



# Quincy Bog Notes



Winter 2005-2006

Volume 13 Number 1

## The President's Podium by Bill Taffe

This is my last chance to write "The President's Podium". For the past 4 years I've had the opportunity and responsibility to help set the direction and focus of Rumney Ecological Systems and now also the Pemi-Baker Land Trust. At our December meeting we elected Bob Berti as President for 2006 and I'm looking forward to the vision and purpose Bob will bring to the leadership of the organization. In addition to serving with Bob as a colleague on our Board, we've been very close friends for over 30 years and I have complete confidence in his ability to guide the organization into the future. I will remain active on the Board working on various projects in habitat protection and nature education.

The need for Land Protection in the Baker and upper Pemigewasset Valleys is more critical than ever. For many years we have been somewhat spared from suburban sprawl, but no longer. It takes only a short drive up Route 25 to realize that strip development is here, right now! If we are not proactive in protecting the landscape we inhabit, in only a few short years we'll wake up and painfully cry "What happened?"

Rumney Ecological Systems was formed to protect the Quincy Bog from being destroyed, both to protect habitat for wild species and as a place for humans to enjoy. This focus continues but with a wider vision. We need to work actively to keep our valleys as places where there is space for wild creatures as well as for human creatures. We need to find the appropriate balance between growth, development of an improved tax base, and a place where we want to live. I moved to the Baker Valley 35 years ago because it was, and is, a wonderful place to breathe fresh air, see the stars at night, have space to take long walks in the woods and to raise a family in a community of neighbors. If we don't apply some common sense to growth and land use we will lose what we have, what brought us here in the first place.

We ask for your support as we move into the future. We will do our very best to continue to protect the Quincy Bog for the critters that live here, for the public to appreciate and enjoy, and as a center for nature education. And we will work equally hard to protect our region as a place where we can live harmoniously in natural surroundings and not turn it into the congested, asphalted suburb that has overwhelmed so much of the southern part of our State. Thank you for your support in the past and we sincerely hope you'll

## The Family Tree Farm by Tom Thomson

I became involved in owning timberland at an early age. In 1956 I was 11 years old when my father encouraged me and my two older brothers to pool our money together and purchase a woodlot.

We purchased a 125-acre woodlot in the town where I grew up and live today, Orford, NH. We paid a total of \$235 for the woodlot that we still own and manage. Now, we are planning our third timber harvest on the property.

I learned about working in the woods at any early age. In school we were enrolled in the Future Farmers of America (FFA) and worked in forestry programs and earned extra spending money working in the woods on weekends and vacations on our family farm.

When I was out on my own, I continued to purchase woodland whenever I could afford to and my wife, Sheila, will tell you that even when I couldn't afford it I continued to purchase woodland. Today we own and manage 2800 acres of forestland both in New Hampshire and Vermont known as the Thomson Family Tree Farm. So, what is a Tree Farm?

Most folks in New Hampshire are familiar with the green and white diamond shape Tree Farm signs which represent "the sign of good forestry". Today there are over 1500 tree farms in New Hampshire and the owners manage over 600,000 acres. New Hampshire is the secondmost heavily forested state in the United States; Maine is number one with Vermont and West Virginia tied for third.

In 1941 the first tree farm was certified by Weyerhaeuser in Washington State. From that beginning, the American Tree Farm System is now found in 48 states that are operated by state tree farm committees under the guidance of the American Forest Foundation. Today there are a total of 60,000 members who manage 25 million acres through the United States.

New Hampshire's Tree Farm program took root in 1950 and has grown to be, in my opinion, one of the best in our nation today. The New Hampshire program has four well known and active sponsorships; they are the New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association, The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forest, University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Service and New

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Quincy Bog Notes

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administrators of

### Quincy Bog Natural Area

(with year of joining Board)

(italics indicate members of original Board)

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Al Ports, Editor  
(603) 786-9002

A twice-yearly newsletter of information, announcements and news about the Quincy Bog Natural Area and related concerns. Editorial submissions are welcome. Please send to: Editor, Quincy Bog Notes, P.O. Box 90, Rumney, NH 03266.

### Verse

By Kevin Boswell

I love to walk the wilderness  
I love to hear the sounds  
To try and see what makes 'um  
To see what's coming round

To walk around a boulder  
Or slosh along a bog  
To hear a big old bullfrog  
Just sittin' on a log

I spied with glasses turtles  
Huddled in the sand  
Getting warm in the sunshine  
While viewing their watery land

And then I came to beavers  
Oh what a dam they build  
At a narrow spot in the water  
With sticks and mud they did fill

All the while my eyes were gazing  
At flowers all gone wild  
Some were almost everyday  
Some I had not seen since a child

Now listen to old gooser  
Patrolling his domain  
Watching all that comes around  
To most he just complains

At times you hear a new one  
A sound that's strange to do  
They say it is a Bittern  
That's looking for love like you.

I guess I'm really thankful  
For just this sort of thing  
To all those out there living  
That crawl and bloom and sing

I don't know why I watch them  
Why they intrigue me so  
I love to watch them fly around  
For the things I learn to know

They peck and scratch most everywhere  
I love to give them seeds  
It lets me see them closer up  
And helps to fill their needs

Lately we've seen a hummingbird  
They eat with just their tongues  
We made and put out some special  
food  
And watched them come get some

It's fun to watch the Nuthatches  
They're always upside down  
Whether going for seeds or bit of fat  
To me they are the clowns

They each seem to have their very own  
style  
It makes them who they be  
One apart from all the rest  
It's something fun to see

They come in sizes from big to small  
With rainbow color schemes  
It would sure be nice to fly with them  
But for that I'll have to dream

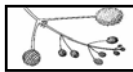
I find it such a peaceful trail  
A bog of great delight  
I cannot wait what more I'll see  
To walk most every night

Editor: Kevin Boswell and his family live on the Quincy Bog Road and "walk most every night".

### Our Trail by Bob Bulkeley

Five years ago, when my daughter who had used the Quincy Bog frequently with Camp Onaway gave me my first look, she explained that beavers had closed the lower part of the trail and we would likely have to turn around rather than complete the trail circuit. Beavers define the bog and the work it takes to keep the trail passable. When Betty Jo Taffe turned the job of trail work over to me, I thought it would be a relatively easy task. Record rains this year have magnified the difficulty of trail maintenance. With volunteers from the Becket School in Rumney, the series of dams at the lower end of the bog were opened (and reopened) to lower the bog level so the footpath would be dry. Trail workers delighted in seeing osprey, moose, and the angry tail-slapping beavers soon after dawn or before dusk. Some temporary bog bridges were put in on the southern section and

(Continued on page 4)



## Bog Volunteers 2005

by Pat Barker

Summer of 2005 was this Volunteer Chairman's dream. Nine former faithful Friends of the Bog and seven new docents made up a very dedicated group. This year I didn't have to worry if, on any given day, the Nature Center was open; it was!

I am so grateful to all these willing Bog Ladies and Bog Gentlemen. It was such fun to read their notes each week about the animals, birds, flowers and people they observed while on duty. Amy and Sam Dixon recorded seeing a flock of cedar waxwings feeding along the trail and a little later at 3:00 our "pet" moose appeared. Both Sally and her mother Ila Keniston, and Charlotte Smith, enjoyed watching Friend Moose feeding on the yellow pond lilies from a vantage point on the lodge deck. Leonard Sawyer was the first to comment on the family of geese being raised out on the causeway. These adorable fluff balls transformed into full-sized geese in July and August. A lady partridge raised a family out front, too. Two great blue heron were sighted so often that they became almost tame, delighting volunteers and visitors. The racket the frogs made and the basking turtles were often reported too.

Thank you Faith Mattison from Hanover, Dave Sattelle from Hebron, and Amy and Sam Dixon from Ashland; we appreciate your traveling so far. And thanks to Jan Serfass and Anna Wilken who filled in. Jean Ray, Leonard Sawyer, Sally and Ila Keniston, Jackie and Ray Carreaux (two times a week!), Dina Brodis and our ever loyal founding member, Ann Kent; what would we do without you folks?! Newcomers: "Walt" Mayshark, David Settele, the Dixons, Jane Timson, Keren Hepworth and Charlotte Smith all became involved in Quincy Bog. At the Wrap-up Party volunteers (old and new) had great ideas for next year. In fact, Quincy Bog Secretary, Betty Jo Taffe, who hosted the Party, gathered all the suggestions together and presented them to the Bog Directors.

Lastly I want to thank newcomer, Phil Carr. Besides being our Friday Morning Volunteer, he made himself available when other Volunteers had to miss a date. He also did trail cleanup after the storms last summer, and managed with aplomb when a group of 23 wildly enthusiastic children and adults from The Mad River Learning Center arrived at 11:00 and stayed for most of the afternoon. Thanks to Phil, Jane, Dave, and Jackie who returned in September to keep the Nature Center open on weekends, and to Phil and Jane who greeted lots of visitors walking the trails for six days in October.

To all Quincy Bog Ladies and gentlemen, thanks. I hope you had fun and will return in 2006!

*(Continued from page 1, Thomson)*

Hampshire Society of American Foresters. A New Hampshire forest landowner can become a certified tree farmer if you have 10 or more forested acres that you are committed to manage as a sustainable forest. If you think you may be interested, my first suggestion is to contact a New Hampshire professional forester who can help you prepare a forest management plan, which becomes the road map for your forest. This is the most important step to becoming a certified tree farmer. This will be a cost to you, but this plan has many lasting benefits, such as: knowing what type of timber your forest has; establishing boundary lines and access points for potential timber harvest; creation or enhancement of wildlife habitat, and possible locations of recreational trails. If your forest land is under the tree farm program you automatically get the reduced assessment under the NH Current Use Program which is the "With Stewardship" category.

There are also some cost shared programs that will help pay some of the cost for a forest stewardship plan. For information, contact your County Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) or Cooperative Extension Service.

Once you become a Tree Farmer and your forestland is certified under the American Tree Farm System your forest plan will need to be re-inspected every 5 years at no cost to you, thanks to the many volunteer inspecting foresters who give of their time to the Tree Farm program.

Membership to the American Tree Farm program is free and all new members receive one free complementary issue every year, to their bi-monthly magazine, "Tree Farmer, The Practical Guide to Sustainable Forestry", along with a tree farm sign for your newly certified forest.

Tree Farming for me means; a family working together on the land, maintaining it as a working sustainable forest which has a positive impact on our society as a whole and is passed on to the next generation. This is what creates a Forest Legacy.

So, the next time you drive past one of those green and white diamond shaped signs, think about what's behind "the sign of good forestry"; New Hampshire is a better place because of it. For more information, visit the national website, [www.treefarmssystem.org](http://www.treefarmssystem.org), and the New Hampshire Tree Farm website at <http://ceinfo.unh.edu>.

*Editor: The Thomson Family Tree Farm has won many state and national awards. Tom has served the American Tree Farm System in many capacities. He and his wife Sheila are long-time Friends of the Bog.*

## Reflections on Quincy Bog

by Phillip Carr, Bog Volunteer

The season having ended I'll take a few moments to look back and consider a few observations and experiences I had during that period.

The first thing that comes to mind after 40 years of hiking trails in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont and 14 years of trail construction and restoration of Bear Brook State Park in Allentown, is the excellent condition of Quincy Bog's trail system. This can only be due to a very high degree of skill and diligence in maintenance.

Which brings me to the thing that for me, as a first year volunteer host, stands out above all else, the genuine and deep affection that volunteers and visitors alike have for Quincy Bog. Visitors from N. H. as well as other States and even countries told me how much they appreciate the opportunity to experience the Bog's many varieties of wildlife and plant life in the context of an enjoyable hike on a well-maintained trail system. Nearly all who came in to the lodge had interesting questions to ask and favorable comments to make.

Many of the first-time visitors said that they did not know of the Bog until told by a friend or relative or, in some cases, were fortunate enough to see the sign on Quincy Road. It would seem, on the basis of these comments, that it would be helpful to upgrade the quality and placement of our signs, so they can be seen more easily. Several years ago I drove in, missed the sign on the left and ended up at the lower kiosk. Thinking that was all there was, I left and didn't try again until I read Pat Barker's appeal for volunteers in the paper.

The Bog, to me is an example of nature in a perfect or near perfect setting and balance with everything in it connected in some way to everything else. For example, if we had an over-population of beaver, or any other species, it would be out of balance. If we had no representation of any of these species, it would

still be out of balance. Thankfully, neither of these scenarios seems to be the fact.

Finally, the volunteers, and especially the early founders, who had the foresight and vision to establish and then preserve Quincy Bog deserve more credit and acclamation than they will ever, perhaps, receive.

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*(Continued from page 2, Bulkeley)*

by the inlet. Removal of spring blowdowns and clipping back new growth might have sufficed had the beavers and their cousins the otters not been so adventuresome. Otters dig holes in the banks and even under the trail and the beavers started to dam the upper inlets to flood the western and northern parts of the trail. The boardwalk by the nature center was a major casualty as two small dams created a pond, very useful for birds and other habitat but one that floated the boardwalk.

During the summer, rains stopped for a while and occasional work kept the main dam open and the rest of the trail largely dry. A large beech fell by the spring and it is being used to create some benches, including one at the end of the point. Some new signs are making the system a little bit more intelligible to the uninitiated.

This fall a work crew of board members Bob Bulkeley, Widge Kent, Nory Parr, Tom Smith, John Sobetzer, Bill and Betty Jo Taffe and volunteers Ouisie Bulkeley, Ann Haartz and Philip Carr elevated and rebuilt the boardwalk by the nature center. The generous donation of many hemlock 6 x 6 timbers by Joe Robertie of Precision Lumber in Wentworth made this possible. The existing planking was set to the side and cribbing was put in place to elevate the walkway about 9" above the flood stage. The otters had dug out the earth to create a massive waterway up to 18" under the old boardwalk, rendering useless the existing foundation. It took the ten volunteers about three hours to build the cribbing and reset the walkway. Each piece of cribbing and the walkway itself are secured with 10" and 12" spikes. If it floats now, it will do so intact!

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