

Walking on the Wild Side with **NORTHEAST WILDERNESS TRUST**

Working to preserve and restore forever-wild landscapes for wildlife and people.



Winter
2003-2004

© KATHLEEN H. FITZGERALD

Split Rock Wildway property

NORTHEAST WILDERNESS TRUST was created in January 2001 to preserve and restore forever-wild landscapes for wildlife and people through conservation easements, land acquisition and other conservation tools. It was founded on the core belief that wilderness must become a bigger part of the conservation landscape so that wild Nature will endure in this corner of America. With less than two percent of the Northeast preserved as forever-wild and more than ninety percent of the region in private ownership, the preservation of land as forever-wild through private initiatives is a critical piece to the overall puzzle of maintaining and restoring an ecologically, economically and socially healthy and vibrant region.

Northeast Wilderness Trust is providing landowners with the option to preserve their land as wild, and what we are finding is that many landowner have been seeking this option. Since its creation, Northeast Wilderness Trust has started working in collaboration with other organizations on wilderness preservation projects in New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. These projects include the protection of migratory corridors for mammals, non-motorized recreational trails, wetlands, rivers and forestland through conservation easements and land acquisition.

We look forward to keeping you updated on our wilderness preservation efforts across the Northeast. Please contact us for information on how to preserve your land or to find out how you can get involved.

*"The expansion of wilderness...is a crucial element of a larger vision of ecological health and cultural balance."
—John Elder"*

“Wilderness is not an extravagance or a luxury, it is a place of original memory where we can witness and reflect on how the world is held together by natural laws.”

- Terry Tempest Williams

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CONTACT INFORMATION:

NORTHEAST WILDERNESS TRUST

P.O. Box 406

Montpelier, Vermont 05601

802-253-7970 (phone & fax)

info@newwildernesstrust.org

www.newwildernesstrust.org



Northeast Wilderness Trust works in New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts and Connecticut. Contact us to learn how you can preserve your land or become a member today.

New Hampshire

► Northeast Wilderness Trust members, right, enjoyed a hike at our Annual Meeting in October 2003 on a spectacular property located in southern New Hampshire.

Northeast Wilderness Trust is working with the owners of this ecologically diverse and significant land to preserve its wild character with a conservation easement. The property ranges from low elevation wetlands to high elevation ridge-tops and is located in the most rapidly growing section of New Hampshire.

We are working with several other landowners on conservation projects in New Hampshire and look forward to keeping members updated on our progress.



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Vermont

► Northeast Wilderness Trust is working with landowners in central Vermont to preserve approximately 300 acres as a base-line for scientific analysis of forever-wild landscapes.

The landowners are committed to the preservation of wild nature and rigorous scientific understanding of wilderness. Annual studies have been conducted on the property since 1998 on mammals, birds, insects, flora, amphibians and reptiles, and more. The photo above shows the wildlife survey route on the property.

► Northeast Wilderness Trust is working with conservation partners in the Chateaugay-No Town area. The Chateaugay-No Town Conservation Project is a joint effort of the towns of Barnard, Bridgewater, Stockbridge and Killington to maintain the character of the Chateaugay-No Town area, a 50,000-acre region of forests, home to rich wildlife and popular for recreational uses. Northeast Wilderness Trust is working in partnership with the Conservation Fund and the Chateaugay Committee to preserve a gateway property to the Chateaugay-No Town area.

These are just a few of the many exciting conservation initiatives Northeast Wilderness Trust is working on in Vermont. Visit our web-site for updates, www.newwildernesstrust.org.



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New York's Split Rock Wildway

By John Davis and Jamie Phillips

The **Split Rock Wildway** is an ambitious effort led by local citizens and a diversity of conservation organizations to protect wildlife habitat linking Split Rock Wild Forest and Lake Champlain with the foothills and the High Peaks of the Adirondack Mountains in upstate New York. To date, approximately 6,000 acres have been protected, primarily through state or private land acquisitions, which is a promising start towards restoring and protecting the rich biological diversity and wildlife habitat of this area.

While roughly half of the Adirondack Park is public land protected as forever-wild, the Champlain Valley, the eastern portion of the Park, is the least protected. This area of the Park is ecologically significant because its variety of habitats safeguards the greatest degree of biodiversity. For example, the valley is a major flyway for hawks, songbirds, and waterfowl. Of the 193 birds that breed in the Adirondacks, 155 are found in the Champlain Valley.

Habitat loss and fragmentation remain the top two reasons for the escalating rate of species loss around the world. Habitat connectivity within the Adirondack Park, particularly between mountains and valleys, is vitally important, as is habitat connectivity with the wild areas beyond the Park's boundaries.



Map by Andy Boyce, Geographic Solutions

The Split Rock Wildway will help achieve both goals by connecting the Champlain Valley to the High Peaks of the Park, and strengthening habitat connectivity to the Lake Champlain and Vermont.

Northeast Wilderness Trust will be accepting two conservation easements on properties within the Wildway in the coming months and is actively working with partners on the conservation of several other parcels within the Split Rock Wildway.

Did You Know...

Trans-border Conservation

Northeast Wilderness Trust is working with Canadian and American partners on the protection of bi-national corridors stretching from the the Northeastern United States to Canada.

Maine

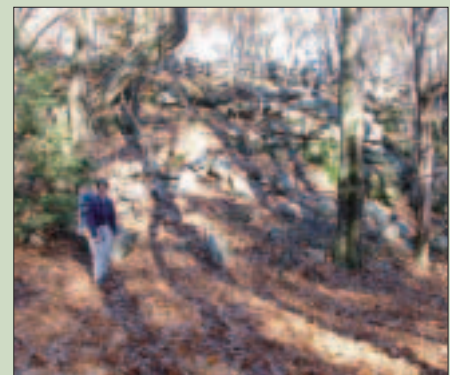
Northeast Wilderness Trust is working with landowners in Maine interested in preserving their land with conservation easements. Stay tuned for details.

In the News

Northeast Wilderness Trust was featured in an article about wilderness preservation and private conservation initiatives in the September 2003 issue of *Northern Sky News*. Northeast Wilderness Trust also appeared in *Wild Earth*, Summer/Fall 2003.

Run For Wilderness

Northeast Wilderness Trust's Executive Director raised over \$3000.00 in pledges for Northeast Wilderness Trust by running the Philadelphia Marathon in November 2003. Thank you to everyone who supported the Run for Wilderness. Contact the office to find out how you to can raise funds for Northeast Wilderness Trust through hiking, running or skiing.



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Northeast Wilderness Trust board member Anne Faulkner with son Ben on a site walk.

Become a Member Today!

Please, join Northeast Wilderness Trust's work to preserve wild Nature in the Northeast by becoming a member.

- \$25 Friend
- \$50 Supporter
- \$100 Guardian
- \$250 Preserver
- \$500 Protector
- \$1000 Benefactor

Send your name, address & tax-deductible donation to:

NORTHEAST WILDERNESS TRUST
P.O. Box 406
Montpelier, Vermont 05602
802-253-7970



Please make checks payable to *Northeast Wilderness Trust.*

Thank you for your support!

Wildlands Philanthropy Fund

The protection of land through private dollars and investment, wildlands philanthropy, has a rich and colorful history in North America. Citizens across the continent have benefited greatly by the generosity of many individuals, families and businesses that have purchased imperiled lands and ensured permanent protection of vast landscapes through the acquisition of land, conservation easements and the transfer of land to public ownership. The most celebrated example of wildlands philanthropy in the Northeast is the creation of Baxter State Park by Maine Governor Percival Baxter in the 1930's.

Wildlands Philanthropy is not a fad of the past and people of all means can participate in wildlands philanthropy through the Northeast Wilderness Trust's **Wildlands Philanthropy Fund**, which is used solely to protect forever-wild land through easements or land acquisition. All contributions are tax deductible and can be sent to: *Northeast Wilderness Trust Wildlands Philanthropy Fund*, P.O. Box 406, Montpelier, VT 05601, 802-253-7970.

Thank You Members!

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