



FALL 2015

INSIDE

Why Give to CHC?	3
Why Citizen Science?	5
Why Woodlots?	6
Membership Pledge Card	7
Upcoming Events	8

BOARD & STAFF

CHC BOARD

Charlie Hancock - Board Chair, Montgomery
Nancy Patch, Enosburgh
Ward Heneveld, Enosburgh
Chris Damato, Enosburgh
Mary Schwartz, Bakerfield
Bill McGroarty, Richford
Forrest Dunnivant - Newsletter

CHC STAFF

Bridget Butler - Program Director

PHOTOS: WARD HENEVELD (TOP), JOANNE WAZYNY (LEFT)

PLANTING THE SEEDS FOR CONSERVATION IN THE COLD HOLLOW TO CANADA REGION

By Charlie Hancock, Board Chair

At a recent workshop sponsored by Cold Hollow to Canada with the Landscape Futures Project through the Harvard Forest—a workshop which brought together leaders from the public, private and non-profit sectors from across the state to consider the future of Vermont's woodlands—a question was posed: *You've traveled to the year 2065 and are standing atop a mountain from which you can see the landscape of the entire state. You're amazed by what you see and rush back to tell your friends and family. How do you describe what you experienced?*

How would you describe what you see? Here at Cold Hollow to Canada we already have a vision. It's a vision of intact, resilient forests and the connecting lands between them. A vibrant economy based on a working landscape which capitalizes on the technologies of the future, and founded in our shared commitment to the place we call home. Productive forests and robust wildlife for future generations.



This is what drives us, and while the energy and passion of our volunteer board has provided the fuel for our engine to accomplish great things these past seven years, the time has come for us to ask for your help. This year CHC is asking our membership to help support this vision, and the work being done in our region to ensure that that vision becomes a reality. Included in this newsletter you'll find a membership pledge card. An opportunity to become an active participant in sustaining the work of this vibrant conservation partnership. These funds will allow us to bolster our staff, expanding our ability to leverage greater resources for conservation

work in our region, and to sustain our ongoing programs in support of our communities. Donations may also be accepted via our new website at www.coldhollowtocanada.org/donate. Supported with a generous grant from the Jessie B. Cox Foundation we hope this new platform can assist in expanding the reach of the organization, and act as a greater resource within our shared community.

Together with your contribution we can increase the pace of conservation in our region, and ensure that our landscape remains intact, resilient, and productive into the future.



WHY GIVE TO CHC?

By Ward Heneveld



WARD HENEVELD

Why should someone committed to forest preservation in Vermont consider supporting Cold Hollow to Canada? First, Vermont's forests are a major reason why many of us live here and a drawing card for outsiders. All Vermont residents—whether a commuter, logger, birdwatcher, hunter, sugarmaker, or hiker—love our forested landscape and want it to be sustainably responsive to their interests. Also, Vermont's forested landscape is central to the Vermont that the rest of the country respects and comes to visit. Within Franklin County the combination of farmland and extensive forest and the Cold Hollow Mountains and adjacent woodlands epitomize the iconic image of Vermont.

Second, Cold Hollow to Canada is a successful grassroots organization, motivated and run by volunteers who live in the seven towns that CHC covers. State and national conservation organizations have supported CHC's work with grants, but that support is given on our terms for needs we in the seven towns have identified. Also, Cold Hollow to Canada's accomplishments to date have been considerable. When I joined the Board of CHC a couple years

ago I quickly found out that despite no budget and no staff CHC had many activities going on. There were already an informative and gorgeous quarterly newsletter and a website. A recent grant has made it possible to make the website even more interesting and useful (www.coldhollowtocanada.org). CHC regularly sponsored organized public events to stimulate local understanding and dialogue about our forests. In September we had our 3rd annual celebration with walks in the woods and speakers. CHC had also started grassroots activities involving people in the seven towns it covers. For example, four of the seven towns now have Conservation Commissions (there'd only been one before). When I became involved two neighborhood groups were tracking the movement of animals across roads and along transects in the woods. A recent analysis by UVM students of the data collected and the collaboration with larger animal tracking organizations have led to plans for more training and data collection. And 12 landowners who collectively own over 1800 acres were starting a woodlots group to collaborate on stewardship of their lands. So far this group has completed a songbird habitat assessment with

continued on page 4

FALL
2015

C
O
N
N
E
C
T
I
O
N
S

coldhollowtocanada.org



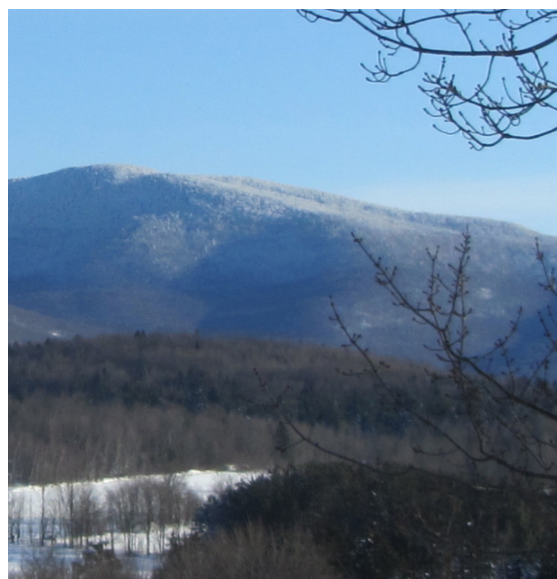
help from the Audubon Vermont and a review of preparedness for climate change in each landowner's woodlot. The climate change analysis is part of a USFS pilot project and now CHWoodlots is nationally recognized as a demonstration forest www.forestadaptation.org/coldhollow. A new grant will allow us to carry out the recommendations of the two studies in each member's woodlot. The Enosburgh woodlots group just had our 8th gathering on one of the member's woodlots, and we've started encouraging the other six towns to form groups. These are considerable achievements for an organization with no staff and no annual budget.

Third, and most personally, I want the corner of Vermont that I love to remain robustly forested. Changes in our neighborhood demonstrate how these surroundings are threatened. In 1972 when my wife Cheryl and I moved to our old farmhouse and 100 acres in East Enosburg the power lines from town ended at our house. Two miles down the road power lines came up the road from Montgomery to another old farmhouse. There was no electricity and no permanent residences between our house and these neighbors' home. Today, there are ten residential homes between us and the other farmhouse, and three neighbors live up the side road that starts at our house. For a long time I had wondered what the impact of 15 house lots where there used to be two has been on the wildlife and vegetation in our neighborhood. Recently, I've started to worry about what these woods looking on to the Cold Hollow Mountains will be like after I am gone. My involvement in Cold Hollow to Canada has shown me how I can personally help to retain connected healthy forests beyond my lifetime.

And, finally, Cold Hollow to Canada has grown in accomplishment and reputation to the point where it needs greater capacity to make sure that our seven towns sustain and grow the work that has started. As a first step towards taking advantage of our towns' growing opportunities for stewardship, this year the Board prepared and is implementing a detailed annual work plan. In addition, CHC was able to hire a very part-time

Director of Programs with help from the Vermont Land Trust and The Vermont Nature Conservancy. At the moment Cold Hollow to Canada has so much going on that we can barely stay on top of everything, and CHC's reputation is producing opportunities and expressions of interest for projects that will increase the potential for impact if we are able to respond to them. It's clear that the organization requires annual operational funding if it is to continue to grow in capacity and effectiveness, and annual operational funding can probably only come from the organization's supporters.

To summarize, the Board has decided to seek donations from supporters because of the importance of Vermont's forests in the state's marketability, CHC's grassroots focus and organization, its accomplishments and reputation, its demonstrated capability for stewardship of the forests in our county, and the organization's need to have minimum operational funding. Therefore, over the next few months Cold Hollow to Canada will carry out its first annual fundraising campaign. It is already possible to donate on the website, and supporters will soon be contacted directly. Eventually CHC plans to undertake a capital campaign to establish a fund that will help achieve its central objective, the permanent protection of at least 40% of the identified unfragmented Priority Forest Blocks in our region.



WARD HENEVELD

WHY CITIZEN SCIENCE?

By Bridget Butler, Program Director

FALL
2015

cit·i·zen sci·ence

noun

1. the collection and analysis of data relating to the natural world by members of the general public, typically as part of a collaborative project with professional scientists.

Simply put, citizen science is public participation in scientific research. It's a way for professional scientists or organizations to collect useful data using volunteers. I've often said that there can't be a biologist in everyone's backyard, but you can be that citizen scientist. Everyone is capable of tapping into their scientific knowledge with a little guidance. In fact, when you were just a toddler you were most likely an incredible scientist! Maybe you intently watched a caterpillar eat a leaf, or counted the number of robins bouncing across your backyard, maybe you even sorted your acorn collection by size. These are all basic skills that build scientific knowledge: observing, counting, identifying, analyzing, and recording.

Citizen science taps into these basic skills and then matches them with two other components—something the public is or has potential to be passionate about and the need for data that can be collected by amateur scientists. Ornithologists have become experts at using citizen scientists to meet research needs. They have tapped into the birding community and found a way to glean knowledge from content or data already of interest to birders. For example, one of the oldest citizen science projects in the world is the [Christmas Bird Count](#) which happens mid-December through the first week of January. Each year, thousands of people across the

United States participate by birding in a determined area for an entire day, counting every species of bird and individual that they come across. Birders love making lists of the birds they've seen and heard, and backyard birdwatchers track birds at their feeder; both are collecting very basic but very useful data. The [Christmas Bird Count](#) is now 115 years old and has given ornithologists an incredible historical view of winter birds across the country.

Cold Hollow to Canada oversees two citizen science projects in our region; the [Keeping Track Monitoring Program](#) and the [WildPaths Program](#) which tracks animals crossing roads. Both these projects endeavor to understand where wildlife occur in our forested landscape and where/how they move from one habitat to another. We've tapped into the community's love for bears, moose, fisher and bobcat, and when spring comes, we'll add frogs, salamanders, snakes and turtles. We provide an opportunity for people to learn more about these animals and then contribute to our collective understanding of their habitat needs. Becoming a citizen scientist fine tunes our ability to observe nature and deepens our connection to the land. For Cold Hollow to Canada, our citizen science projects help build community, awareness, knowledge and a collection of real data that will serve us as stewards of this place we call home.

C

N
N
E
C
T
I
O
N
S



WHY WOODLOTS?

By Bridget Butler, Program Director

“To encourage sustainable forest management and land conservation, government agencies and non-profit organizations have established a range of policies and programs, including technical assistance, tax incentives, cost-share, forest certification, conservation easements, and outreach education. **To date, most of these programs have attracted less than 10% of family forest owners nationwide.**”

—Butler, US Forest Service report, 2008.

With more than two-thirds of Vermont’s forests privately owned, we must reach out to individual and family forest owners to manage wildlife habitat, to find solutions for the effects of climate change in our forests, and to develop ways to help forests adapt to changing conditions. Cold Hollow to Canada has piloted what we call a Woodlots Program using an innovative landscape-based social network.



JOANNE WAZNY

We invite landowners in a town with contiguous or adjacent properties to come together around a shared passion for their land and work with informed professionals based on their common interests. Woodlots landowner properties also become demonstration sites which can be leveraged to share the vision to the broader community and with other conservation organizations.

In 2016, we hope to expand this work creating at least two more Woodlots groups in Montgomery and Richford. Our current pilot project in Enosburgh covers close to 2,000 acres. By adding two more towns we hope to reach 8,000 acres being covered by the program. Landowners invited to participate will meet quarterly in a peer-to-peer approach to woodlands management to develop a vision for their shared landscape. This approach allows CHC to build community and knowledge in an informal setting through potlucks and outings at individual landowner’s properties. We strongly believe that our Woodlots model provides the support landowners need to understand and finance forest management practices, thereby protecting forest connectivity, health and productivity.

You can find out more about our Woodlots Program and whether you qualify to become a part of a Woodlots group at our website.

DONATE

MEMBERSHIP PLEDGE CARD

With your donation, Cold Hollow to Canada will continue to build a community of landscape-based conservation to maintain our forests for wildlife & future generations.

We appreciate your support to help us achieve our goals!

To donate, please print this page and fill out the following form. Mail in with a check made out to *Cold Hollow to Canada*. Our mailing address is: PO Box 405, Montgomery, VT 05471.

Donations may also be accepted via our new website at www.coldhollowtocanada.org/donate.

Thank you!

JOIN OR RENEW

Name _____

Membership Level

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500—Canada Lynx | <input type="checkbox"/> \$45—Snowshoe Hare |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250—Black Bear | <input type="checkbox"/> \$20—Hermit Thrush |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100—Moose | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
|
 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please add me to the CHC email list | <input type="checkbox"/> Please keep my donation anonymous |

Preferred email address _____

Mailing address _____

How did you hear about us? _____

Comments _____

FALL
2015

C

N
N
E
C
T
I
O
N
S



UPCOMING EVENTS

BAKERSFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meets the last Monday of every month at 1:00 PM in the Town Hall Building, 40 East Bakersfield Rd, Bakersfield.

ENOSBURGH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meets the fourth Monday of every month at 7:30 PM at the Cold Hollow Career Center, 184 Missisquoi St., Enosburg Falls.

MONTGOMERY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meets the first Wednesday of every month from 5:30 to 7:30 PM at the Montgomery Town Office, 98 Main St (VT Route 118), Montgomery Center.

RICHFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 5:00 PM in the upstairs conference room of the Arvin A. Brown Public Library, 88 Main St, Richford.

COLD HOLLOW TO CANADA STEERING COMMITTEE

Meets the third Monday of each month from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Cold Hollow Career Center in Enosburg Falls or Bakersfield Library. We rotate the location, so please let us know if you'll be joining us. It'd be great to see you there.

Game of Logging Level 1

Saturday, November 7th, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

*Sites in Enosburgh, directions shared upon registration
Sponsored by Vermont Coverts & Cold Hollow to Canada
Fee: \$170/pp Registration Required!*

Contact: info@coldhollowtocanada.org or
Lisa Sausville, VT Coverts Phone: 802-877-2777
Email: lisa@vtcoverts.org

Game of Logging teaches chainsaw skills. Each level builds upon the one before. By listening to explanations, watching demonstrations, and then practicing techniques, participants come away with better work habits and greater confidence in their ability to safely fell trees and work in the woods. Level I provides an overview of chain saw safety and covers basic tree felling and you will fell a tree! If you are interested in reading more about the Game of Logging Course, visit Northeast Woodland Training's website, <http://www.woodlandtraining.com>. Registration is required. Please see contact information above to receive registration form.

**Once Level 1 is completed you may take Level 2 which is happening on Sunday, November 8th. We will be providing another opportunity to take Level 2 in Spring 2016.*

Game of Logging Level 2

Sunday, November 8th, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

*Sites in Enosburgh, directions shared upon registration
Sponsored by Vermont Coverts & Cold Hollow to Canada
Fee: \$170/pp Registration Required!*

Contact: info@coldhollowtocanada.org or
Lisa Sausville, VT Coverts Phone: 802-877-2777
Email: lisa@vtcoverts.org

Game of Logging teaches chainsaw skills. Each level builds upon the one before. By listening to explanations, watching demonstrations, and then practicing techniques, participants come away with better work habits and greater confidence in their ability to safely fell trees and work in the woods. Level II covers basic saw maintenance and chain sharpening techniques and provides another opportunity for tree felling. If you are interested in reading more about the Game of Logging Course, visit Northeast Woodland Training's website, <http://www.woodlandtraining.com>. Registration is required. Please see contact information above to receive registration form.

**You must have completed Level 1 before moving on to Level 2. We will be providing another opportunity to take Level 1 in Spring 2016.*

Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, January 2nd, dawn to dusk

To be assigned to a team, contact Eddy Edwards at 802-933-5327 or email eddy_edwards@fws.gov

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is a long-standing program of the National Audubon Society, with over 100 years of citizen science involvement. It is an early-winter bird census, where thousands of volunteers across the US, Canada and many countries in the Western Hemisphere, go out over a 24 hour period to count birds. Count volunteers follow specified routes through a designated 15 mile circle, counting every bird they see or hear all day.

The CBC in Eastern Franklin County will include the towns of Enosburg Falls, Richford and Montgomery and is supported by all three town Conservation Commissions. Whether your interests are to participate on an assigned route or to simply count birds at your feeders, there is room for everyone to become involved. Please join us to monitor our feathered friends.

Learn more about the Audubon Christmas Bird Count here: <http://bit.ly/AudubonCBC>