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
Mike Cassidy      Jane Gardner
Besty Getsinger-Donlon  Clive Gray, chair
Nancy Hill       Stephanie Herrick
Jennifer Lucas  Mark McGrath
Rolf Muenter   Jon Ramsay
Lacey Smith     Nat Smith
David Stoner   Claudia York
Wayne Young

Advisory Committee
Joan Barton     Tim Breen
Sara Cavin      John Downing
Hilary Hoffman  Niall Kirkwood
Sally Longgren  Clark Maser
Elizabeth Metraux  Nancy Sullivan
Sister Gail Worcelo

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.

Buckley farm, conserved by GLT, seen from Greensboro Green

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

Stanley Brook on McGrath property, conserved by GLT

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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 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.)

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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 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. 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.

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 NRUT 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
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 mi$^2$.

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); Shuan & 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.

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.

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, surveys, legal fees, and other costs. We also strive to place appreciated property in trust at a lower value than its fair market value to further reduce the landowner’s tax burden. One of the most effective ways to encourage this tax reduction is to make a gift in one’s will.

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.