

surveys, purchase of easements, and monitoring. You can help by sending your tax-deductible contribution to **GLT, PO Box 135, Greensboro, VT 05841.**

Feel free to call any trustee or Advisory Committee member with questions. Our website, www.greensborolandtrust.org, provides details and photos of conserved land, along with GLT's annual financial report.

GLT Trustees

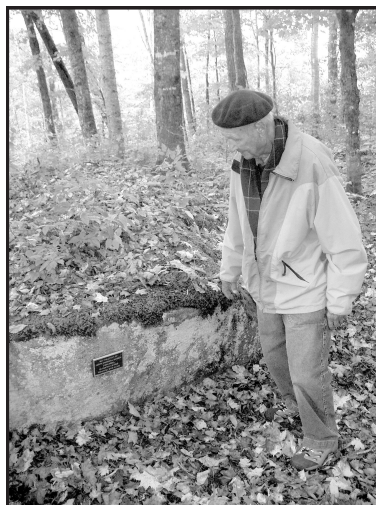
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 Rolf Muentner Jon Ramsay
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Last August, ten GLT trustees and friends toasted GLT stewardship chair Rolf Muentner (with white hat) on inauguration of the Rolf Muentner Trail (sign) at Long Pond.



In 2006, long-time Greensboro resident Andy Skinner donated \$8,000 in memory of his wife Judith to complete the GLT's Horse Pond project. Later the GLT installed a plaque honoring Judith on the St. Louis property overlooking Horse Pond. Last summer Andy came to view it.

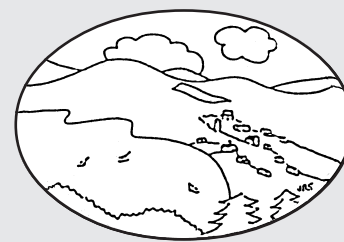


photo by Jay Ericson - © 2005 www.jayericson.com

Buckley farm, conserved by GLT, seen from Greensboro Green



Stanley Brook on McGrath property, conserved by GLT



Greensboro Land Trust Newsletter

No. 13

Visit our website at www.greensborolandtrust.org

2008

GLT Annual Meeting, Monday, July 28

All are welcome at our annual meeting, scheduled for **Monday, July 28, at 7:30 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall. Following a short GLT business meeting, Jens Hilke, Conservation Planning Biologist of the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, will give a PowerPoint presentation of digital maps of Greensboro, as well as the surrounding Northern Rivers area, covering bedrock and surficial geology, core forests, land use and wildlife habitat. Come and see the natural characteristics of our sub-region, and view the wildlife corridors that we are striving to protect. Members of the Northern Rivers Land Trust are also invited to this presentation.

GLT applies for accreditation under new L.T.A. program

In 2007 the Land Trust Alliance, the umbrella organization for the nation's 1,700 land trusts, set up an independent commission to review members' compliance with LTA Standards and Practices and accredit successful applicants. The process is akin to that long followed by educational institutions, libraries, museums, zoos and other public service agencies, to ensure that member institutions observe minimum standards of ethics and accountability.

Thirty-four land trusts from 21 states, including two from Vermont, participated in the commission's pilot round. The two Vermont land trusts were the **GLT** and the Lake Champlain Land Trust. Decisions on the 34 applications are to be announced in September. It will be interesting to see how the commission deals with a spectrum of organizations ranging from the nation-wide Nature Conservancy to little Greensboro's 100%-volunteer land trust.

Seventy-two more land trusts, including one from Vermont (Stowe) have applied for accreditation in 2008.

GLT takes Lakeview classes to Long Pond and Porter Brook

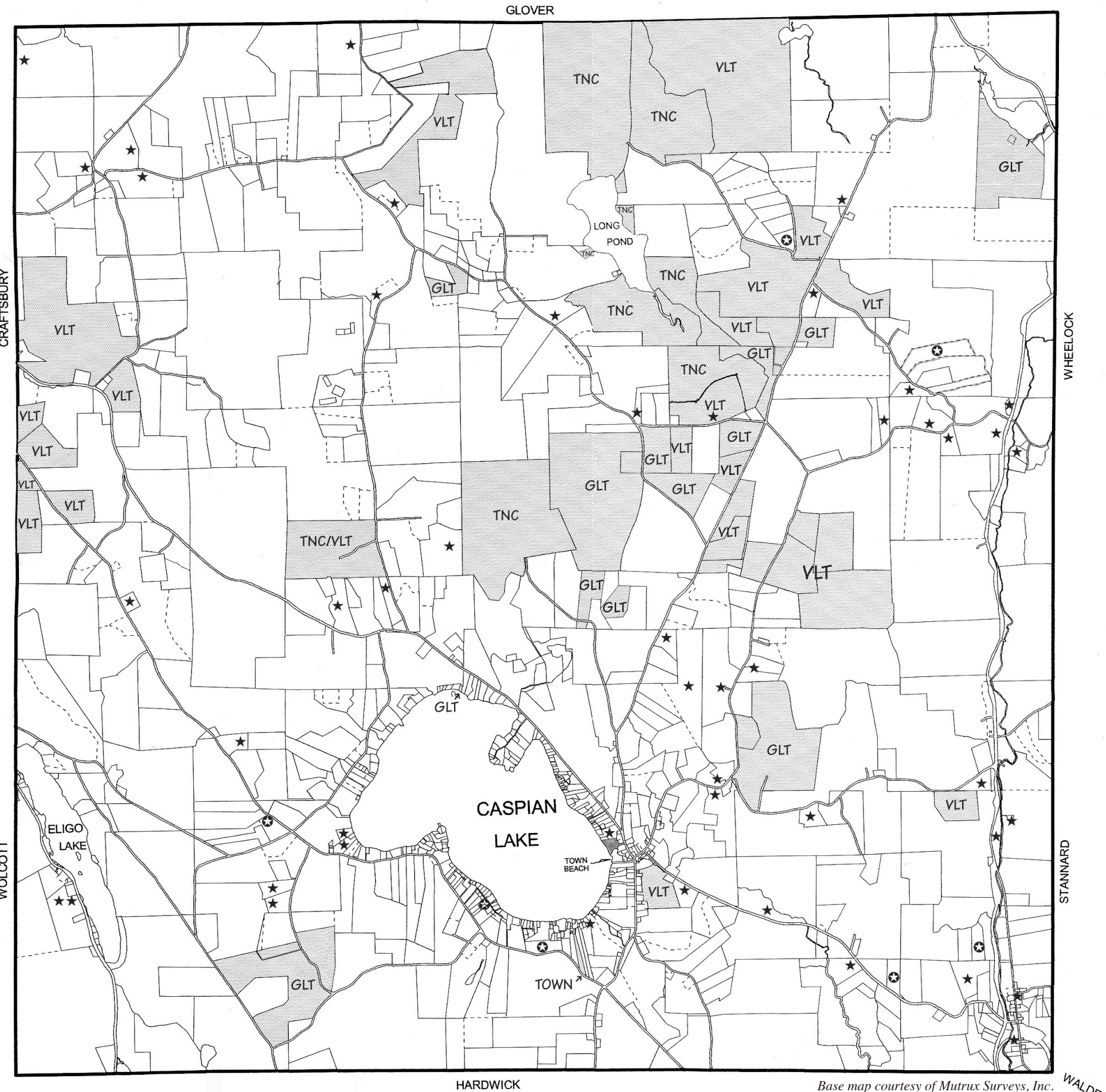
In March 2008 the 5th and 6th grades at Lakeview Union School conducted a snowshoe expedition to Long Pond, while two groups of 1st & 2nd and 3rd & 4th graders explored Highland Lodge's Porter Brook Nature Trail. At Long Pond four accompanying GLT trustees and Advisory Committee members addressed the students on the pond's natural and agricultural history and the establishment of The Nature Conservancy's Long Pond Natural Area. (See photo.)



Land conservation on the Greensboro-Hardwick Bridgman Hill Road

The GLT's sister organization, the Northern Rivers Land Trust, was founded in 2007 covering six towns — Craftsbury, Elmore, Hardwick, Walden, Wolcott and Woodbury — in addition to Greensboro. At year's end the NRLT acquired its first conservation easement, by donation of Paul Cillo, on an 18-acre field on Bridgman Hill Road, which joins Greensboro and Hardwick parallel to Center Road. The stewardship/monitoring fee was financed by a grant from the Stony Point Foundation of Morristown, NJ.

The Cillo parcel forms the southern end of a joint project with the Vermont Land Trust, expected eventually



HARDWICK

Base map courtesy of Mutrux Surveys, Inc.

WALDEN

to exceed 360 acres on both sides of the road in Hardwick. In March 2008, with support from the Freeman Foundation, the VLT acquired an easement through bargain-sale on 218 acres owned by Steve, Patty, Nick and Taylor Meyer. The NRLT raised \$10,000 in memory of Penelope Lewis, whose 107-acre farm, bought by the Meyers in 2007, forms part of the project.

The new project adds to a 150-acre easement on the Greensboro side of Bridgman Hill Road, donated by the Edsall family in 1995, and a 21-acre easement in a hayfield of Andrew Meyer, purchased by the GLT in 1997. Since the latter property is located in Hardwick, GLT has transferred this easement to the NRLT.

Near the Hardwick end of the same road, the VLT earlier conserved 432 acres of agricultural land in four separate holdings.

About GLT

The GLT is a partnership of Greensboro-area people working together to ensure that, as Vermont steadily changes, important land in Greensboro is not lost to development forever. We help farm families conserve productive agricultural land for future generations, preserving not only our heritage but also our economic future. We protect forestland that supports a healthy wood products industry and sustains habitat critical for black bear, songbirds, deer, and other wildlife. We help to permanently protect irreplaceable fields, woods, and shoreline in Greensboro essential for recreation and scenic enjoyment. All this is done while recognizing the need for town planning that allocates portions of the landscape to residential and commercial uses.

Town of Greensboro, Vermont

Our map of Greensboro illustrates the lands conserved by the Greensboro Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, the Vermont Land Trust, and the Town of Greensboro. It shows all residences constructed in the past ten years, and highlights five constructed in the past year.

MAP KEY: Conserved areas, shaded green, comprise the following 31 parcels. Total conserved area amounts to 5.7 square miles (= 3,600 acres), or 15.5% of total town area of 36.7 mi².

1. GLT's 13 easements, totaling 900 acres: Buckley, Dean, Downing, Edsall (2 easements), Shuan & Darren Hill, Lewis & Nancy Hill, Kehler, Mann, McGrath, Perham, Pinkney, and St. Louis.
2. Long Pond Natural Area (767 acres) and Barr Hill Nature Preserve (254 acres), owned by The Nature Conservancy (TNC).
3. 30-acre "Greensboro Green," 362-acre ex-Murdock property on Glover town line, and 30-acre ex-Brassknocker parcel on Craftsbury Road, owned by Vermont Land Trust (VLT).
4. Three VLT easements to which GLT contributed: York farm (260 acres); Shaun & Darren Hill farm (73 acres); and Murdock homestead (150 acres).
5. Eight other VLT easements: Shatney farm (313 acres); Shatney hayfield in Greensboro Bend (34 acres); York homestead (85 acres); and five ex-Brassknocker parcels on Craftsbury town line, totaling 323 acres.
6. Barton Homestead Trust on Gebbie Road (VLT and TNC—121 acres); and
7. Two 3.5-acre strips owned by the Town of Greensboro, one on Lake Shore Road donated by Currier & Dill, the other next to the town beach, purchased by the town.

■ CONSERVED LAND

★ RESIDENCE CONSTRUCTED IN PAST 10 YEARS

★ ... IN 2007

Conserving your land

Using legal tools called "conservation easements" or "grants of development rights," we help landowners to voluntarily limit development while keeping the land open for forestry, farming, and recreation. The property remains in private ownership with the peace of mind that it is protected now and in perpetuity. The landowner decides whether to allow public access. Easement donations qualify as charitable contributions for federal income and estate tax purposes, but do not necessarily reduce property taxes. The Pension Protection Act of 2006 raised the maximum deduction for conservation easements donated in 2006-07 from 30% of adjusted gross income (AGI) to 50% (farmers can deduct 100%), allowing it to be carried forward for up to 15 years. The Senate has voted to make this provision permanent. As we went to press it was under consideration by a House-Senate conference committee.

We work with landowners who love their land and want to see it conserved. The GLT buys and accepts gifts of development rights. Sometimes we share a project with the Vermont Land Trust, which receives funding from The Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, the Freeman Foundation, and private donors. But mainly we rely on funds raised from residents and friends of Greensboro.

We talk regularly with potential conservators, and incur expenses for appraisals,