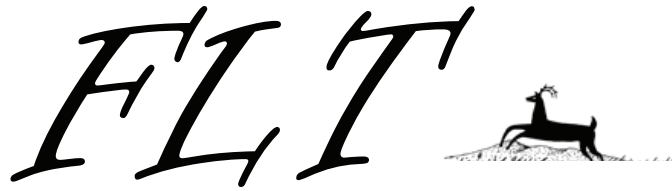


Notes from



The Newsletter of the Francestown Land Trust, Inc. Spring 2009

OUR ROLE IN COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE¹

The poster children of climate change, both victims and culprits—polar bears, glaciers, smokestacks, 10-lane highways, for example— may make the problems seem remote from our picturesque part of the earth. But make no mistake, climate change and its perpetrators are here and now:

- Among the major carbon emission generating areas in the world, the Northeast (New England plus NY, NJ and PA) is the 7th largest, ahead of Canada, United Kingdom, France, Ukraine, etc. (You can get estimates of your personal 'carbon footprint' by checking out websites such as nature.org/initiatives/climatechange/calculator, epa.gov/climatechange or climatecrisis.net.)
- Measurable climate change has already occurred and is accelerating in pace. For example: Since 1900 the average annual temperature in the Northeast has increased 0.14 degrees per decade. This 100 year average masks the fact that since the 1970's the average temperature has increased 0.5 degrees per decade while the average winter temperature has increased 1.31 degrees per decade over the same period of time.

This article will draw attention to some of the impacts that correlate with temperature increases and the important role that the Francestown Land Trust (FLT) and its members have to play as monitors, protectors and stewards of lands, practitioners of sustainable forestry, educators, advocates and local



Hemlocks which help to keep waters cool year-round line Collins Brook where Professor Barry Wicklow sampled macro-invertebrates on a Saturday late last November. Monitoring base-line conditions is important to tracking the impacts of climate change.

leaders.

As temperatures have risen, scientists have documented other changes occurring simultaneously in the Northeast such as: an increase in winter precipitation as well as a shift from snow to rain; changes in the timing and thickness of stream bed and lake ice; an increase in the frequency and severity of storms; an increase in the number of days over

(Continued on page 7)

*1. Information in this article by Abigail Arnold is taken primarily from "Confronting Climate Change in the US Northeast: Science, Impacts and Solutions, 2007" and "Climate Change in the US Northeast, 2006". The insert "NH: Confronting Climate Change" (a state summary of the 2007 report) was reprinted in black and white with the permission of the Union of Concerned Scientists, 2 Brattle Sq., Cambridge, MA 02238, (617) 547-5552. These documents are available at www.climatechoices.com. See also "Letting Carbon Take Root" by John Aber and Will Abbott in the 2008 Fall issue of *Forestry Notes* at sphnf.org/pdf/fn20083.pdf, the NH Climate Action Plan which was released in March, 2009 and the State's water management plan at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/wrpp/primer.htm>. It is available at <http://des.nh.gov>. Will Abbott also recommends www.pewclimate.org and www.ipcc.ch.*

A Letter from the Chair

Dear Friend of FLT,

I have been wondering. Do the animals know we are in the midst of a recession? Are there fewer acorns? Have their travel budgets been cut?

I think this recession has forced many of us to reconsider why some of our core values exist. I also think a secondary consequence of a recession is the requirement for one to reevaluate much of what they do and better understand why they have placed value on particular aspects of our lives.

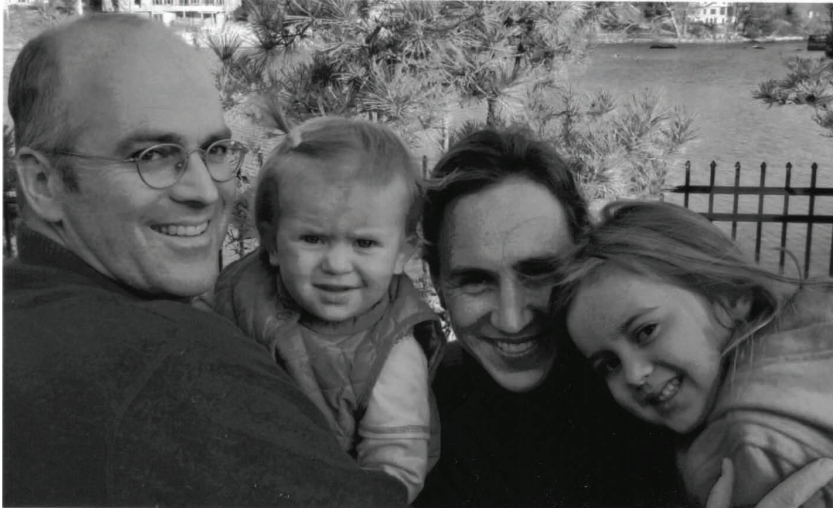
In some respect, when the economy is strong organizations do not have to be as diligent and focused on their work. However, in times such as these, being focused by design is a true strength. The Francestown Land Trust is one such example. It is small in size and local by design. As is usually the case, an organization's strengths are also its weaknesses and one FLT weakness is that the group we draw upon for support is also small.

But FLT truly embodies the age old adage of thinking globally and acting locally. We have worked to be a more focused local land trust committed to protecting land in this strong community. We in turn are helping to address the urgent issue of climate change, the ever demanding concerns about water quality and the open space needs for habitat.

At times I think we tend to forget how valuable the land we protect has become to Francestown and neighboring towns. We become overwhelmed with all the news in the world and loose sight of how wonderful our resources are. I was reminded of this when making a purchase recently. In speaking with the sales person he asked me where I lived. The person not only knew where Francestown was but he is a frequent visitor. He informed me that along with a few friends, he comes to FLT's Rand Brook Forest every fall to hunt. He spoke of how wonderful the forest is and I shared with him more of the specifics of the land.

The need to protect land for habitat, open space and protection against climate change does not lessen with the economic downturn. I do not think the animals know that we are in the midst of a recession. But we continue to need your support and appreciate your help at whatever level you are capable of. Remember it is not just FLT that is grateful for your support but also the animals whose habitat we strive to protect.

Dennis P. Caleuto



ALERT!

If you are one of the many landowners who has been planning to place a conservation easement on your land, now is the time to act. Present times may be economically uncertain but the current treatment of charitable tax deductions for donations of land or easements allows the donor to spread the deduction over a period of **16 years**. The annual deduction is limited to 50% of income. Without further congressional action, in 2010 the allowance for donations will revert to a deduction limit of 35% of income over a period of just 6 years. Contact us for more information.

Wild Times: Fun Family Outings With FLT

Summer Adventures with Carol Lunan Dinsmore Brook Conservation Area Sunday, July 19th, 10 AM—Noon

This coming July
It's off to the high
Cliffs o'er Dinsmore's
Rough, rugged shores.

Behind condos and greens
A woods road can be seen
Here we'll make our start
And from our cars depart.

Then help our pied piper
Decode nature's cipher.
Keep your eyes open
For bears we are hopin'.

So this summer do come
Find an ancient black gum
On the 19th, jump up, arise!
It'll be fun, with lots of surprises.

Join Carol Lunan who is known throughout the area as a woods wizard and is skilled at opening our senses to the world's wonders. Explore nature's secrets and hidden treasures. Discover the attractions of the Dinsmore Brook Conservation Area. Call 547-8895 or 547-3719 to register. This is a family event - children are to be accompanied by an adult. (Rain date: July 26th).



Left: Peter and Quincy Ryan explore Dinsmore Brook cliff; Above: Franklin Pierce Professor and archaeologist Robert Goodby; Above right: Outdoor sculpture created during a Mark Ragonese residency school program.

2-Part Joan Hanchett Nature Program Merges Art, Power of Group Effort and Native American History and Culture



Children and their families are invited to join master woodworker and multi-media artist Mark Ragonese on Saturday, July 25th to create a visual story related to one of the Library's summer themes: the importance today of the type of group effort that was also so important to Native American culture. Watch the bulletin boards and Francestown News for more details on time and location. You may also want to check out Mark's website at markragonese.com.

Then on Friday, October 16th at 7 PM at the Old Meeting House join professor and noted archaeologist Robert Goodby for a slide presentation on Native Americans who have lived in New England since the last ice age. Goodby has been working on an archaeological inventory of sites in the Monadnock area with intensive study along the Ashuelot River in Swanzey and Hinsdale. The presentation is recommended for middle-schoolers through adults. However, it is a highly visual talk and may be appropriate for some younger children.

The Joan Hanchett Nature series is a collaboration of FLT, the FCC and the Francestown Library. These particular programs will be underwritten by the Francestown News and the NH Humanities Council.

FLT FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVES

FLT is in the process of changing the way in which it values its fee-owned land holdings to reflect that some of the acreage has been encumbered with conservation easements held by other conservation organizations. While the acreage has present or future underlying timber and open space value, should FLT need to dispose of the land, it expects the property would be transferred to another non-profit at no charge. Each such property will have a nominal value of \$1.00. Other lands owned by FLT will be valued at historical cost. Conservation easements held by FLT continue to be valued at \$0. To make clear the impact of these accounting changes, we are providing you with the Preliminary Statement of Financial Position before and after the change. No restatement of the Preliminary Operating/Project Income and Expense Statement for the year is necessary.

Balance Sheet 12/31/08 (Preliminary)

Before Valuation Change		After Valuation Change	
<u>Assets</u>		<u>Assets</u>	
Un-restricted Funds	8,362	Un-restricted Funds	8,362
Stewardship Funds	116,641	Stewardship Funds	116,641
Other Designated Funds	<u>18,704</u>	Other Designated Funds	<u>18,704</u>
Total Cash/Investments	143,707	Total Cash/Investments	143,707
Grant Receivable	750	Grant Receivable	750
Real Estate	1,078,959	Real Estate	342,900
Total Assets	<u><u>1,223,416</u></u>	Total Assets	<u><u>487,357</u></u>
<u>Liabilities & Net Assets</u>		<u>Liabilities & Net Assets</u>	
Liabilities	0	Liabilities	0
Net Assets	1,223,416	Net Assets	487,357
Total Liab. & Net Assets	<u><u>1,223,416</u></u>	Total Liab & Net Assets	<u><u>487,357</u></u>

Operating and Project Income & Expense FY Ended 12/31/2008

<u>Income¹</u>	
Project Income	
Russell Foundation	101,500
Landowner Incentive Program ²	100,000
Private Contributions ²	<u>20,000</u>
Total Project	221,500
Annual Fund/Undesignated	16,416
Forgiveness of Loan	5,000
Designated	2,650
Member Dues	2,150
Francetown News/JH Series	1,000
Misc. Income	10
Total Operating Income	<u><u>248,726</u></u>

2008 Supporters of FLT (continued. from page 5)

Robert Seamans	David Taylor and Susie Sargent
Toby Seamans	Karen and Dan Taylor
David Sears	Skip and Peggy Tenney
Kay and Don Severance	Bob and Lorraine Terry
Jacqueline Smethurst and David Drinkwater	O. Alan Thulander
Pat Soucy	Sara Timmons
Paul Spivak	Lana and Roger Trancik
Jennifer Staub	Marcia Tripp
Jo and Rob Staub	Clara Turner
John and Catherine Steiger	Connie and Harry Varnum
Pat Swan	Tom and Alice Welden
Ben and Kate Taylor	Candace and Richard Wharton
	Barry and Lois Wicklow

2008 Francetown Land Trust Board of Directors

Dennis Calcutt, Chairman	dcalcutt@comcast.net
Greg Neilley, Vice-chairman	neilley@comcast.net
Herb Bromberg, Secretary	herros@tiac.net
Abigail Arnold, Treasurer	abigail03043@hotmail.com
Gerri Bernstein, Outreach	gerribernstein@msn.com
Ray James, Easement Steward	rmjames8808@yahoo.com
Ben Haubrich, Land Manager	bph03043@netzero.com
Barry Wicklow, PhD, Biologist	bjwicklow@aol.com

<u>Expense</u>	
Project Expense	
Easements	102,082
Nat. Resource Invent.	220
Education/Communication ³	3,265
Land Maintenance	
Insurance	1,564
Property Taxes	1,200
General Management	
Insurance	1,283
Postage	486
Accounting	480
Dues and fees	350
Annual fund letter	100
Misc. expense	120
Total Expense	<u><u>111,095</u></u>

Net Operating Income **137,631**

Footnotes:

1. Excludes income to restricted funds.
2. Funding for purchases made in 2006.
3. Includes cost of JH Nature Series and support of environmental education at the Francetown Elementary School.

Thank You to the 2008 Supporters of the Francestown Land Trust

Anonymous
 Len and Meredith Allen
 Elizabeth and Brewster Ames
 Larry Ames
 Abigail and Frances Arnold
 Hannah Arnold
 John Arnold
 Tom Badgley
 Judith Badot and Ron Cheney
 Carol Barr
 Robin and Kirsten Barwood
 John and Merrill Beauchamp
 Bob Beausoleil
 Elizabeth Behrsing
 Paula Bellemore
 Gerri Bernstein
 Mary Berube
 Peter Bixby & Francelle Carapetyan
 David and Bambi Bodnar
 Martine and Charles Bohnsack
 Jocelyn and Jim Bolle
 Lynne and Arthur Boroff
 Charles Boswell
 Rosa and Herb Bromberg
 Neal and Agneta Brown
 John Buckley
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 Kathy Byrne and Vic Hyman
 Meade Cadot
 Dennis and Tiffany Calcutt
 Marilyn Campbell and Laura Studen
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 Louise and Robert Corrette
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 Martha and Henry Cruciani
 Joan Davis
 Lee and Leslie Davis
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 Frank Deland
 Katherine and Edward DiPietro
 Patricia and George Edmonds
 Eric Grenier Carpentry
 Ann and Bill Forbush

Francestown News
 Polly Freese
 Mary Alice Fullerton
 Francois Gauthier and Leigh Robinson
 Thomas Gilroy
 Sandra Giza
 Nancy and Herb Gleason
 Denise Glover
 Ted Graham
 Steve and Jan Griffin
 Sheryl Guteryl
 Jim Hamilton
 Nancy and Bart Hanlon
 Helene Harbage
 Betsy Hardwick and Jeff Tarr
 Ben and Robin Haubrich
 Lawrence Hawkins
 Scot Heath
 Jan Hicks
 Ellen Hill
 Isabella Britain Hill
 Tom Hoey
 Sirkka and Tai Holm
 Hall Hoover
 Ken and Cecily Houston
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 Pam Hurley
 Carol and Phil Ireland
 Caroline and Norm Jacobs
 Ray James
 Jerry Johns
 Pat Johnson
 Helen Johnston
 David and Sue Jonas
 Frank and Betty Jones
 Marla Jones and Mark Holding
 Marion and John Kay
 Peter Kostecki
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 Barbara and Larry Laber
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 Elizabeth and Ralph Lavallee
 Jane and Paul Lawrence
 Jessica Lawrence
 Vicki and Richard Leandri
 Barbara Levis
 Matt and Janet Lewis
 Linda, Bob and Ilsa Lindgren
 Silas Little and Theresa Kirouac-Little
 Mary Frances Livingston

Paul Livingston
 Tom and Sandi Lowery
 John and Sorrell MacKay
 Lori and Stanley Markowitz
 Bill McAuley
 Marianne McDaniel
 Don and Martha McGinley
 Bill McNeil
 Pat Meyers and Carolyn Sheehan
 Jim and Maureen Mellowes
 Elsie Mikula
 Edith and Peter Milton
 Ann Montgomery
 Elizabeth Montgomery
 James and Susan Morash
 Harry Murray

Nation Ames Family
 In loving memory of
 Adam Nation-Ames

Bill and Peggy Nawrocki
 Greg and Ellen Neilley
 Diane and Neil Noonan
 Gloria Normille
 Jim Norton
 Sue and Joe Novak
 Ken and Cheryl Paradis
 Graham and Pam Pendlebury
 Sheldon and Penelope Pennoyer
 Ann and Robert Perry
 Tom Peters and Family
 Jennifer and William Peterson
 Piscataquog Area Trailways
 Mark and Shirley Pitman
 Pat Place
 Todd and Denise Place
 Charles and Janette Priest
 Hannah Proctor
 Susan Ricci/ Carolyn Woodbury
 Brooks and Nancy Rice
 Cathy Roehrig
 Debby and Chris Rogers
 Tracy and Bub Rokes
 Gordon and Barbara Russell
 Russell Foundation
 George Sanderson
 Natalie Sanderson
 Larry and Diane Savage
 William and Ruth Schmitz and
 Linda Lindgren
 Donald Seamans

(Continued on page 4)

An Oriole Spring

Meredeth J. Allen

Photo by Len Allen

My love affair with the Baltimore Oriole began with a bang! In June of 1971, our family moved into an old stone house that had been vacant for several years. The day that we moved in, our daughters rushed up to the third floor to choose their bedrooms. We looked out of a window and straight into the branches of a large maple tree. Suddenly a flash of blindingly bright orange appeared. We watched as a male Baltimore Oriole, his blue-black beak stuffed with wriggling green inchworms, landed on the edge of an intricately woven sack. Instantly, four fuzzy heads popped up, bright yellow beaks agape. Tended by two diligent parents, we saw the babies feather out and grow astonishingly quickly. Unfortunately, however, none of us was around the day they fledged. One day their hanging cradle was empty. And thirty-seven years slipped by before I was able to observe those beautiful birds as closely.



For those of you who may not recognize these birds, they are medium-sized songbirds, nearly 9 inches long. The male is a flashy fellow with a black head, shoulders, and black wings with prominent white wing-bars. The rest of his body and most of his tail is an incredibly bright, rich orange. Every year the males arrive in our yard during the first week in May. I hear them first. The song is one of the more easily recognized, yet it is difficult to describe. He sings very loudly, almost piercingly, a series of clear, rich whistles. Each bird arranges these lovely notes in his own pattern. So, although no two songs sound the same, each song sounds distinctly Oriole-ish. One looks up with a smile of satisfaction and thinks, "They're back!"

Like many migrating birds, the male arrives early to establish his territory, to find the very best drooping limb in the very best tall tree. (Fortunately for us, these birds are comfortable nesting close to human habitation.) Soon the far drabber female arrives. Her coloring is much more subdued, the orange and black being replaced by soft greenish yellow and brown. I have read that the male courts his future mate with deep bows, fanning out his tail and slightly lifting his wings. When it is time, the female is responsible for weaving her strong yet delicate nest, sometimes accepting her mate's contributions of plant fiber, pieces of grape vine, discovered bits of string. Upon completion of the outer structure, its interior is then lined with soft things...fine grasses, animal hair and the like. The average clutch is four pale grayish or bluish eggs, liberally splotched and squiggled with dark brown. Nearly a month passes from the laying of the last egg 'til the moment the last baby has found the courage to launch himself from his suspended cradle. During this time, both parents are busy stuffing the little ones with spiders, caterpillars, insects and occasionally tiny spring buds. Even after fledging, there is still no rest for the weary parents. On a sunny June morning in 2004, I watched with sympathy as four squawking adolescents pursued their frazzled father through the tree tops.

One of the many delights of moving to New Hampshire was experiencing spring in a new state. Which birds would be placed on my new "yard list?" Welcoming old avian friends and discovering new ones was so exciting. That May I heard the familiar Oriole song and hoped so much that a pair would nest nearby. They did because Orioles have returned every year. But no matter how hard I've tried, I never found an active nest. There were always so many tender new leaves in the treetops. Yet three years ago, when most of the old leaves had fallen from our gigantic Elm, a friend pointed to an Oriole's nest in that tree. There it was. In plain sight! Obviously the spring foliage provides superb camouflage.

I'd read that the birds love oranges and will drink nectar from orange oriole feeders. For years they ignored the feeder and the fresh fruit that I wistfully wedged in nearby trees. Then on May 12, 2006, I saw a female oriole hunching herself into an awkward position that allowed her to sip from one of

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

my hummingbird feeders! Although I never saw this behavior again, it encouraged me to set out fruit the following spring. That year, a pair sipped from both the oriole feeder and from fresh oranges I provided.

In May of 2008, I hit pay dirt! The very first day that I heard the familiar whistle, I saw not one but four male orioles in a nearby willow tree! I rushed back to the house to look for a spot near the cluster of birdfeeders hanging close to the kitchen window. When I found the perfect place, I quickly hammered in six nails and forced orange halves onto them. To my utter astonishment, the orioles located this new cafeteria almost immediately. On several occasions, my oranges hosted FIVE brilliant male birds. There they perched, not at all bothered by testosterone as long as there were enough juicy oranges to go around. The next two weeks were deliriously happy ones for a bird lover. I could see every detail of their shining plumage, watch their glistening eyes as they dipped those pointed beaks into juicy fruits. And then one day they vanished. I had braced for this, knowing that juice gorging was a spring affair. But I spent the summer wondering how many of those gay bachelors chose to nest on our property. I saw them flying overhead fairly frequently, although they no longer felt it necessary to sing that liquid aria. The last look at orioles was recorded in my bird journal on 8/23: "Many young orioles dash madly around in the Lamp Garden."

I sit here, idly turning the Oriole's nest in my hands. After being buffeted by three New Hampshire winters, it was unable to resist December's massive ice storm. In a few short weeks, Orioles will be returning. Will there be a solitary male or will he come with companions? And I wonder again how so much beauty can be contained in a mere 1 and 1/2 ounces.

(Continued from page 1) Climate Change

90 degrees as well as more frequent short term droughts. These in turn increase erosion, flooding and water quality problems for animals and humans alike; reduce groundwater recharge; allow the influx of warmer weather species, disease and pests that stress our native populations; and negatively impact not only the viability of many of our cold-weather trees, such as conifers and sugar maple but also the health of all of us.

Further change is unavoidable but we still have the

ability to significantly influence how extreme the impacts will be. Scientists estimate that if carbon emissions continue to increase we can anticipate that temperatures will increase between 6.5 and 12 degrees per decade. However, if we can lower our emissions, the estimate is that we may be able to cut that increase in half - and, with it, reduce many of the other negative effects on New Hampshire's climate, culture and economy.

The most cost effective ways to reduce our use of fossil fuels are to conserve through measures such as weatherizing homes or driving less in more efficient cars and to make effective use of our existing resources, notably our forests. The Society for Protection of NH Forests reported last fall that our trees are absorbing over 25% of the 21.2 million tons (16.3 tons per person) of man-made carbon dioxide that we emit each year. If we resist the temptation to over-cut our forests for non-renewable, non-forestry uses such as development, and instead manage our forests in a sustainable way, our trees can provide a net 'clean' source of energy. At the same time they will continue to keep our waters cool and clean, minimize soil erosion and flooding, sustain habitat for animals and provide recreational opportunities and the scenic backdrop that we enjoy.

In this context the FLT, along with the town and the other conservation organizations that are active here, has a number of important leadership roles, including:

- Providing models of sustainable forestry and encouraging other landowners to follow suit.
- Reassessing the adequacy of our targets for conservation land acreage and proceeding accordingly in a timely fashion.
- Creating baseline data of key climate and habitat indicators and monitoring changes over time.
- Managing habitat where possible to support species that are most vulnerable to climate change.
- Providing educational speakers and information for the general public about climate change, such as this issue's insert "NH: Confronting Climate Change".
- Developing model ordinances and other measures that will recognize the importance of forests in combating climate change.

Only with timely and broad response will we be able to moderate the rate of climate change and sustain an acceptable quality of life from the polar regions to the Monadnock region. Let's do it!



*Fracestown Land Trust, Inc.
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Fracestown, NH 03043*

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***SPECIAL INSERT:
CONFRONTING CLIMATE CHANGE
IN NEW HAMPSHIRE***

**Tom Tynning To Speak at Annual Meeting
Sunday, June 14th 12:15 PM
Fracestown Old Meeting House**

Do your children or grand children know more about vernal pool occupants and bio-diversity than you do? Here's your chance to catch up. Vernal pools and spring amphibians will be the topic of keynote speaker, Tom Tynning, at FLT's annual meeting June 14th. Tynning is a naturalist, Professor of Environmental Science at Berkshire Community College and writer whose works include the 1990 "A Guide to Amphibians and Reptiles" for the Stokes Nature Guide series. After the slide presentation, we will travel to a local vernal pool where Tom will help us put our new knowledge to work. Rain or shine, come dressed for short, easy walk.



Grey tree frog by Barry Wicklow

Discover our Past: Hike our Class VI Roads

On Saturday, September 26th FLT and the Conservation Commission will take the first of a series of hikes for adults and interested teens that will explore our abandoned roads and their history. Discover places like "Lost Village", what's left of once-haunted houses, signs of nineteenth century life such as animal runs, wells and mill foundations. Apply the forensic skills you learned from Tom Wessels at last year's Annual Meeting to identify past land uses. Find signs of the animals who also use these old corridors.

The first hike will explore the Campbell Hill/Bullard Hill area. Meet at the horse sheds in the center of town at 9 AM. Bring water and dress for 2-4 hour hike—time depending on group pace. Please leave your dogs at home. For more information, contact Ben Haubrich at 547-2075 or Betsy Hardwick at 547-8773. If you would like to help with advance historical research please contact Abigail Arnold at 547-6806.