

FARMHOUSE PURCHASED, REHAB UNDERWAY!

The East Quabbin Land Trust is extremely pleased to announce the recent purchase of the Frohloff farmhouse at 236 Church Street in Ware. "With this acquisition, we are putting the farm back together into a viable unit that can sustain a vibrant agricultural enterprise," stated Jerry Reilly, EQLT Board Member. This purchase was made possible through generous grants from the Donovan Foundation and Amelia Peabody Charitable Fund.

Land trusts play a critical role in promoting meaningful agriculture within our service communities. Protecting and providing viable farmland are critical pieces that land trusts are uniquely set up to do. Sometimes more is needed.

Providing housing is a vital component to any successful farming venture at the Frohloff Farm. Being close to livestock and produce is essential for successful farming, for instance, to ensure that watering and feeding can happen in the midst of winter storms; to allow for quick retrieval of escaped animals, or regularly engaging with visitors to the farm. Integrating housing into the farming unit expands the diversity of potential farmers and saves their precious initial capital for building a sustainable viable farm business. Although historic preservation may not often be associated with land trust activities, the preservation of historic landscapes and the relation of the built environment to the natural environment can be an important community signpost that a well-known and perhaps well-loved property is again being cared for.

The East Quabbin Land Trust has identified a group of farmers interested in undertaking the rejuvenation of the Frohloff Farm in the form of a diversified family farm with crops, value added products (such as cheese and canned goods), and a traditional barnyard mix of income producing livestock. As low-income farmers with limited capital resources, they have presented a strong, staged-growth proposal that includes a balanced mix of meat, egg, orchard and crop production enterprises that are thoughtfully tailored to

build the carrying capacity of the land.

The farmers are led by an experienced farmer and agrarian consultant whose 25-year Cornell University background includes an undergraduate degree in International Agriculture, professional work in Community and Economic Development, and graduate work in Adult and Extension Education. The remainder of the group is made up of second and third year beginning farmers. Together, these farm-



ers are passionate about community supported agriculture, holistic land management practices, and sustainable organic farming. We feel that they have the knowledge, passion, business and management skills needed to enable Frohloff Farm to succeed in its mission.

Starting soon you will see more changes at the Frohloff farmhouse as contractors begin the renovation process. The farmhouse has good bones, but lacks most features for modern living, including central heating, septic system, insulation and air tight windows and doors. A new kitchen will be installed suitable for teaching sustainable, healthy food preparation. New bathrooms will meet current building codes. In addition, upgrades to the electrical and plumbing at the barn are essential for expanded use.

On Saturday February 2nd we are hosting our annual workday and bonfire at the Frohloff Farm. From 3:30 pm until dark the Frohloff house will be open for visitors to view the house. The bonfire with hotdogs and s'mores will start at dark. We hope to see you there.

MESSAGE FROM THE Executive Director

Cynthia Henshaw



When I was in forestry school we spent a lot of time reading dry, scientific articles. It wasn't until I got my degree that I discovered a landowner-friendly book on forest management. And now that text is updated and improved upon by Stephen Long, with *More Than a Woodlot: Getting the Most From Your Family Forest*. This is a wonderful book that tackles critical stewardship concepts with accessible language for today's woodland owner.

The very first sentence reads, "This book is written for woodland owners who would like to learn more about their forest, manage it with sensitivity, and leave it in a better condition than they found it." Reading through the book, that's exactly what you'll get. From thinking about how your woods fit into the broader landscape, to what things to look for when you walk through the woods, Mr. Long arms family forest owners with relevant information to help make decisions on what to do now and how to plan for the future.

Mr. Long comes at this topic sensitively, both from the landowner perspective and the natural resource perspective. "Our forests, despite a long history of exploitive use, are not something to be squandered, but rather a boon to be nurtured. Land ownership, whether accidental or not, provides the opportunity for people to learn the great pleasures of tending a piece of land, improving its capacity for wildlife, increasing the value of its crop of wood, ensuring that it protects water quality and quantity, and guaranteeing that it plays its role in purifying the air and sequestering carbon." (pg. 18) It's clear from the writing that Mr. Long revels in his time out in the woods and loves to share his enthusiasm with fellow family-forest owners.

Certainly the trees are the "defining characteristic" of a family forest. What you're starting with greatly impacts what you can hope to accomplish. After a chapter on learning more about what you have in your woodlot and another chapter on various products from your woodlot, Mr. Long steers the conversation to putting together a written plan. The plan puts the current reality into context and "then describes the future actions that will be taken on the land to steer it toward accomplishment of certain goals and objectives." (pg. 83) Each family-forest owner will have their own goals and therefore different actions might be recommended for the same woods.

There is even a chapter on silviculture, or the study of how trees grow, that presents general concepts about measuring wood volume, regeneration techniques and stocking guides. Following that is a look at different approaches to management, with key decisions focused on natural diversity, sawlogs, firewood, wildlife and birds. Mr. Long points out that "whatever our focus in forest management, all of our choices have consequences beyond the decision to cut a certain set of trees for whatever reason we're cutting them. Being aware of this shouldn't paralyze us, but it should serve notice that all actions have further implications." (pg. 113)

After a discussion about taxes and the IRS, the book concludes with a chapter on *The Future of Your Forest*. Mr. Long suggests scenarios where landowners talk with their heirs, possibly set up a limited liability corporation, or use a conservation agreement to meet their long-term goals. Mr. Long concludes by stating "The best time to start thinking about all these options is now." pg. 178. I highly encourage everyone to read *More Than A Woodlot* to advance stewardship on your family forest today.

THE EAST QUABBIN LAND TRUST

works to foster the sustainable use of our natural and historic resources for the benefit of all generations through the conservation and stewardship of the farmlands, woodlands and waters in our region of Massachusetts.

As a non-profit organization the East Quabbin Land Trust envisions a regional community that continues to care for its natural environment and supports a sustainable local economy, ensuring a high quality of life for generations to come.

We welcome your thoughts, articles, and photographs on events in our area. For more information about the land trust, to become a member, or request a change of address, please contact our office at:

East Quabbin Land Trust

120 Ridge Road, P.O. Box 5
Hardwick, MA 01037-0005
413-477-8229 (tel & fax)
email: eqlt@comcast.net

Visit our website at www.eqlt.org

BOARD & STAFF

Terry Briggs.....	HARDWICK, <i>President</i>
Mark Mattson.....	OAKHAM, <i>Vice-President</i>
Jerry Reilly.....	HARDWICK, <i>Treasurer</i>
Stan White.....	HARDWICK, <i>Clerk</i>
Ellen Endter	WARE
Mick Huppert.....	PETERSHAM
Judith Jones	NEW BRAINTREE
Ginny Rich	BARRE
Rick Romano	HARDWICK
Harry Webb.....	HARDWICK
Cynthia Henshaw	Executive Director
Caren Caljouw	Stewardship Coordinator
Pattie Rich	Bookkeeper
Kelly Wheeler	Service Learning Coord.

W. NEIL DAWSON: Making Connections Through Sweat Equity

By Cynthia Henshaw

Neil, and his wife Paula, moved to Hardwick as their first child was about to be born. They only meant to stay a few years at most. Incredibly, they are coming up on their thirty year anniversary of living in Hardwick and now can't imagine living anywhere else. As Neil said "Hardwick turns out to be a great place to live."

Through the years Neil has helped shape community affairs by being involved in local town government and especially as Treasurer of the Hardwick Community Fair. More recently Neil got swept into the land trust pool of volunteers by his love of being outdoors and getting some exercise.

Getting back onto a mountain bike about seven years ago with Rick Romano (an EQLT founder and Board Member), convinced Neil that the land trust was a real asset because our land was still accessible, not held as a museum. Of course putting in some sweat equity is another great way to get connected. And Neil has done just that, combining his passion for mountain biking and the Hardwick Community Fair.

Several years ago a mountain bike race was added to the Fair program. In preparation for that Neil and Rick put together a series of trails that crossed land trust properties and private lands creating a ninety minute bike ride. Neil commented that "We get compliments from racers and others because it's a challenging course. Strenuous because this is Hardwick where nothing is flat, and the trail is pretty bony." Increasing the number of riders and expanding the trail network is on his mind.

To that end, Neil and Rick are clearing trail on the north side of Barre Road. This summer we will be officially opening a trail network that weaves through the Deer Park Preserve and increases accessibility to the Coxhall Kitchen Garden. They are working on how to include this trail section in the 2013 race.

One feature of the trail is a 150-foot long boardwalk that carries visitors over several fingers of Fish Brook as it leaves a pooled area. The planking is three inch thick hemlock boards, "heavy stuff", donated by the Cersosimo Lumber Company. Neil is the Chief Financial Officer at Cersosimo, which is one of the largest privately owned lumber manufacturers in the northeast. They produce 45 million board feet of hardwood and softwood lumber a year from three sawmills in New Hampshire and Vermont. Cersosimo also

owns three dry kilns, including Hardwick Kilns located in Wheelwright. Lumber produced at Cersosimo sawmills and dried at Hardwick Kilns is recognized around the world for its exceptional quality.

Neil shared the real-life success story of the public-private partnership that created the Hardwick Kilns (HK). Supplementing the founder's own equity investment and traditional bank financing, HK accessed a federal government grant to provide the construction and startup financing for this new business. Essentially a grant to the Town,

these funds were then loaned to HK. The Town retained 100% of the principal and interest as the loan was repaid. The local trickle-down effect of this synergy has been measurable. In addition to the grant funds and annual property tax revenue to the Town, since 1984 HK has provided 20-30 good manufacturing and administrative jobs. Neil has seen many employees join the company as young people and as the years passed start families, build homes, and become active locally. It's a perfect model.

From the environmental perspective, what's happening at the Hardwick Kilns and Cersosimo Lumber is fascinating. A high tech combustion control system on the wood waste fired boiler combined with a wet-scrubber system on the smokestack that captures the fine ash means that emissions are composed primarily of water vapor. A kiln needs a tremendous amount of energy to heat the lumber to remove excessive moisture. Sawdust waste from Cersosimo sawmills are the primary energy source, nearly 20 tons each day, to maintain required steam pressure. That's the equivalent of 1,000 gallons of oil each day is averted.

Recently Neil was part of a team at the Brattleboro plant whose 18-month project was to capture excess steam energy from the wood waste fired boiler there and use it to spin a turbine generator. The electricity generated roughly equals what is used at this facility. The project was partially funded by an A.R.R.A. 1603 grant (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) targeted toward renewable energy. That makes good business sense and reduces their environmental footprint and greenhouse gases at the same time.

When asked what's next, Neil is thinking about more connections. Specifically more trail connections to create a broader network to the land, which means putting in a little more sweat equity. Says he, "It will be fun!"



Rick Romano and Neil Dawson after a full day of clearing trail and installing boardwalk resting on more planking for the trail network.

Thank You for Your Support in 2012!

Every gift is important to us and helps us to fulfill our mission together. We apologize for any errors or omissions.

Anonymous (7)
 Harrison Achilles
 Toni Allard
 Charles and Sandy Allen
 Nancy Allen and Charles Crowley
 Sandra Andersen
 Ellen Anderson
 Nancy and Albert Anderson
 Bob and Carol Andrews
 Keith and Marie Arsenaault
 Bob Asianian
 Michael and Gale Audette
 Alan and Deb Bachrach
 Rich and Dottie Bachtold
 James Baird
 Emily and Russ Bancroft
 Richard Barrett
 John and Linda Barringer
 Beverly Baxter
 Whitney Beals
 Dorothy Benedict
 Shaun Bennett
 Jason and Linnea Benoit
 Ronald and Lu Ann Benoit
 Stephanie Benoit
 Tod and Cristy Bertini
 Charles and Sherry Berube
 Kim Bleiman
 Patricia Bock
 Wendy and Aurelio Bolognesi
 Michelle Bombard
 Samuel and Isabel Bonneau
 Richard and Charlotte Boos
 Don and Kaye Boothman
 Chet and Melinda Boronski
 Gladys Boss
 Judith Bothwell
 Bob and Becky Bottomley
 Martha and John Bowden
 Charles and Susanna Boxenbaum
 Bill Braman
 Paul Breault
 April Brewer
 Steve Brewer
 Terrence and Sarah Briggs
 Gary Bringham
 David and Claudia Broschart
 Gail and Murray Bruce
 Chris Buelow and Jenna Garvey
 Sharyn Buelow
 John Burdick
 Sarah Selden Bush
 Bill Bryne
 Thomas and Kathleen Cahill
 Caren Caljouw
 David Cameron
 Lisa Carnevale
 Matthew and Catherine Carr
 Jennifer Casavant
 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Cassaro

Ramon Concepcion
 Eric Chivian, MD and
 Constance Jacobson
 Francis and Reinnette Chrabaszcz
 Henry and Pamela Christiansen
 Robert Clark and
 Fifi Scoufopoulos
 Carlene Clements
 Jeremy Clough
 Colleen Cody
 Elizabeth Coe
 William Cole and
 Christine Greene
 Mardia Coleman and
 Nick Bazoukas
 Susan Coles and
 Courtney Schlosser
 Al and Kathy Collings
 Gail Coolidge
 Tremaine and Marion Cooper



Barbara Corey
 Sharon Corton
 William Cote
 Ric and Sonja Craig
 Jane Cronin
 Polly and Tad Currier
 John and Merry Cushing
 Mary Beth and Jay Czaja
 Karen and David Davis
 Fred Day
 Ken Deary
 Robert and Marja Dempksi
 Jean and Suanne Despres
 Ed DeVenne
 Gordon DeWolf, Jr.
 Charles DiCapua and
 Laura Fasano
 John Dieckmann
 James and Elisabeth DiMaio
 Jenni DiMauro
 Melvin and Linda Dorman
 Joyce Dossett
 Linda and John Dowd
 George Dresser and
 Margaret McCandless
 Beverly Duda
 Sarah Durham and Craig Winer
 Caitie Dwyer-Huppert
 Steven Dykstra

Regina M. Edmonds
 Patricia Ehman
 Warren and Rachel Ehrlich
 Aaron Ellison and
 Elizabeth Farnsworth
 George Elmes
 Kristen Elmes
 Ellen Endter and William Braman
 Timothy Enman
 John Ewing
 Jean Fallon
 Lois Fay
 John and Linda Fiske
 David and Joan Fitzgerald
 Maureen Flannery
 Erik Fleming
 Laurie and William Fletcher
 Susan Foster and John Baker
 Carolyn F. and Jeremiah Friedman
 Burton and Margaret Frost
 Douglas and Julieane Frost
 Paul E. Gabens, Sr.
 Henry and Susan Gainley
 Marie Geary
 Robert and Jennifer Gibson
 Ann Gobi
 Ruth T. Goddard
 John Goodrich and Linda Young
 Loren Gould
 Kevin and Anne Grace
 David Grant
 David and Mary Gravel
 Alan Gray
 Renee Gregoire
 Justin and Sarah Griffin
 Elaine and Eddie Griffith
 Nancy Grimes
 Scot Hamilton
 Barbara and Philip Hanno
 Daniel and Sharon Hanson
 James Harbison
 Rick and Clare Hendra
 Cynthia Henshaw
 Carl Herrin
 Steven and Lynn Herzog
 Ann and Jeff Hicks
 Paul and Janice Hills
 Pamela and Jack Hinckley
 Marianne Hinton
 Alan and Harbour Fraser Hodder
 Jason and Donna Hodson
 Michael Holland and
 Patricia Smith
 Katia and Brendan Holmes
 Ed Hood and Nan Wolverton
 Bonnie House
 Deborah Houston and
 Lee McLaughlin
 Stephen and Priscilla Howe
 Philip Hubbard and Iva Kazda

Kim Hunter-Carruth
 Gayellen Huntress
 Michael and Louise Huppert
 Darrell and Elisabeth Hyder
 Rebecca Ikehara
 Cynthia Jenkins
 Susannah Jones, Sr.
 Judith and Tim Jones
 Donald Kalischer
 John and Tammy Kelley
 Dawn Kelley
 Brandon Kibbe
 Ann Kidd
 Dedie King
 Ruth King
 William King
 Rebecca Kinn
 David and Annemarie Kittredge
 Jack Kittredge and Julie Rawson
 Martha and Brian Klassanos
 Peggy Kocoras
 Christine Komenda
 Mark Korzec
 Eleanor Kuras
 Robert and Susan La Flamme
 Barbara and Raul Laborde
 James Lagomarsino
 Phyllis Lagomarsino
 Lionel and Cindy Lamoureux
 Robin Langer
 Barbara Larson
 Jack and Kate Lathrop
 Sue Lebarge
 Rodman and Linda Leehy
 Charles and Aline Lemaitre
 Elizabeth K. Lenahan
 Richard and Talitha Lent
 Ann and John LePoer
 Samantha Leuschner
 Ken Levin



Suzanne and Thomas
 Lewandowski
 Shirley Lewis
 Roger and Susan Lincoln
 Pete and Debbie Lincoln
 Dale Lind
 David Lockesmith
 Bruce Lockhart and Gus Block
 John and Joyce Lofgren

Rick and Colleen Lotuff
 Mary Anne and David Lougee
 Samuel Lovejoy
 Dr. Jamie Lubelczyk
 Forest P. Lyford
 Rob Lyon
 Russell Mack
 David Maher
 Ken and Diane Mammone
 Eric and Christine Mandel
 Gareth Mannion
 Clifford and Jeanne Marriott
 Donna and Ray Matthews
 Mark Mattson and Judy Lane
 William McComas
 Jason and Sarah McMaster
 Paul and Mary Welch McNeil
 Joanne McShane
 Daniel Meara
 Cindy and Glenn Mitchell
 Kate Morreale
 Phil Milgrom and Nancy Nowak
 Richard and Patricia Miller
 Pamela Moen
 Jim Moore
 James and Denise Moran
 Gladys Mountain
 Julie Murkette
 Anne-Marie and Tim Nolan
 Florence O'Brien
 Tim and Jen O'Connor
 Paula and Brett Ouimette
 Bob and Barbara Page
 Robert and Linda Paquet
 Susan Paquet
 Gillian Peckham
 Lucy Pelland
 Bruce and Betsy Pennino
 Anne Perkins
 Thomas and Julia Pettee
 Janet Pierce
 Ginger Pitta
 Nancy and Lee Pollard
 Susan Prescott and
 Shaun Hauserman
 Bruce and Beverly
 Prestwood-Taylor
 Steve and Robin Prouty
 Helen Provencher
 Roberta Purcell and
 Marty Muysenberg
 Susan Rainville
 Megan McDonough and
 Joe Raskett
 Joshua and Melendy Reed
 Susan and Edward Reed
 Virginia Reed
 George and Elizabeth Reilly
 Maryanne Reynolds and
 Jana Dengler
 Don and Ginny Rich
 Eugene and Patricia Rich
 Susan Riley

Jeff Robbins and Amy Dugas
 Raymond and Pamela Robinson
 Charlie and Maria Roddy
 Richard Romano and Lisa Nash
 Barbara and Dick Rossman
 Thomas and Bettyjean Rust
 Danial Salvucci and
 Doug Anderson
 Mr. and Mrs. Gene Salvucci
 Jeffrey and Patti Schaaf
 Peter Schmid
 Thomas and Donalyn Schofield
 Stephanie Selden
 Suzanne and Brayton Shanley



Gary and Susan Simeone
 Nancy Skamarycz
 Sara Small
 Ellen Smith
 Jeffrey and Holly Smith
 Joyce Smith
 Audrey and Kenneth Snay
 Doria Steedman
 Joseph Stenger and
 Kathleen Hardie
 Craig Stevens
 Michael and Daphne Stevens
 Duncan and Heather Stewart
 Todd Stewart
 Curtis Stillman
 Glenn and Genevieve Stillman
 Jill Stolgitis and Eric Contois
 MaryAnn Stolgitis
 Amy Stukuls and Eli Barrieau
 Jacob and Susan Stukuls
 Cynthia Sutherland and
 James Dunstan
 Madeline, Jonathan and
 Jennifer Swain
 Stephen Swingle and
 Patricia Benjamin
 Megen Talbot
 Octavia Taylor
 Hans and Ginna Thoma
 Dorothea Thomas-Vitrac
 John and Linda Tomasi
 Ann Townsend and
 Richard McCrae
 Suzie Townsend
 Katharine and Gregory Tyler
 Kevin and Michelle Valliere
 Jonathan and Priscilla Vincent
 Eric Vollheim and Lucinda Childs
 Philip and Mary Warbasse
 Bennie and Marguerite Warren

Doug and Marion Waugh
 Harold and Michelle Webb
 William and Faith Welsh
 Bart Wendell and Sandra Whaley
 Patricia Wendler and
 Winifred Nazarko
 Kelly Wheeler
 Carl and Peg White
 Frank White
 Stanley and Abbie White
 John and Mary Williamson
 Donald Wilson
 Diana and David Wood
 Dorothy Wood
 Sargent Wood
 Henry Woolsey
 John and Ann Woolsey
 Luke and Kim Wright
 Edward and Grace Yaglou
 Howard Ziff

**Gifts were Received
 In Honor of**

Caren Caljouw
 Jane Emery
 fishermen
 Betty and Harry Morss
 Paul and Helen Vitkus
 William and Anna Welsh
 Magi Durham Ziff

**Gifts were Received
 In Memory of**

Walter Bortnick
 Fay L. Brigham
 Ray Buelow
 A. Fenton Carruth
 Alice Coolidge
 Stanley Dudek
 Chris Ellison
 Chuck Kidd
 Lewis E. and Lois E. King
 Peter King
 Harry and Betty Morss
 Peter and Mary Skralskis
 Evelyn Francis Terry-Hornsby
 Magi Durham Ziff

Foundations

Anonymous Foundation
 Amelia Peabody Charitable Fund
 The Boston Foundation, Skylight
 Fund
 Chris Ellison Memorial
 Donovan Foundation
 Doppelt Family Foundation
 The Edward J. Urban Foundation
 Ware Cultural Council

Corporations

Barre Savings Bank
 Barre Mill Restaurant
 Bemis Nursery
 Brookfield Orchards
 Clover Hill Country Store
 Corey Fitzgerald Photography
 Country Bank for Savings
 Country Corners Storage &
 Realty, Inc.
 Curiosity Bookshop
 D&D Fitness Factory
 Eagle Hill School
 Every Day Homemade
 Family First Bank
 Five Star Services, Inc.
 Gardener's Supply Company
 Garwood Landscapes
 Get Up and Dance
 Great Rock Alpacos
 Hannaford Supermarkets
 Hardwick Farmers' Coop Exchange
 Hardwick Kilns/Cersosimo
 Lumber Co.
 Hardwick Sugar Shack
 Hardwick Vineyard & Winery
 Hartman's Herb Farm
 Healthy Paws
 In A Jam
 June's Bakeshop
 Kip's Christmas Tree Farm
 Klem's Tractor
 Mount Grace Land
 Conservation Trust
 Nat Falk
 NBG Shades of Green
 New Harbor Financial Group,
 LLC



Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Inc.
 Quabaug Corporation
 Quabbin Composting Club
 Reed's Country Store
 R.N. Glidden Landscaping
 Rose 32 Bread
 Saint Gobain Corporation
 Matching Gift
 Salem Cross Inn
 Teresa's Restaurant
 The 1772 Foundation, Inc.
 The Centered Place
 The Kitchen Garden
 The Listening Center
 Tri Parish Community Church
 Turley Publications

HARDWICK ELEMENTARY GETS COOKING

By Kelly Wheeler

In the week before Thanksgiving, many students are daydreaming of having the day off from school to eat pie and watch football. Hardwick Elementary School students, however, were engaged in cooking for their community. Mr. Carey's 3rd grade class participated in a Service Learning Project in which the students learned about the Wampanoag people and their relationship to maize. Jessica Geary began by telling the children about the Wampanoag and their culture. They were able to see wampum, the shell they used as currency and some birch bark crafts. The students were given some dried corn and a mortar and pestle to grind the corn into cornmeal as the Native Americans would have done. Other students were given a Mason jar filled with heavy cream to shake into butter. Finally, the students worked together mixing batter to make cornbread muffins. These muffins were donated to the Hardwick Community Supper for their Thanksgiving meal. The Community Supper offers delicious meals every Wednesday, made from local produce and sometimes even local meats such as venison. It is a great opportunity to share good food and interact with your neighbors in an atmosphere where all are welcome.

Shortly after this project, I was back in the school cafeteria with Ginnie Reed working on her annual Stone Soup event. Ginnie was the impetus in creating and maintaining the Hardwick School Garden last summer as the head of the summer school program. Together we planted a bed of potatoes that were harvested and stored until we were ready to make Stone Soup. Both Nicole Ricchiazzi and Rachel Brunell's 1st grade classes read many cultural versions of Stone Soup and joined together to cook a healthy lunch for each other.

The students all worked together washing and chopping the vegetables and adding them to the soup pot. The children who had participated in the planting and harvesting of the potatoes were so proud of what they had grown to contribute to this feast. The next day, the soup slowly simmered all morning until lunchtime. The students pushed their desks together to form a long dining table which they covered with hand decorated table cloths they had made the day before. The children practiced proper

table manners and they were all so polite. Everyone loved the soup. Well, except a small group who said they don't like vegetables. I tried to convince them that we should call it French Fry Soup because potatoes are what French Fries are made of. It didn't fly! They saw right through my well intended trickery.

In my experience, children desire a deeper connection with nature and their food. This desire has been muted by years of chemically-derived convenience foods and hours



indoors doing worksheets and playing video games. The key to developing healthy, ecologically-conscious future adults is to allow them to get dirty and give them the space to discover the natural world. Growing food and cooking it with children provides them a better understanding of the interconnection of all life on Earth. What we are calling for is a revolution in public education: "When the hearts and minds of our children are captured by a school lunch curriculum, enriched with the experience in the garden; sustainability will become the lens through which they see the world." -Alice Waters

Above all, I have realized that children need to be taken out of the classroom to create, discover, build and do things with their own hands. To quote a Native American Proverb, "Tell me and I'll forget. Show me and I may not remember. Involve me and I will understand." Getting children involved in simple tasks like gardening and cooking will teach them valuable skills they will use to better their lives. Perhaps, more importantly, it has an enormous potential to create adults who are stewards of the land who will strive to protect the soil, air, and water that sustains us.

Friendship Cornbread

<i>Combine in Large bowl:</i>	<i>Combine in small bowl:</i>
1 cup flour	4 Tbs. honey or maple syrup
1 cup corn meal	2 eggs or 1/2 cup yogurt
1/2 tsp. salt	1 cup milk
2 tsp. baking powder	4 Tbs. oil

Mix the dry ingredients in one bowl and the wet ingredients in the other. Combine the two with as few strokes as possible. Place paper liners in a muffin pan. Pour the batter into the liners. Bake at 400 degrees for 10-15 minutes.

THE POWER OF NETWORKS IN LOCAL CONSERVATION

By David Kittredge, Harvard Forest, UMass Amherst, and EQLT member

Many people in New England live by the proverb that if things don't appear broken, they don't really need fixing. And they apparently apply this philosophy to not only their cars, plumbing, and computers, but to their woods, as well. Most family or private owners of woods don't have a management plan prepared by a licensed forester. They don't perceive a need for a plan, since their land provides many of the things they desire -- privacy, wildlife, a place to walk, hunt, or take the kids, and a little cordwood or exercise. Their woods don't really change that much, and it's easy to assume that if there isn't a problem, who needs a plan and professional advice? Their woods aren't apparently "broke", and don't need "fixing".

But every now and then things happen in life, and a little extra cash could make a difference. For example, an expensive medical procedure isn't fully covered by insurance. Two or three tuition bills arrive in the same week. Death or divorce requires dividing up some assets. Several drivers in the family mean an extra car would be helpful. The furnace fails, or the time has come to put in some new energy efficient windows. Out of the blue comes the need for cash, and a possible solution is the sale of timber or land.

Do you take the first offer of cash for your timber or a building lot carved out of your woods? Since most landowners don't sell timber or land very often, how do they know it is a good price? Maybe there are other alternatives to cutting all the timber larger than 12 inches in diameter, or punching in that house lot. Unless owners know their alternatives, it is hard for them to make an informed decision, and avoid a hasty, reactive one. "Look before you leap" is another saying that seems relevant in this case!

Of course owners who do have a management plan and experience with a forester know who to turn to for advice. Owners who have worked with Cynthia Henshaw at EQLT know what their options are for land and understand what a Conservation Restriction is. Our research at UMass Amherst and the Harvard Forest tells us, though, that most landowners don't know a forester or their local land trust. Most people wouldn't feel comfortable representing themselves in court alone without a lawyer. Most people want a lawyer involved in an important real estate transaction.

Many people rely on tax professionals and accountants for advice in making the right tax, retirement, or investment decisions. The question is: How can landowners be connected to the right land trust or forest professionals when the time comes to make a decision about their land?

The answer lies not in more courses, books, or magazines for landowners, or more government cost sharing programs or free management plans, but in the power of networks.



Landowners Harry and Michelle Webb of Hardwick are interviewed by Harvard Forest summer interns Laura Bartock and Emma Schnur about decision making and sources of information about their land.

Connecting landowners who have experience with those who do not can be extremely helpful in encouraging informed decisions. Our studies show that while landowners with experience in timber or conservation restriction decision making might not be licensed professionals, they can speak from personal first-hand experience about what they did, and how it worked out. They can also pass on advice about who they worked with and other sources of helpful information. This advice and experience from a peer or fellow landowner can be very helpful. The results of

interviews and surveys of landowners show that though they are not professionals, other landowners are often as involved, helpful, and trusted as professionals. And, they can provide that important connection to a professional, or serve as a source of encouragement or moral support. Some landowners don't necessarily trust a professional at first, since they believe there is a possible conflict of interest and might stand to personally gain from the timber or land transaction. Again, connecting with another peer landowner can help overcome this hesitation.

As long ago as 1935, famous biologist and forester Aldo Leopold said: "Relegating conservation to government is like relegating virtue to the Sabbath. Turns over to professionals what should be the daily work of amateurs." Leopold knew that conservation was too important, and especially in landscapes owned primarily by private families and individuals, it couldn't be left to the government or professionals alone. There is a powerful role for landowners, volunteers, and others to participate formally and informally in "the network" and connect landowners with other sources of information. The more connected this loose, informal network is, the higher the likelihood of landowners being reached and encouraged to make informed rather than reactive decisions. And the more informed decisions on the landscape, the higher the likelihood of more conservation happening in the East Quabbin region.

Conserving the land, Preserving our heritage

P.O. Box 5
120 Ridge Road
Hardwick, MA 01037
Phone/Fax 413-477-8229

www.eqlt.org

EQLT News | INSIDE...



FARMHOUSE PURCHASED

WINTER 2013 | VOLUME 10 | ISSUE 1

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 5
Hardwick, MA

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY...

Saturday, January 19, 7:00 PM

Owl Prowl – Join Chris Buelow and Jeff Smith for this evening of owl hooting and quiet listening. This year is sure to be the year to hear some owls!! We'll be traveling to a variety of locations to have the best chance for success. Meet at the EQLT office, 120 Ridge Road in Hardwick, to carpool. Be sure to dress warmly.

FEBRUARY...

Saturday, February 2, Starting at 10:00 AM

Workday, House Tour and Bonfire at Frohloff Farm, 221 Church Street, Ware – Join us for all or part of the day at the Frohloff Farm to welcome in 2013. Starting at 10am we will be working around the farmyard, burning brush and general clean up. We'll offer the opportunity to walk through the Frohloff house between 3:30pm and dusk, for any visitors interested in seeing the house before renovations begin in earnest. At dusk we'll have a roaring bonfire, including hot dogs, s'mores and hot cocoa. Bring the whole family and explore the Frohloff Farm.

Saturday, February 16, 5:00 PM

Twelfth Annual Dinner and Silent Auction, at the Cultural Center at Eagle Hill, Hardwick – Come join us for a festive dinner and silent auction at the Cultural Center at Eagle Hill with a buffet catered by Reed's Catering of New Braintree and bread from Rose 32. Tickets are \$55 per person. Tables are set for eight or ten people and you can reserve your tickets by responding to the invitation mailing or at www.eqlt.org. Please respond by February 8th.

Saturday, February 23, 9:30 AM

Eagle Watching at Quabbin Gate 35, Hardwick – Join Chris Buelow and Jeff Smith to explore parts of the Quabbin Reservoir for overwintering Eagles. Don't forget your binoculars and dress warmly!