I make an additional contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to Chatham Trails Association, Inc.

I make a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Memorial Fund in the memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Chatham Trails Association is a 501(c)3 organization. Donations are tax-deductible  
Mail to: Robert Goeke, Treasurer, Chatham Trails Association, 22 Grove Place, Unit 29, Winchester, MA 01890