



# With Conservation, Brookline Wins!



2010

Brookline Conservation Commission

2010

P.O. Box 360 • Brookline NH 03033

Members:

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Lake Potanipo

Courtesy of Samantha Hart

## REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

For 2009 the biggest news for the Conservation Commission was the reduction of the full time members from seven members to five members. This was done in an effort to make sure we could achieve a quorum for every meeting. More than 25-30% of the meetings during 2008 had to be “work group” meetings because of the inability to vote on matters. Now that we are a five member commission we only need three full time or alternate members present to vote on issues.

Even though we have less members we are still a very active group. Francis “Buddy” Dougherty continued his efforts to expand and maintain an organized trail network throughout the town. With the assistance of the Hillsborough County Corrections Department and many hard working volunteers, many of the trails were cleared of debris created by last years ice storm. With the assistance from the Brookline Ice Breakers and Hollis Nor’ Easters snowmobile clubs we were also able to improve and expand several of the multi-use trails in town.

Milfoil continues to be a constant threat to Potanipo Pond and Melendy Pond. Melendy experienced a much larger reduction of the milfoil after the last 2,4-D herbicide treatment. Potanipo experience fairly significant re-growth by the end of last summer. We are still seeking the best alternatives for treating this aggressive weed. Unfortunately there is not a significant amount of State funding to help treat this continual nemesis.

The Commission is still working towards the acquisition of conservation lands that fit within our Strategic Land Acquisition Plan. We continue to negotiate with these landowners. Our intent with any of our land purchases is to have the parcel “fit” into the overall continuity plan. We have created, by virtue of this strategy, several large land tracts within town. These tracts include, Hobart Fessenden Woods, Bartell-Palmer Forest, Whitcomb-Bross-Cohen property, and the Melendy-Morrill properties. Many of these parcels are several hundred acres of connected open space. This leaves these parcels open for hiking, biking, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling and other outdoor recreational activities.

We are always looking for public input. So if there is an issue that you would like us to discuss, or a concern that you may have, then please send us an email or call the Town office. We at the Brookline Conservation Commission look forward to another year of working to preserve the town’s natural resources and beauty, and to expand the outdoor recreational activities available to our townspeople.

Jay Chrystal, BCC Chair

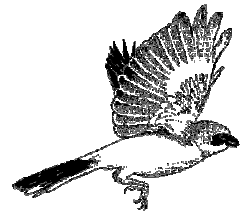
To view meeting minutes and agendas go to [www.brookline.nh.us](http://www.brookline.nh.us)



Watch the Conservation Commission meetings the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30pm on channel 13.

# TRAILING AROUND BROOKLINE

By Francis "Buddy" Dougherty



If you can believe it, the biggest part of our trail development this year has been the continued cleanup of the damage from the 2008 ice storm. We owe a huge thank you to Amos White of Bentley Corporation in Hollis for extensive stump and rock cleanup. He and his firm also widened trails and built bridges on various trails around town. They even built bridges in the Hobart Fessenden trail system and covered trails with compacted wood chips. We can tell people are enjoying the trails. Cindy Lou Dougherty almost got run over by joggers on one of the Bartell trails the other morning at 6:30 a.m. She was out at that hour of the morning exercising and making the best use of the trails, which she deserves many and heartfelt thanks from the entire Conservation Commission. Other people who deserve our thanks include Tad and Rebecca Putney for extensive maintenance in the Florence's Fields and Millbrook trail areas in the Palmer preserve. Rebecca and Cindy Lou cleared brush and Tad wielded his chain saw to great effect. John Livingston and Joel Mitchell deserve our gratitude for the work they are doing in the Hobart-Fessenden trail system. John's projects include a new trail from Hobart-Fessenden woods to the Cider Mill pond.

Cindy Lou also prepared over 250 meals for the inmates from the Hillsborough County Department of Corrections Inmate Labor program, who were working in Brookline for six weeks this past year. They put in extensive trail maintenance hours in both the Hobart-Fessenden and the Bartell-Palmer preserve areas.

The Brookline Boy Scout Troop took advantage of the conservation trails as a stage for good Eagle Scout projects. Ryan "R.J." Hall built a bridge over the rail bed in the Millbrook trail area of the Bartell-Palmer preserve. He tells us that other Eagle Scout projects are in the works.

Keep on using the trail system in Brookline! A number of good folks spend a lot of time and sweat keeping the trails accessible to all, even the least mobile. Trail maps of the Bartell trail and other improved trails around Brookline are readily available at the Town Hall.

## LAKE HOST PROGRAM

The New Hampshire Lakes program sponsors the presence of Lake Hosts at boat launches around the state. The Conservation Commission would like to establish such a program at Lake Potanipo. We are looking for a volunteer to manage the program, and to schedule volunteers to man the lake on weekends and check the various boats that come to enjoy our water resources. Please contact Jay Chrystal if you are interested in volunteering. Thank you.

## WE'RE UNDER ATTACK

You wouldn't think Brookline was in danger as you drive around its peaceful streets. But we are in fact under attack by invasive species by land and by water, and the danger grows nearer every day.

There is a severe and dangerous threat converging on our town. We speak of the Asian Long-horned Beetle, shown here. This invasive and devastating insect has been sighted in the Worcester area. It has the ability to destroy a wide variety of hardwood trees in the Northeast. It is very large, almost two inches in length, and it is a glossy blue black in color, with black and white banded horns. It leaves dime sized holes in trees. Should you sight this pest, please capture it and put it in a jar. If you can't capture it, please take a picture of the bug. Call the County Extension Service immediately or visit [WW.EXTENSION.UNH.EDU](http://WW.EXTENSION.UNH.EDU) for information on this insect and other invasive and destructive insect species.

In addition to this beetle we are under threat from the even more dangerous Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. If your hemlock tree presents a snowy appearance, you may very well be experiencing a Woolly Adelgid infestation. Contact a member of the Conservation Commission as soon as possible, and we can work together to address this invasive pest.

Watch for an informative video about these two pests to be aired on the local community access TV channel.

And, as Jay outlined in his annual report, we are under attack by water. The savagely invasive EurAsian water milfoil comes into our own Lake Potanipo every summer, spread more frequently, by contamination from other infested lakes, brought in by uncleaned boats that ply lakes indiscriminately. Tiny particles of milfoil cling to the boats and are left in our lake and grown into full-sized infestation. Treatments of the lake have been ongoing but we have yet to eliminate this pest. If infested areas are not regularly treated, the infestation can take over the body of water, rendering it unusable for recreation or other purposes. Keep alert! If you see evidence of any of these pests, inform a member of the Conservation Commission. Ceaseless vigilance is our only defense.

