

NORTHWOODS STEWARDSHIP CENTER

connecting human and natural communities through education and action



Register Now for 2010 Summer Camps

Spring is here, and summer is just around the corner. This year, NorthWoods will host five week-long camp programs for ages six to eighteen!

Nature Day Camp: Each day is packed with discovery and fun as we search our forests for trees, birds and other animals to identify, practice science illustration, fishing, archery, and more...

NEW Survival Day Camp: This year we'll head deep into the NorthWoods' rivers and forests as we learn traditional fire-building and camp crafts, design survival shelters, and explore traditional skills like woodcarving and blacksmithing.

Outdoor Adventures: High school students, start your summer vacation in the great outdoors! A canoeing session will include a three-day exploration of the Connecticut River. Second session (climbing) will begin on our low- and high-ropes course and we'll then ascend Burke Mountain for a lean-to campout.

A Past Camper's Review

"On one of many NorthWoods summer camps I attended, we canoed over thirty-seven miles. During the trip the camp leaders taught us about the wildlife we might see, the different types of fish that were in the river, and more importantly Leave No Trace principles. I also got to meet kids my own age from all over the state and the world. As we embarked on our journey the instructors took plenty of time to make sure we had fun. On the trip we did many physical activities that I found built my character and endurance. When the camp came to an end I couldn't wait to sign up for the next one."

- Kyle Feltham, 14; Newark, Vermont

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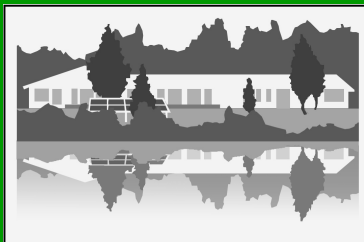
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*"The Mission of the NorthWoods
Stewardship Center is connecting
human and natural communities through
education and action."*

North Woods Update

In the last edition of our newsletter (January 2010), Executive Director Walter Medwid announced his plans to accept a job with the Center for Northern Woodlands Education. Since that time our board and staff have embraced an entirely new team management structure, spreading the responsibilities of an Executive Director among our seasoned program directors. These senior staff collectively bring over 50 years of experience delivering the NorthWoods mission.

With four months now behind us, I am pleased to report that NorthWoods continues to function well under this model – thanks largely to the steadfast commitment of all of our staff and our amazing community of supporters (donors, volunteers, and board members). In truth, all who believe in and support NorthWoods and our mission are critical members of our team.

In addition to fundraising and sharing administrative duties, the NorthWoods staff has been hard at work in each of their program areas over the winter. The fruit of these labors, from exciting new teaching and recreation guides to a full suite of summer program offerings, fill the pages of this newsletter and our new website (now receiving its finishing touches).

Thank you again for your past support and participation and I hope you'll take advantage of the many new happenings at NorthWoods this spring and summer. 🌿

Jayson Benoit, Operations Director

Conservation Corps Gears Up for Spring & Summer Projects



By the time you read this announcement, our spring crews will be out in the field taking on a number of new projects to restore riparian habitat, improve existing trail corridors, and to improve forest wildlife habitat.

In East Berkshire, Vermont, spring crew members will be restoring three-and-a-half acres of floodplain to a silver maple forest, with a diverse species mix of native red- and silver-maple, box elder, and American elm, along with 100 willow stakes. All told, before the summer season begins, the Corps will have planted nearly 1,000 native stems in partnership with the Franklin County District of the USDA's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

Projects will continue throughout the region in continued partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at several divisions of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge, and the Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge.

NorthWoods Conservation Corps will also partner with the Vermont River Conservancy on projects along the upper Connecticut River watershed, ranging from portage trails and improved access sites to habitat and riparian restoration.

Meanwhile, we are interviewing more than one hundred youth from communities surrounding project sites, bringing together the 2010 NorthWoods Conservation Corps. Good luck to all the applicants! 🌿

NorthWoods Stewardship Center

NEW! *Power for Change: An Energy Curriculum for Grades K-12*



POWER FOR CHANGE

This **new** 220-page energy curriculum features:

- 18 interactive, inquiry-based lesson plans
- More than 50 student handouts
- Extensive background information on lesson concepts
- Access to material kits on loan from NorthWoods for lessons requiring special materials

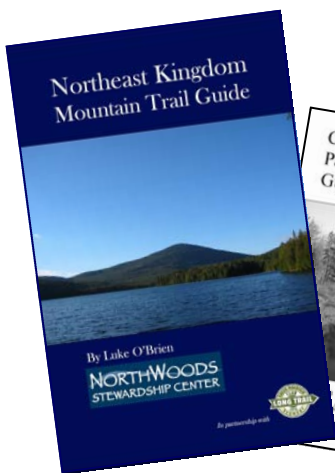
Topics covered include:

- Energy basics
- Hands-on efficiency and conservation activities
- Renewable energy sources including wind, solar, hydropower, geothermal, biomass... and more!

Teachers and parents may **purchase a copy for your home or classroom now**, or customize a curriculum study-plan to be facilitated by NorthWoods staff. Cost is \$20.

Power for Change was made possible by funding from the Canaday Family Charitable Trust, Entergy, the Environmental Protection Agency, Paul and Ellie Gavin, Vermont Community Foundation, and Vermont Department of Public Service. All proceeds from this curriculum will help support NorthWoods' educational programs. To purchase a copy of the curriculum, please contact the NorthWoods' education department at (802) 723-6551 x115. 🐿

Northeast Kingdom Mountain Trail Guide Now Available!



The **Northeast Kingdom Mountain Trail Guide** is now available for order and in cooperating area bookstores and outdoor recreation outlets.



The Guide is the second in NorthWoods Stewardship Center's *Northeast Guide Series*. Written by Luke O'Brien and produced with support from the Vermont Recreation Trails Program, the Northern Forest Partnership Program, and the Davis Conservation Foundation, features include:

- **Introductory guide to hiking in the Northeast Kingdom**—What to know before you go. This section provides information for the novice and intermediate hiker to prepare for the worst and enjoy the best the Kingdom's trails have to offer.
- **Trail descriptions from end-to-end**—Trail features are explained as you explore. From geological formations to the fire towers of the tallest peaks and the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps, this guide will bring the past alive as you walk, ski, or snowshoe.
- **18 full-page color topographic maps**—Scaled to fit the trails and landscapes you'll be visiting, these first-edition maps were created by the NorthWoods Stewardship Center and are only available in this guide. 🐿

Order Online at www.northwoodscenter.org or Call 802.723.6551 x117
Trail Guide—\$15.95 / Trail Guide and Clyde River Combo—\$20

Plans for the Land: 2010 Land Management Update

The NorthWoods Land Management program works to improve land management practices throughout our region, with an emphasis on providing assistance to private ownerships (which make up over 80% of Vermont's land base).

We achieve this both through demonstration activities on our own 1,500 acre forest and by providing a variety of resources to landowners.

Plans for Preservation Include Experimental Restoration

NorthWoods lands will receive a lot of attention in 2010, including both long-range planning and direct management activities. Already we have completed the last stage of a demonstration thinning operation in our red- and white-pine plantation, located near the main NorthWoods facility. Trees were removed using a combination of horses, a low-impact Forcat skidder, and a four-wheeled drive tractor.



This project involves maintaining a pine monoculture in one part of the plantation, while introducing more natural and complex habitat features in other areas. Monitoring of tree characteristics and of plant and small-mammal populations in each area demonstrates the impacts of different management choices, and visitors are also able to experience first hand the aesthetics of forests that provide different habitat and recreational values.

Summer Projects to Improve Access to NW Lands

Over the coming summer we will also be establishing or improving several new trails and access areas on the NorthWoods site, following recreational planning work done in 2009. And we will be completing a long-term management plan that integrates the many uses and values of this forest, which we see as an incredible resource both for NorthWoods programs and for surrounding communities.

NorthWoods' Landowner Services

Resources for landowners will include a new suite of skill-building or informational workshops addressing topics related to forest stewardship. We also continue to help landowners to better understand and manage their own properties – through management planning, site visits, and assistance with the many cost-assistance programs that are now available.

For more information about the Land Management program and other resources for landowners, contact Jayson Benoit at 802-723-6551 x113 or visit the NorthWoods Stewardship Center website www.northwoodscenter.org (new and improved!).



Trees for Streams

Conservation Science and Orleans NRC D Project Seeks Volunteers to Restore Black River



This spring, North Woods Conservation Science program is partnering with the Orleans County Natural Resources Conservation District (NRC D), the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources,

and the Memphremagog Watershed Association to restore areas of riverbank along tributaries in the Memphremagog Watershed.

These projects are a result of our on-going Stream Geomorphic Assessments in the region, which are aimed to identify river restoration and protection opportunities and will be continuing this summer on tributaries of the Black River.



Coventry Falls on the Black River

We are seeking volunteers to help us restore riverbank along the Black River in Craftsbury.

Riparian areas, such as the one we are working to restore, are home to an incredible diversity of plants and animals. By planting native trees and shrubs along this former pasture, you can help restore important riparian habitat, improve aesthetics, decrease nutrient runoff, and control riverbank erosion. Work will take place over two days: Saturday, May 8 and Monday, May 10.

We hope you can pitch in and join the effort! For details, contact Jayson at 723-6551 x113 or jayson@northwoodscenter.org. 🦋

Staff & Board Notes

Departures from the Board:

- **Ellie Gavin**—Ellie and her husband Paul are both longtime supporters and volunteers to North Woods' mission and programs. Ellie came onto the North Woods' Board of Directors in 2004 and we thank her for her many years of support and enthusiasm!

New Board Members:

- **Dan Whipple**—Dan is a Compliance Assistance Specialist for Vermont OSHA, and Second Assistant Chief of the Charleston Volunteer Fire Dept.
- **Eleanor Leger**—Eleanor has many years of experience in the financial services industry and presently runs an apple orchard with her husband, where they produce the award-winning Eden Vermont Ice Cider. She holds an economics degree from Harvard and an MBA from Wharton School.
- **Anthony Lazzara**—Anthony retired from his 35-year career as a science teacher at King Philip Regional High School in Wrentham, MA, in 2003. He now lives in Morgan, VT and enjoys his hobbies of environmental meteorology and organic gardening.

Welcome to the Board, and thanks for sharing the commitment to help North Woods' operations and to *connect human and natural communities through education and action!* 🦋

Staff Changes:

North Woods is saddened to announce the departure of Conservation Science Coordinator Melissa Dyer. After 4 years working on a variety of important science and research initiatives, as well countless other projects here at North Woods, Melissa is moving West to work with the National Park Service as a Hydrologic Technician in the Colorado Plateau region. Melissa has done outstanding work here at the Center and she will be sorely missed. 🦋




NORTHWOODS

STEWARDSHIP CENTER

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Fundraising Update

Many thanks to those of you who responded so generously to our first ever spring phone-a-thon. Because of your committed support, we received almost \$6,000 toward our fundraising goals for the year!

But we still need your help! In this economic climate, NorthWoods is hard-pressed to generate the diverse funding necessary to meet our operational and program costs. While we are making every effort to tighten our belts and live within our means, now more than ever, we are relying on private contributions to fill the gap. Your donations to NorthWoods provide important matching funds for a variety of grants and directly support our science, conservation, education and land management initiatives.

Stay tuned for our up-coming Spring Appeal letter in the mail. Your donation will directly support our summer science, camp, and corps programs and our work in northern communities. If you haven't yet made a donation this year, please visit our website at northwoodscen-ter.org to learn more. Thank you.

Newsletter Changes:

Did you miss our last newsletter? Do you know someone who would like to be on our mailing list? Please contact us at 802-723-6551 x114 to sign up for our mailing list.

Become a Steward & Support NorthWoods!

Yes, I would like to continue to receive a print version of the newsletter.

Name _____

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Please also add me to the monthly newsletter list:
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No thanks. I'd rather receive the newsletter and monthly newsletter via email.
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Please remove my name from the mailing list for the print newsletter.

Enclosed is my check payable to **NorthWoods**.

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500
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Questions? (802) 723-6551 ext. 114
Thank you!

Summer 2010