

# Views *from* Mount Grace

Volume 18, No. 2 • Summer 2007

C O N S E R V I N G   T H E   L O C A L   L A N D S C A P E <sup>TM</sup>



## Captain's Farm

BY DAVID KOTKER

**Captain's Farm**, situated on about ninety acres in northern Winchendon, has been continuously farmed for well over a century. Built in 1774, the farm is named for Captain Ephraim Murdock, who purchased it in 1856. Joseph N. White bought the property in 1891, adding it to his Marchmont Estate which extended east to Winchendon Springs. The property has remained in the White family for four generations, and is used currently for agriculture by the adjacent Murdock Dairy Farm.

Shirley White maintained the property after her husband Joseph N. White III died in 1986. Shirley, a supporter of Mount Grace, turned to the Trust for assistance in sustaining the farm's traditions. Living at Captain's Farm from 1959 until May 2006, Shirley saw firsthand the accelerating loss of open space along Elmwood Road as Winchendon's population expanded rapidly. In spite of lucrative offers for land development, Joe and Shirley White had carefully considered their options and chose to protect the family land. With Shirley's passing in May of 2006, the Estate Executors, Joseph N. White IV and his brother Eric, the last generation of Whites to have lived on Captain's Farm, worked closely with Mount Grace to fulfill their family's desired outcome for the property. "It was my father's wish, so stated in his will in 1986, to continue the family's legacy of preserving open space," said Eric White at a recent meeting of the Winchendon Select Board. "His widow, Shirley White, honored his wish for the past

*(continued on page 3)*



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Winchendon

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• Upcoming Events





## Dear Friends,

Mount Grace's new hiking guide, *Twenty Years, Twenty Hikes* will take you to some of the beautiful places we've helped to conserve over the years, including six conservation areas owned and managed by Mount Grace. Each of these six areas is available for enjoyment and exploration by all, thanks to the generosity and land stewardship ethic of caring individuals of diverse backgrounds. Read more about how Mount Grace manages the lands it owns in our second new publication, *Forest Stewardship by Mount Grace: Case Studies*. The three case studies detailed are examples of how we implement the hopes of landowners for the future of their land. (Turn to page 7 for ordering information).

These publications only hint at some of the improvements made possible by the expansion Mount Grace is undertaking with partial funding support. One and one-half years into our five-year plan, we have staffed up to twelve positions from an historic high of seven in 2005. What do all these people do, some wonder?

All of us make land projects happen! With adequate staff for each of our basic functions, we can carry out important land projects and associated tasks that were impossible while we were extremely understaffed. We now have time to document the steps to doing projects, publish useful guides, better build our foundation of members, and more strategically respond to the significant conservation opportunities and landowner requests for assistance throughout our region.

Our goal, which we need your commitment to realize, is to establish a more sustainable Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust that continues its strong traditions of protecting land and encouraging stewardship in the region for the environment, the economy, and future generations. Thank you for your support.

Very truly,

Leigh Youngblood  
Executive Director

## Views *from* Mount Grace

**Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust** protects significant natural, agricultural and scenic areas and encourages land stewardship in North Central and Western Massachusetts for the benefit of the environment, the economy and future generations.

We welcome your articles, photographs, comments and suggestions. For information about becoming a member or to request a change of address, please contact our office at:

### **Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust**

1461 Old Keene Road  
Athol, MA 01331  
978.248.2043 (tel)  
978.248.2053 (fax)  
landtrust@mountgrace.org

**Visit our web site at [www.mountgrace.org](http://www.mountgrace.org).**

### **Mount Grace Staff**

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*Conservation Project Manager*

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*Conservation Project Manager*

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Tom Wansleben  
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Jay Rasku  
*North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership Coordinator*

Pam Kimball-Smith  
*Development Director*

Nathan Rudolph  
*Director of Donor Relations*

David Kotker  
*Membership Coordinator*

Sean Pollock  
*Operations Manager*

Lisa Cormier  
*Office Manager*

### **Mount Grace Board of Directors**

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twenty years by maintaining the house and land as it had been for more than a century."

The two protected parcels, Captain's Farm and the adjacent Watson Lot on Elmwood Road, comprise 83 acres of woods and hayfields bounded by stone walls. The farm house and adjacent dairy farm have played key roles in Winchendon's agricultural history. The White property has been maintained as working farmland in conjunction with the 300 acre Murdock Farm to the south and west, and as managed forest land along with the 626 acres of the Marchmont Trust to the east. The terms of the recent Conservation Restriction (CR) allow the Girouard family, which runs Murdock Farm, to continue farming the White family's fields. The Girouards have applied to the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources for an

Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) on their own farm. The Captain's Farm CR will make it easier for the Girouards to obtain an APR for Murdock Farm since it now abuts protected land. Mount Grace is currently raising money for an appraisal of the Girouard land, a key step in qualifying for state support.

The adjoining Marchmont Trust land is also owned by the White family. It consists of several wooded parcels linked together and administered under a Chapter 61 forestry management plan. The land is also used for limited hiking, cross-country skiing and horseback riding by Winchendon residents.

The Winchendon Conservation Commission and the Winchendon Board of Selectmen have supported maintaining open space in the town.

Both Boards unanimously endorsed the Captain's Farm conservation restriction last March. Winchendon residents voted at town meeting May 22nd in favor of establishing a town agricultural commission. Together with the White family's gift, these important steps encourage the viability of farming in Winchendon.

The ultimate conservation of the three tracts of land: the Marchmont Realty Trust, the Murdock Dairy Farm and Captain's Farm as agricultural and forested land, will determine whether much of north Winchendon maintains its character as rural, open space—used for farming, forestry, wildlife habitat and recreation. The White family hopes that its decision to protect Captain's Farm will tip the balance toward awareness of the role that open space plays in the quality of life in Winchendon.

## A G G R E G A T I O N P R O J E C T

BY DAVID KOTKER

**H**istorically, owners of average sized parcels (25-50 acres) of forested land may have had difficulty finding land trusts or State agencies to fund the conservation of their land. Now, thanks to a statewide land conservation initiative called the Wildlands and Woodlands Aggregation Project, which Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust has joined, more people who want to protect their forested land may have the opportunity.

Aggregation is an innovative approach to land conservation that is built around the idea that if you identify a large enough group of landowners who are willing to conserve their land, then strategic patterns of landscape-level conservation will emerge. The Aggregation Project, being launched statewide, is the first attempt at funding Harvard Forest's Wildlands and Woodlands vision of permanently protecting 1.5 million acres in the next 30 years.

This vision includes 250,000 acres of Wildlands, protected forest and wetland ecosystems allowed to develop naturally, with minimal human impact. These areas, where there will be no logging, would be buffered by 1.25 million acres of newly protected Woodlands—public and private forests managed for

habitat health as well as wood and forest products. This land would join the million acres of land already protected in the Commonwealth to create a base of undeveloped land that can sustain ecologically sound forests over time.

To protect land on this scale, land trusts will need to look at a wider range of parcels than before. Small woodlots, which might not have been seen as priority conservation land before, become more significant when viewed as potential pieces in a statewide conservation puzzle. Wildlands and Woodlands will rely on more landowners volunteering to give or sell conservation restrictions on woodlots and working forests they continue to use.

Landowners of forest or wetland habitat who are interested in protecting land through the project are invited to consider selling Conservation Restrictions over all or some of their land for up to 75% of its independently appraised value. Compiling regional lists of interested landowners is the first step in the long term goal of bringing Massachusetts forest ecosystems back to stay. Interested landowners can call Amanda Nims at the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust (978) 248-2055 extension 21.

## Planned Giving: the McGuane Family

BY PAM KIMBALL-SMITH



Judy and Greg McGuane

**W**e wanted to benefit a local organization in Northern Worcester County whose work we believed in" stated the McGuane Family. The Board and staff of Mount Grace are very grateful to and would like to thank Greg and Judy McGuane for their extremely thoughtful planned gift of their home and 9-acre property on North Orange Road in Athol.

Greg and Judy contacted Mount Grace last November and within just a few weeks had set up a trust naming Mount Grace as the beneficiary of the charitable gift of their property. They had attended a seminar on wills at the Athol Public Library which was helpful with their estate planning. As Judy said, "Mount Grace is one of the most active land conservation organizations in Western Massachusetts. We want Mount Grace to have the benefit of the property for whatever purpose is best, whether it be for conservation as part of a larger block of protected land, providing access for hiking trails or to further Mount Grace's land protection work."

The McGuanes have lived at their home for almost 20 years where they are active stewards of the upland forest, fruit

trees and extensive gardens. Judy and Greg grew up in Gardner and Pembroke MA respectively. "When I grew up around Pembroke and Marshfield it was very different than it is today. We want to help make sure that this place stays rural and that there continues to be open space." Greg continued, "It just feels like the right thing to do."

Mount Grace's land protection work has been boosted by many planned gifts, in fact, they are some of the most significant gifts that Mount Grace has received since its inception. If you are interested in making a difference for land conservation, consider establishing a planned gift to support the work of Mount Grace. You may contact Pam Kimball-Smith, Development Director at 978-248-2055 extension 13 or [kimballsmith@mountgrace.org](mailto:kimballsmith@mountgrace.org) to discuss planned gift giving options.

### GRACE SOCIETY

People like Greg and Judy McGuane and the White family are crucial to the mission of Mount Grace. In recognition of the key role supporters play in our conservation efforts, Mount Grace will be relaunching the Grace Society this year. The Grace Society consists of individuals, families, businesses and organizations that have made significant contributions of land, conservation restrictions, money, services or a planned gift to Mount Grace. Members enjoy special recognition events and other benefits, but most importantly, members receive the satisfaction of helping to protect our beautiful and vital Massachusetts landscape forever. Grace Society recognition can be based on past contributions, or for gifts being made currently. **For more information, please contact Nathan Rudolph, Director of Donor Relations, (978) 248-2055, extension 18.**

## Grants Received

**The William P. Wharton Trust** - \$10,000 for Quabbin Corridor Forest Legacy Project  
**Southern New England Forestry Consortium** - \$2,000 for Forest Stewardship Booklet

### Unrestricted Foundation Gifts

Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts – Lila Teich Gold Charitable Fund - \$1,000

## Gifts Received

### Gifts in Honor of Barbara Corey's Birthday

More than \$1,000 was contributed by friends and relatives of our Board Member Barbara Corey in honor of her 80th birthday in March. Mount Grace congratulates Barbara, and thanks her for her many years of service to Mount Grace and the North Quabbin community.

### Memorial Giving

Gifts were received in memory of Red Winters, Kenneth Morley, and Jonathan Rudolph.

Mount Grace would like to acknowledge **Ledlie Woolsey** for her generous gift of a series of framed prints made in memory of John M. Woolsey Jr.

## Special Thanks *from Mount Grace to:*



Graham Green with some of his work.

**Wendy Lavallee** for our new conference phone.

**John O'Keefe** for leading the tour of the Fisher Museum and walk at Harvard Forest.

**The staff of the Harvard Forest and the Millers River Environmental Center** for hosting recent North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership meetings.

**Graham and Kevin Green** for building bird houses for the Skyfields arboretum.

**Carlie Gaida and Anne Cervantes** for their volunteer help in the office.

**Don Flye, Norman Flye, Celt Grant, Louie Cormier, Lisa Cormier, Joan Duprey and Dana Hessling-Goetz** for their help at the May 5 volunteer work day.

**Bruce Wilson** for serving as Mount Grace's first (and only) web master. Enjoy your retirement Bruce!

**George Norton** for the donation of legal services.

**Celt Grant** for donations of building materials to Skyfields.

**Sirius Design** for their donation of design services.

**Stone Dance Design** for working on Skyfield's' stone walls.

Outgoing board member **Dick French** for his years of service to Mount Grace. Dick left the board to become more directly involved with land protection in Gill.

# New Staff Member Profiles



**David Graham Wolf, Conservation Director,** specializes in working with non-profit organizations on strategic landscape-level conservation planning projects and with private landowners to help them protect their land with conservation easements. He joined Mount Grace in 2007. David is well versed in

taxonomy, natural history, and survey techniques. He has run a conservation consulting business and served as adjunct professor of environmental science at Franklin Pierce College. He has conducted field investigations to assess wildlife habitat, map natural communities, and inventory rare and imperiled species. David has served on his town's conservation commission, worked to establish a local conservation society, and led educational field trips for the Harris Center for Conservation Education. He has two master's degrees, one in education from the University of Massachusetts-Boston and one in conservation biology from Antioch University-New England.



**David Kotker, Membership Coordinator,** joined Mount Grace in April, 2007. He is responsible for thanking members for all their support, coordinating the newsletter, coordinating and promoting membership events and activities and managing and expanding the volunteer program. He has worked in fundraising

for non-profit environmental and conservation groups for over ten years, including four years with Greenpeace and four with the Citizens Awareness Network. He has a bachelor's degree from Columbia College.



**Lisa Cormier, Office Manager,** joined Mount Grace in 2007 after working seven years for the United Way of North Central Massachusetts. Prior to that, she worked for many years at Simplex Time Recorder Co. Lisa specializes in database management and office efficiency. She appreciates nature and exploring the

back roads of New England. She is also an artist who favors drawing in pen and ink.



**Nathan Rudolph, Director of Donor Relations,** is responsible for managing Mount Grace's communications and individual giving programs. Nathan joined Mount Grace in 2006 after working for more than 12 years in nonprofit development with the Oregon Humane Society, Bentley College, University

of Massachusetts-Amherst, Greenpeace USA, and other organizations. He holds a bachelor's degree from Oberlin College and a master's degree in public affairs from the University of Minnesota.



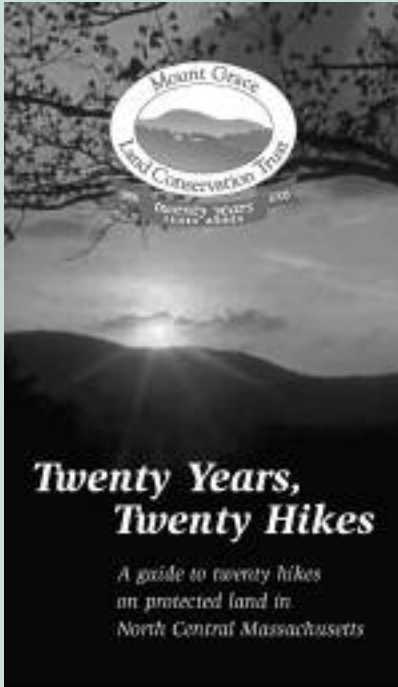
**Paul Daniello, Conservation Project Manager,** has a strong technical background and a history of working on complex environmental problems. He joined Mount Grace in 2006. Previously Paul worked for nine years as a water quality specialist with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. He has 15 years of commercial

laboratory experience as a manager and chemist overseeing analyses of organic pollutants. Paul is a life-member of Trout Unlimited and assists the Buffalo Field Campaign in its efforts to expand habitat for wild Yellowstone bison. Paul has a bachelor's degree in biology from Hofstra University and is completing a master's degree in resource management and administration at Antioch University-New England.



**Tom Wansleben, Stewardship Biologist,** specializes in avian and forest ecology. He joined Mount Grace in 2006. Tom brings a wide range of conservation-related experience to his job, including exemplary stewardship practices, wildlife population assessment techniques, forest ecosystem analysis, and habitat

management planning. He worked on conservation-related programs for a variety of organizations, including the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy. Tom has a bachelor's degree in natural science from Lyndon State College and is completing a master's degree in conservation biology at Antioch University-New England.



## Twenty Years, Twenty Hikes Trail Guide

We have compiled twenty hikes (actually nineteen hikes and one canoe trip) that highlight some of the projects we have worked on which are best suited to hiking or visiting. Selected from more than two hundred land protection projects Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust has assisted with over the years, each of the trails crosses a portion of the extensive mosaic of protected land that characterizes the local landscape of the greater North Quabbin region.

Available at [www.mountgrace.org/store.html](http://www.mountgrace.org/store.html)

## Forest Stewardship by Mount Grace: Case Study and Lessons

Mount Grace is unique among hundreds of land trusts in southern New England in that it actively manages forests on its conservation properties to help fund its programs. As such, the organization is a practical model for other land trusts that want to promote both the protection and sustainable use of forests, and to raise additional income from ecologically sustainable forestry practices. This booklet profiles forest management practices at three properties stewarded by Mount Grace.

Available in July from the Southern New England Forestry Consortium [www.snefci.org](http://www.snefci.org)

# Upcoming Summer 2007 Events

### Copper Angel Dinner Fundraiser

**The Copper Angel Restaurant, Erving**  
**199 East Main Street (Route 2A)**  
**Tuesday, June 19th**  
**3 seatings: 5:30, 7:00 and 8:30 pm**  
**\$30 per person**

Join Mount Grace at our second annual dinner at the Copper Angel. Enjoy your choice of chicken, fish, or vegetarian entrees, salad, and dessert with coffee or tea. Tax and tip included. Cash bar for soft drinks, cocktails, beer or wine. Co-sponsored by Henshaw and Haley and the Rudolph Family.

### Guiney Memorial Forest Logging Tour

**Guiney Memorial Forest, Royalston**  
**Morse Road**  
**Saturday, July 14th, 11 am - 2 pm**

Dedicated to the memory of Father John Guiney (1917-1998) and donated to Mount Grace in 1998, the Guiney Memorial Forest is an example of a Mount Grace conservation area with an active logging operation. Join Glenn Freden, Mount Grace's forester, for a guided tour of the improvement cut in this old field pine stand.

### Botany Hike

**Fern Glenn Conservation Area, Winchendon**  
**Teel Road**  
**Saturday, August 4th, 10 am - 2 pm**

Come join ecologist and fern-o-phile Elizabeth Farnsworth on this guided hike at Mount Grace's Fern Glenn. These spectacular 130 acres are managed as a conservation area by Mount Grace. Fern Glenn features gorgeous examples of two rare, contrasting natural community types: an extensive boreal swamp and a woodland on steep talus slopes with huge old sugar maples, ash trees, and red oaks. Bring a bag lunch for a picnic.



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**M O U N T G R A C E L A N D T R U S T M E M B E R S H I P F O R M**

# Think Globally, Donate Locally!™

*Please join Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust. Thanks to our members, Mount Grace is one of the most active land conservation organizations in Massachusetts, conserving 20,000 acres of the local landscape.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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**MEMBERSHIP FORM—Please check all which apply:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to renew / start my membership with a tax-deductible contribution of:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000 \_\_\_\_\_ other

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to pledge \$\_\_\_\_\_ per quarter to Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like more information on how to protect a piece of land that is special to me.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to include Mount Grace in my will or as part of my estate. Please send me more information.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities at Mount Grace.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please do not use my name in your lists of contributors.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please do not share my name with other organizations.

**Please forward to Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, 1461 Old Keene Road, Athol, MA 01331-9689. Thank you!**

**SUMMER 2007**