

Join Now!!!



Board of Directors:

R.T.(Bob) Eckenrode, *President*
Edward Kelleher, V. *President*
Martha Wright, *Secretary*
Guy Peterson, *Treasurer*
Bill Watts
Brian Hennessey
Wes Gillingham
Coke Cramer
Bart Smith
Dan Dalton

Newtown Forest Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 213
Newtown, CT 06470

December 5, 2009

Dear Friend of Newtown Forest Association:

On behalf of the Board we would like to thank each and every one of our members for their past contributions and support of the Newtown Forest Association (NFA). For those of you are unfamiliar with the NFA, or our accomplishments over the past decades and this past year, we would like to share with you more information about the NFA, and appeal to you to join us in support of the visionary mission of our founders – to independently preserve and protect the open space meadows, woodlands and watersheds in Newtown. The NFA is supported entirely by membership contributions, and along with our Board continues, to grow and strengthen its mission.

The NFA is Connecticut's oldest private land trust and a 501(c)3 charitable not-for-profit organization. We are not a town or municipal entity, and receive no direct government financial support. We are a private landowner just like you. Since the NFA's formation in 1924, the NFA now owns over 1,030 acres and preserves under conservation easements another 90 acres. These preserved properties provide some of the most spectacular views of Newtown's landscape. They also serve to preserve our precious ecosystems for the perpetual benefit of wildlife species and visitors like you and me. Most of you live near or have recently traveled past and enjoyed several our properties and have a vested interest in our mission. Unlike property owned by others, the property protected by the NFA can never be developed; preserving our community's rural character forever.

During 2009, we continued our work focused around growth, education and outreach. We strive to increase membership and stewardship practices on our properties and to inform the public of the value that the NFA provides to everyone as Newtown's largest private landowner; remaining completely independent of the Town of Newtown. The NFA has a very good and longstanding working relationship with various town agencies and departments; however, our independence ensures that we can maintain our mission uninterrupted by changes in political agendas and priorities.

Our Board members and volunteers were very active this past year. Just look at some of the things we accomplished:

- > We accepted the generous conservation easement donation from the Howat family, ensuring the 70 acres abutting their families home will remain undeveloped forever; never to be developed
- > We retained a new resident caretaker who has been invaluable to maintaining our preserves
- > We worked with local Cubscouts and Boyscouts on their community service projects
- > We had many volunteers help us on Earth Day for a trail clearing, wetlands restorations and invasive plant removal
- > We held our annual meeting with noted author Sydney Eddison speaking about letting gardens follow nature's preordained plans
- > We continued with our ongoing project to post all of the boundaries of each of our properties,
- > We attended several Zoning meetings and communicated our concerns about developments that effected our properties,
- > We met with several landowners who have expressed wishes to donate property to the NFA as part of their estate planning and others who are planning gifts during their lifetime.
- > We partnered with regional land trusts and locally sponsored a regional seminar about land stewardship practices

The NFA's Board thanks all of our members for volunteering and supporting our efforts. We especially want to thank our members who financially support and physically help with our projects. We still operate with no paid staff and most of our budget is for the direct maintenance and mowing of our properties to preserve the meadow habitats and prevent reforestation.

NEWTOWN FOREST ASSOCIATION is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, Federal Tax ID# 06-6079549

Thanks also go out to our local vendors who often donate services or charge us "below market" rates. The NFA's single largest expenditure is for insurance, comprising approximately 20% of our budget; the cost of which has gone up over 30% over the last 4 years. Our administrative costs are minimal, primarily utility costs related to our office that we maintain at our Holcombe Hill Wildlife Preserve. One expense that is largely variable is our legal and professional costs associated with property and easement acquisitions and defense which are not always predictable. Our costs are paid for from annual membership dues and contributions and are supplemented by our endowment earnings which are carefully managed to hedge market volatility and inflation. We have an immediate need to supplement the endowment fund's growth with your contributions to provide additional earnings to increase and enhance some of our maintenance programs. Your contributions can help now, and in perpetuity, to enhance our current practices.

A donation of your time can also help the NFA continue its mission to hold and preserve open space forests, meadows and wetlands in perpetuity. If you are interested in volunteering your time, or other resources such as "in-kind" services, feel free to reach out to either one of us.

We hope you will become a member for 2010 or make contributions and consider volunteering some of your time to support our efforts.

Your tax deductible membership dues and contributions will make a lasting difference. With your membership, you will:

- Become part of the NFA family with periodic newsletters and opportunities to help
- Be invited to our annual meeting
- Receive informative alerts and electronic invitations about upcoming events

The NFA holds and protects some of the most precious landscapes Newtown has to offer. By becoming a member or making contributions, you will help guarantee the NFA's continued ability to protect these properties for generations to come.

If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact Bob or Guy. Thanks again for your continued support.

Very truly yours,




R.T.(Bob) Eckenrode
 President
 203-270-3650
rtedesign@aol.com

C.O.(Guy) Peterson, IV, CPA
 Treasurer & Membership Committee Chairperson
 203-733-2030
nfatreasurer@yahoo.com

PLEASE SEPARATE AND RETURN IN THE ACCOMPANYING ENVELOPE OR TO: NFA, P.O. BOX 213, NEWTOWN, CT 06470

NEWTOWN FOREST ASSOCIATION, INC.

2010 MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

E-MAIL _____

PHONE _____

| | | |
|--|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual Member | \$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family | \$20 |
| Donation * | | \$ _____ |
| I would like to volunteer; I am interested in the following: | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Office Work | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Trail Maintenance & Property Stewardship | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Good Neighbor Program | |
| * We can accept donations of real property, securities and bonds. If interested please contact Guy Peterson our Treasurer. | | |

PLEASE MAKE YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
 The Newtown Forest Association, Inc. or N.F.A.