



Northfield Riverbank Views

P.O. Box 44, Northfield, MA 01360

Volume 7 No. 2

Alder Brook Meadows Sanctuary Receives State Grant



The Town of Northfield has received a \$135,270 Commonwealth of Massachusetts LAND Grant at an awards ceremony held at Unity Park in Turners Falls on October 27, 2014, for a land protection project developed in cooperation with Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust. The grant will reimburse the Town for 60% of the cost of purchasing a Conservation Restriction on 145 acres east of Millers Falls Road (Rt. 63). The Town of Northfield will seek the remaining 40% from the Community Preservation Fund (CPA), private foundations, and local fundraising. At a Special Town Meeting on November 24th, town meeting members will be asked to approve funding for this project.

The protection of this property furthers many of the primary goals of our watershed association as well as the 2013 *Open Space and Recreation Plan*. This property will CONSERVE:

- *Water Resources*: a 4-acre beaver pond, wetlands, and three streams which flow to the Connecticut River.
- *Wildlife Habitat*: habitats for many species of wildlife, including birds of state conservation concern.
- *Working Lands*: 126 acres of woodland (Ch 61) and 19 acres of agricultural fields with prime soils.
- *Recreational Opportunities*: a new wheelchair-accessible trail to the beaver pond.
- *Historic & Scenic Landscapes*: a culturally significant location of historic events during the town's early settlement.

The LAND grant requires that the Town's Conservation Commission to be the holder and monitor of the Conservation Restriction (CR).

Those interested in knowing more about this project can attend a visioning/informational meeting on November 5th at 6:30 PM at the Northfield Town Hall.

A **Northfield Special Town Meeting on November 24th** at 7:00 P.M. will include a warrant article requesting CPA funds to help to provide the Town match for this LAND grant that will protect this land for generations to come.

November Walks Along the Proposed Pipeline Route

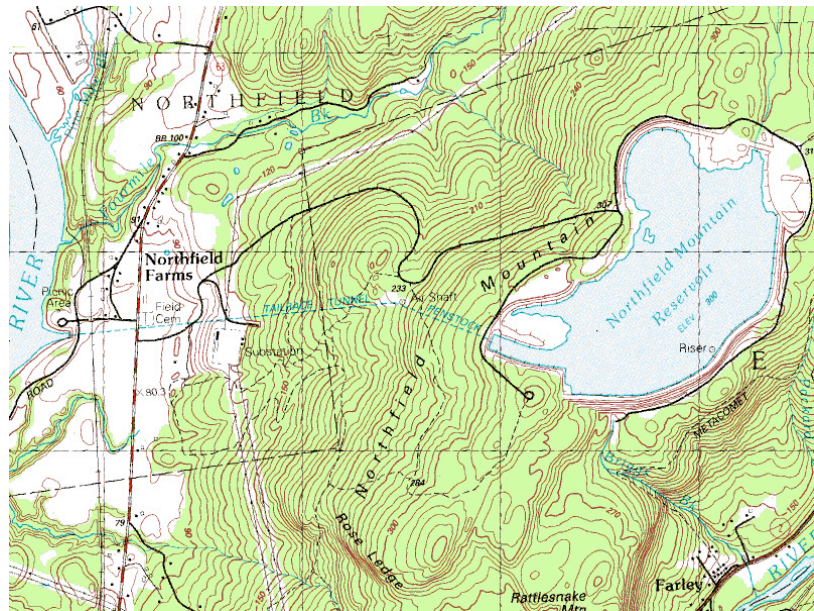


nofrackedgasinmass.org

Naturalists are leading hikes along the proposed Kinder Morgan pipeline route across the state. They seek to give people a chance to see and appreciate the land that would be affected, and to document landscape features. There will be walks along the pipeline route taking place in Andover, Lowell, Dracut, Townsend Pepperell, Bolton, Ashburnham, Royalston, Athol, Northfield, Ashfield, Dalton, and Lenox. Join in! All walks are free. Information about additional hikes across the state, details, and updates are available at www.massplan.org/nature-walks/.

NORTHFIELD

Sat, Nov 8th- 1-3pm, Follow the New England Trail from the Northfield/Erving town line to where the proposed pipeline would cross the trail in Northfield near the headwaters of Fourmile Brook, and then follow the pipeline route off-trail. The hike will be co-led by naturalists Charley Eiseman, Julia Blyth, and landowner Walter Jaworski; we will discuss landscape features that might be threatened by the pipeline, as well as pointing out tracks, insect sign, plants, and birds. Meet at the access road to Northfield Reservoir on Mountain Rd/Old Wendell Rd, near the town line, at 1pm.



Wikipedia

ATHOL/ROYALSTON

Sun, Nov 9th- 12-4 pm,

Join renowned animal tracker, author, and photographer Paul Rezendes and his wife, Paulette Roy, for an exploration of the Bearsden/Gulf Road forests and Millers River in northeast Athol. Long-time residents of the area, we invite you to join us for a walk in our “neighborhood,” now threatened by the proposed Tennessee Gas pipeline. We’ll be hiking approximately 3 miles, much of it off-trail, through the forests and along the river, taking time to examine animal tracks and signs, trees and plants, and observe whatever nature presents to us. This is an opportunity to experience and appreciate one of the wildest, and most remote, undeveloped landscapes in the state. Some of the terrain is steep and rugged so participants should be in good to excellent physical condition. Group size is limited to 15 people: please RSVP at www.nofrackedgasinmass.org/Rezendes-RSVP for information about meeting place. For all walks, we recommend that you wear warm, layered clothing, sturdy hiking boots (waterproof if possible), and bring water and snacks. Call Julia at 413-225-3196 for additional information.

GNWA Working for You



The **Pioneering Stewardship Plan (PSP)** at Pioneer Valley Regional School is underway, thanks to a contribution from you as a member of GNWA. Just this week, our partner, John Lepore, received word from the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife that his application to certify a vernal pool on PVRs property had been accepted and confirmed. GNWA paid for this work to be done last Spring as the first step in implementing the PSP. This certification is important in paving the way for further grant assistance.

For the second year, GNWA's **Water Monitoring Team** was back out on the river as part of the Connecticut River Watershed Council's program to

monitor *E.coli* levels in the river. Bacteria levels are influenced by run-off as well as rainfall, which puts this project directly in line with our mission. The goal is to provide information about safety for boaters, swimmers, and fishermen. For several years about 45 sites from Hanover to Hartford have been monitored. More information and a map of the testing sites can be found at <http://www.ctriver.org/portfolio-items/is-the-river-clean/>. Specific data from Northfield can be found there too. Andrew Vernon, GNWA vice president, and Barb Richardson collected samples again this year, made sure they arrived at the Greenfield lab in time, and we thank them both!

GNWA Welcomes Two New Board Members



Julia Blyth is a new resident of Northfield, previously from Ohio. She currently volunteers on the Northfield Open Space and Community Park Committees, and coordinates the Northfield Tool Lending Library. She is the collections manager for the Maria Mitchell Association Natural History Museum on Nantucket. Julia has studied birds, beetles, dragonflies, and leafminers.



Bill Copeland moved to Northfield shortly after buying land here 15 years ago with his wife, Christine. With complementary backgrounds in architecture (BA Cornell, MA at Antioch) and natural sciences (BS Zoology Duke and MD at Georgia Health Science Univ.) the Copelands decided to build a passive solar house and to commit their land to conservation and education. Bill is a physician and now that his children are grown, he has turned to spending more time pursuing his environmental interests, including with GNWA.

Thank You for Renewing Your Membership

Count me a friend of
The Greater Northfield
Watershed Association

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

All dues/donations are
entirely tax deductible.

Please write check to:

GNWA
P.O. Box 44
Northfield, MA 01360

- \$25 Family
- \$15 Individual
- \$50 Sponsor
- \$100 Patron
- \$100 Corporation
- \$50 Small Business

My interests are:

- Wildlife
- Wetlands
- Recreation
- Land-use planning

I have included an additional contribution for river sampling.

Find us on Facebook



GREATER NORTHFIELD WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

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