



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 11, 2011

Contact: Katrina Farmer
Communications Associate
603-357-0600

**Monadnock Conservancy accepts donated conservation easements;
several significant projects slated for 2011**



Photo caption: John Patterson, of the Peterborough Conservation Commission, worked closely with the Monadnock Conservancy to protect this forested wetland and abutting woods in Peterborough. Photo courtesy of the Monadnock Conservancy

KEENE, N.H. — The Monadnock Conservancy, the region’s local land trust, celebrated the recent year-end with three conservation agreements.

“Community involvement was a major theme of our 2010 successes, not only in the projects we completed, but also in the many more that were initiated and advanced significantly throughout the year,” said Ryan Owens, executive director of the Monadnock Conservancy. “Our work simply wouldn’t be possible without the efforts of town boards, committees, and other volunteer groups, who demonstrate that everyone has a stake in both the work and the benefits of open space protection.”

The Town of Peterborough donated an easement in December on a total 140.7 acres over three remote abutting parcels. The public will benefit from the protection of groundwater supply quality and wildlife habitat, particularly of wetlands and an old stand of lowland spruce-fir forest. The town contributed money toward transaction costs. Transaction funding for this project was also provided by the Quabbin to Cardigan Partnership, a public/private effort to protect the Monadnock Highlands of western New Hampshire and north central Massachusetts. To learn more, visit www.q2cpartnership.org.

Earlier in the year (in June), Peterborough residents Tom and Patricia Neff donated an easement that permanently protects 35.9 acres of woodland along an important stream. The Neff property is located off Murphy Road and includes more than 500 feet of frontage on Bogle Brook.

The two Peterborough projects expand a contiguous block of more than 5,500 protected acres, furthering the Monadnock Conservancy's goal of a connected greenway between Temple Mountain in the south and Crotched Mountain in the north. This area is one of the largest and least-developed expanses in southern New Hampshire.

In Walpole, the conservation commission is eager to support new easement donations by assisting with project costs. A conservation easement on 51.5 acres of Paul and Dorothy Galloway's land in the southeastern part of town is the first for which the town covered all transaction costs. This project was also completed in June. The Galloways, along with Paul's son Scott, manage the property for limited timber income and maple syrup. Their property also features prime agricultural hayfields, as well as woods roads open to pedestrians.

Two more conservation agreements are slated to be finalized in the coming weeks. Tippin Rock Farm in Swanzey is a place well-loved for the sweet corn that grows there as well as for access to Hewes Hill and its ledges. The Cooper Hill project in Marlborough will protect its namesake hill, a scenic roadside field that was once home to a farm and an equestrian center, and hundreds of forested acres. Further details will be forthcoming about the protection of these lands, as well as for other projects in the works for 2011 in the towns of Walpole, Alstead, Chesterfield, Swanzey, Greenfield, Marlborough, and Jaffrey.

A conservation easement is a voluntary, permanent legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust like the Monadnock Conservancy. Though an easement prohibits most residential and commercial development, the land remains private and subject to current use property taxation, and most landowners retain the right to practice forestry and agriculture.

About the Monadnock Conservancy

Founded in 1989, the Monadnock Conservancy is the only land trust dedicated exclusively to the 35 towns of the Monadnock Region in southwestern New Hampshire. Its mission is to identify, promote and actively seek protection of significant natural, aesthetic and historic resources in the area; and to monitor and enforce the protection of lands in the trust. Based in Keene, N.H., the Conservancy has protected nearly 15,000 acres of forest, farmland, shoreline, wetlands, wildlife habitat and miles of public recreation trails in the Region. For more information, call 603-357-0600 or visit www.monadnockconservancy.org.

###