

Executive Summary *of the Year*

SEPTEMBER 2004 – AUGUST 2005

One year ago Mount Grace announced its Local Landscape Appeal, our newly created philanthropic action plan designed to help us translate the strong moral support for our work into stronger financial support. Mount Grace realized that meeting the land conservation needs of our 23-town region simply required more land protection staff and that meant reaching out to the people that share our commitment to the natural resources of our local landscape. With a quick glance at the back page of this report you will see the resounding positive response to the efforts of staff and two dozen volunteers who helped build individual gift support.

New funding opportunities are now available to help us do even more land protection in the coming years with our conservation partners.

Augmenting this success, an assessment of conservation opportunities in Western Massachusetts was recently prepared by the New York-based Open Space Institute (visit mountgrace.org to view). This objective analysis of public and private land protection activity from Worcester to the Berkshires highlights the significance of Mount Grace's work. As a result, new funding opportunities are now available to help us do even more land protection in the coming years with our conservation partners.

LAND PROTECTION

The past year has been an exciting and dynamic one in the arena of land protection at Mount Grace. Changes in staff have resulted in a Land Protection "department" with two new full-time staff now dedicated exclusively to land protection.

During this period, Mount Grace conserved or facilitated the protection of seven parcels of land in Montague, Northfield, Petersham, Royalston, and Wendell, totaling 300 acres. This includes the culmination of a four-year effort to protect Fiske Pond in Wendell, a much-revered local favorite place with outstanding conservation value.

Land protection funding continues to require creativity and resourcefulness. Funding for projects this year has included use of Mount

Grace's existing land protection fund and revolving loan fund, a municipal Self-Help grant from the state, MA Agricultural Preservation Restrictions, and a traditional local bank loan. Private contributions have also been instrumental.

FOREST LEGACY

Most exciting is that our proposal for another landscape-level conservation effort succeeded. Under the US Forest Service Forest Legacy Program, Mount Grace submitted a project that ranked third in the Nation. This project is on track to receive \$2.5 million dollars. The last hurdle is the President's signature, which is anticipated before this Annual Report is distributed. The project includes 2100 acres in the towns of Athol, Barre, Petersham, and Phillipston. It will link existing protected lands by protecting spaces in between in a "green-belt" approach.

LAND STEWARDSHIP

Mount Grace is entering a new era of stewardship as conservation restriction properties change hands from their original owners to heirs or others by outright sale. With this transition comes new challenges for our Stewardship Coordinator. These responsibilities include educating new land owners about their land stewarding responsibilities, and emphasizing the benefits of land conservation through opportunities that arise during the conservation restriction monitoring process. Featuring several of our conservation areas, we held well-attended events on the subjects of lichen ecology, wetland plant botany, and winter tracking – led by experts in their fields. All stewardship events were free and open to all.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

We conducted twelve outreach events, including two Land Conservation Options workshops at Mount Wachusett Community College and in Hubbardston. Fun events occurred at Upinngil Farm in Gill where folks had the opportunity to learn about land conservation while picking strawberries, at Skyfields Arboretum when neighborhood children hosted a fundraising walk for the benefit of the American Cancer Society, and at the Saw Mill River Road Race on New Year's Day in Montague. We have been especially pleased with the highly successful Quabbin to Cardigan presentations this past Spring and Summer.

COLLABORATIONS

Effective collaborations make possible the otherwise impossible. Mount Grace continues to strategically collaborate with groups both large and small. Our work was cumulatively enhanced through the Quabbin to Cardigan Conservation Collaborative and by partnering with the towns of Northfield and Wendell. With the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership we worked to increase the participation of municipalities in the Partnership's land protection network.

We look forward to another productive year of partnerships and creative land conservation endeavors all made possible with your support. Thank you.



Richard C. French
President



Leigh Youngblood
Executive Director

04/05 Land Protection Projects



Fiske Pond Wendell *125 acres*

Mount Grace worked with the Town of Wendell's Open Space Committee to permanently protect this important natural resource and popular local informal swimming spot. The Town received its first Self-Help Grant award and appropriated Town funds to purchase the property.



Gaier Farm Montague *10 acres*

With funding secured from the Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program (APR), Mount Grace assisted a couple with the purchase and protection of a 10-acre farm and farmhouse in Montague. Chickens, bees and berries now flourish on land once slated for further development.

Montgomery & Morrison **Conservation Restrictions** Petersham *84 and 19 acres*

After acquiring this 103-acre parcel through the Selectboard's assignment of the right-of-first-refusal under Chapter 61 in 2003, Mount Grace completed the subsequent sale of the land to two abutting landowners with conservation restrictions for each parcel. This land is contiguous with protected land of the Quabbin Reservoir as well as the Raccoon Hill Wildlife Management Area.

Willard Parcel Petersham *6+ acres*

Using funds from Mount Grace's Revolving Loan Fund, Mount Grace pre-acquired this parcel that was highly threatened with development. It, along with abutting land, is part of our Forest Legacy Quabbin Corridor Project. The property contains important wildlife habitat and is a crucial element in building the proposed tapestry of protected land through the Forest Legacy Project.

Wachtel Parcel to Aurora Ranch Royalston *20 acres*

The former Wachtel land was pre-acquired by Mount Grace during the Tully Initiative in 2003. A conservation restriction was then sold to the Department of Fish and Game. Mount Grace recently sold the property to the abutting landowners, George

Northrup and Kate Collins. George and Kate raise organically grown chickens, beef and lamb on Aurora Ranch, which now totals 133 acres. There are magnificent views of Mount Monadnock from the land as well as it being part of an important wildlife corridor associated with Priest Brook and the State's Birch Hill Wildlife Area.



Brown Project Northfield *46 acres*

Mount Grace pre-acquired this parcel through an assignment of the right-of-first-refusal through Chapter 61. The Town of Northfield has partnered with Mount Grace and has submitted a Self-Help grant application to purchase land from Mount Grace. The land contains a scenic vista along the Metacomet-Monadnock (M-M) Trail. The land is part of one of the Town's most traveled sections of the M/M Trail.

Looking Ahead

As part of the Forest Legacy Quabbin Corridor Project, Mount Grace will be diligently working on 20 properties with 18 different land owners to protect nearly 2,100 acres. We are also working on protecting farms and forests in the Towns of Athol, Gill, Greenfield, Northfield, Orange, Royalston, and Petersham.

04/05 Stewardship Events



Botany Hike at Arthur Iversen Conservation Area

Warwick, Fall 2004

Botanist Elizabeth Farnsworth of the New England Wildflower Society led an enthusiastic group on an early fall wetland botany walk at Mount Grace's 511-acre conservation area in the heart of Warwick.



Annual Wildlife Tracking at Skyfields Arboretum

Athol, Winter 2005

In the freshly fallen snow, tracking perfection was had by many at the 4th annual tracking event guided by naturalist Paul Wanta of Wendell.



Arboretum Work Days at Skyfields Arboretum

Athol, Spring, Summer & Fall 2005

Volunteers and staff tended flower beds and enjoyed the tranquility of Skyfields.



Winter Botany Walk at Fox Valley Wildlife Sanctuary

Phillipston, Winter 2005

Ecologist and former board member Dr. John O'Keefe was joined by the adventurous to identify trees and shrubs by their buds and bark during a very chilly January morning.



Learn Your Lichens Workshop at Arthur Iversen Conservation Area

Warwick, Spring 2005

Ecologist Dr. Rick Van de Poll focused on lichen ecology, and their use as medicine, dyes and food during this popular workshop.



Devil's Washbowl Hike at Arthur Iversen Conservation Area

Summer 2005

Board member Allen Young and local naturalist Clare Green led folks on a steamy hike to one of Warwick's natural wonders, the Devil's Washbowl waterfall.

04/05 Outreach & Education

Garlic & Arts Festival Orange, Fall 2004

Mount Grace board members and staff set up shop at the garlic gala to introduce land conservation to Festival participants.

Relay for Life Hike Athol, Fall 2004

Neighborhood children organized fundraising walk held at Skyfields Arboretum and raised \$162 for the American Cancer Society.

Saw Mill River Road Race Montague, Winter 2005

Fifteenth annual New Year's Day 10k road race organized by former board member Dr. Allen Ross as fundraiser for the Montague Grange, Montague Fire Department and Mount Grace.

Templeton Open Space Committee Conservation Options Workshop Winter 2005

Leigh and Dan presented land protection strategies to town residents.

Massachusetts Regional Land Trust Retreat Spring 2005

Regional land trust staff from across the state met for a 2nd annual retreat to discuss common concerns and successes.

Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition Winter 2005

Staff and board members attended the 15th annual conference to learn the latest in stewardship and land protection. Leigh and Bob Wilbur of MA Audubon, co-presented a land protection workshop.

Quabbin to Cardigan Presentations Spring and Summer 2005

Mount Grace and The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests introduced the collaborative effort to protect the region between the Quabbin Reservoir and Mount Cardigan in New Hampshire.

Upingil Farm Strawberry Fundraiser Spring 2005

Board member and farm proprietor Cliff Hatch and his wife Patricia Crosby donated a portion of strawberry sales to Mount Grace.

Land Conservation Options Workshop at Mount Wachusett Spring 2005

Leigh, Attorney George Dresser of Worcester and UMASS Extension Specialist Robert Levite presented an introduction to land conservation and estate planning.

Hubbardston Land Use Planning and Open Space Preservation Forum Spring 2005

Dan described ways that towns can partner with land trusts to municipal officials from both Hubbardston and surrounding towns. Bob Ritchie of the Office of the Attorney General and Bob Mitchell of the Office for Commonwealth Development presented on various municipal land use planning tools.

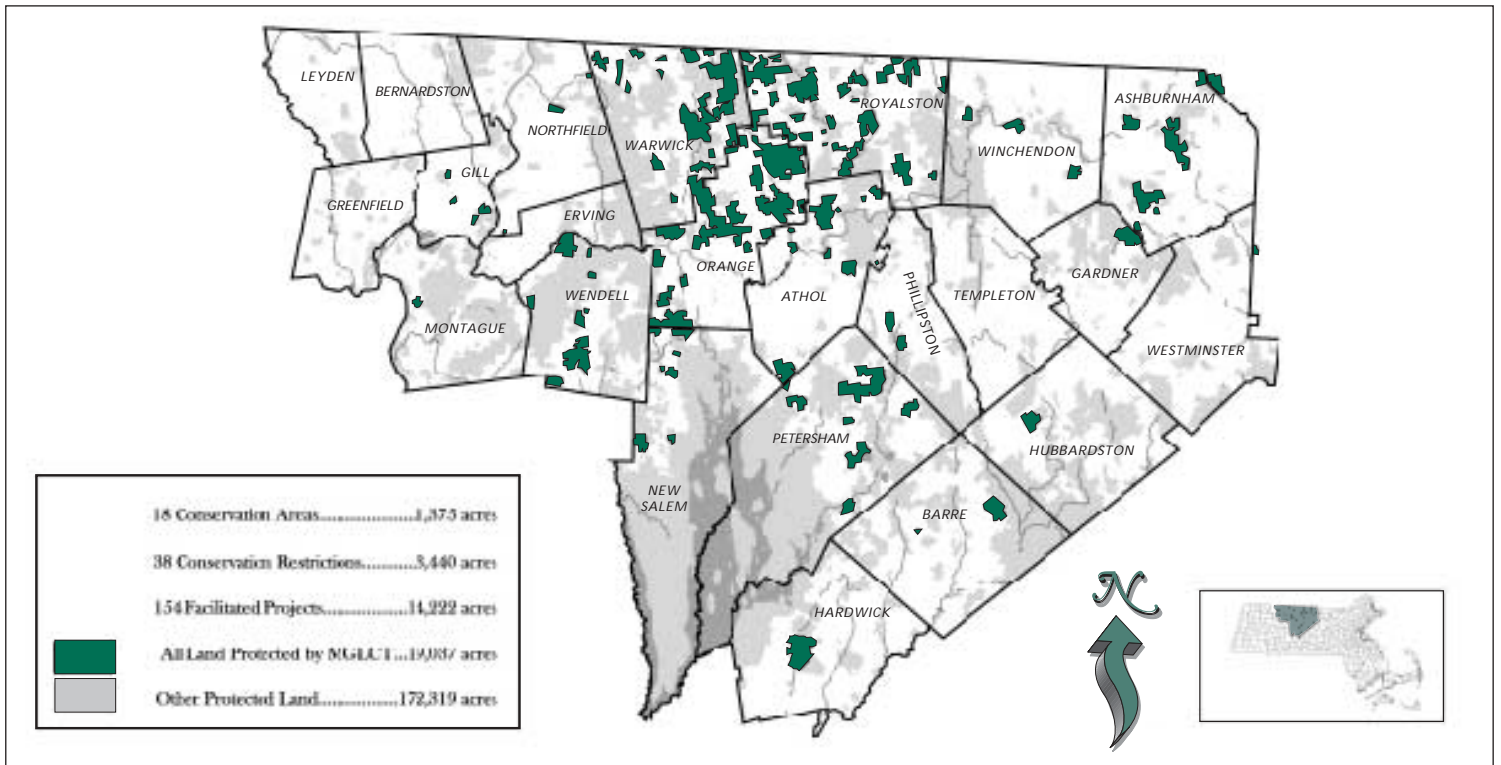
Northeast Organic Farmers Association Conference Summer 2005

Dan Laroche presented "Conservation Restrictions and Tax Benefits" workshop at the NOFA Conference held at Hampshire College in Amherst.

Northfield Ridge Neighborhood Presentation Summer 2005

Many summer residents attended this membership building and outreach event that provided an update on current, local and regional land protection efforts.

LAND PROTECTION PROJECTS 1986 — 2005



~Supporters of Mount Grace~

Every contribution is special to us. Many of our donors have made multiple gifts that we are extremely grateful for. Individual gifts totaling \$100 or more (received in the fiscal year June 1, 2004 - May 31, 2005), are listed below. We regret any unintentional omissions.

Thank you.

SPECIAL UNRESTRICTED GIFTS FROM INDIVIDUALS

Anonymous (8)
James Aaron and Anna Mindow
Nancy Allen and Charles Crowley
Charles and Kathleen Ames
William and Nancy Ames
Albert D. and Nancy C. Anderson
Ellen Anderson
Alan and Debra Bachrach
Jim Baird
Suzanne J. and William J. Baron
Derek Beard
Diane L. Beers
Albert and Bonnie Benjamin
Chuck and Sherry Berube
Peggie and Clint Bissell
Michael L. Bosworth
Werner and Patience Bundschuh
William C. Byrne Jr.
Domenick and Katherine Cardinale
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Robert A. Clark and Fifi Scoufopoulos
Ron and Sue Cloutier
Elizabeth Coe
Eric K. Cole
William Cole and Chris Greene
Lu Collins and Julie LaFreniere
Bob Colnes
Maureen Busby and Bob Conte
Charles and Ann Connington
H. William and Christine Copeland
Barbara Corey
Roger L. Corey, Jr.
Sarah Corey and Stephen Swett
Oona M. Coy
Henry and Donna Cramer
Peter Cross and Candace Lee
Alexandra and James Dawson
Robert DeWinkleer
Katherine J. Doak
Mary C. Eliot
Ellen M. Ellinwood
Aaron Ellison and Elizabeth Farnsworth
David Engman
Bart Estes
Ben and Margaret Feldman
Mark and Jeanette Fellows
Josiah and Carol Ann Fisk
Larry and Shaun Fitzmaurice
Rice B. Flanders
Charles and Arne Fliflet and Katharine Fliflet-Mirkin
George B. and Lisa Foote
David Foster and Marianne Jorgensen
William O. and Lila Foye
Dick French and Emily Samuels
Burton R. and Margaret R. Frost
Karen J. Galat
Margaret K. Gardner and Anne S. Kurz
Alice and Rick Godfrey
Richard D. Godin
Steven H. Goldsher
Leslie Goldstein and John Mosimann
Joseph Goldstein
Wes and Nancy Green

Howard W. Grimes
Julie and Dave Gross
Phillip H. Hagar, Sr.
Cliff Hatch and Patricia Crosby
Cynthia and John Henshaw
Carol B. Hillman
Bonnie House
H. Hollis Hunnewell
Mick Huppert and Louise Dwyer Huppert
Pat Jackson
Peter and Vicky Jenkins
Mary K. King
William B. King
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David and Anne Marie Kittredge, Jr.
Martha and Brian Klossano
Emily and David Koester
Beverly von Kries
Raymond R. and Susan J. LaGace
Susan Landry and Ann Meilus
Robin Langer
Joseph S. and Wendy N. Larson
Susan LaScala and Jeff Blomstedt
Wendy Lavallee
Daniel G. Leahy and Julia Rabin
Bob Leet
Philip Leger
James N. Levitt and Jane Berkley
Mary Lightner
Diane Lincoln
Bruce Lockhart and Gus Block
Anita D. and David R. Lockesmith
Christine and Russ Long
Heidi B. Lux and David R. Spurgin
Doug MacLeod and Irma Thibault
David Maher
Ken and Barbara Maniha
Eileen Mariani
Myron Maron and Suri Cybuch
Kenneth Maser and Susan Lutwak
Howard Mathison and Mari Rovang
Joanne McGee
Micky McKinley and Samuel Green
Joseph McManus
Wayne and Edith Miller
Philip Millstein
Robert Moore and Ann Carter
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Charles Morse
Kim Noyes and Bill Lafley
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Robert Wetmore
Patricia D. White
John and Mary Williamson
Frank Wojciechowski
Katharine Wolff and Michael Bronnert
David and Diana Wood
Ann and John M. Woolsey III
Henry L. Woolsey
Mary L. Woolsey
Michaele and Greg Wright
Allen Young
Leigh Youngblood

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF

Harold Goldman
John M. Woolsey, Jr.

SUPPORT FROM FOUNDATIONS, AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Anonymous (2)
Boston Foundation- Moccasin Brook Fund
Cardinal Brook Trust
Community Foundation of Western MA
Fields Pond Foundation
Harvard Forest
Lila Tech Gold Fund
Massachusetts Audubon Society
Norcross Wildlife Foundation
O Beautiful Gaia
Rattlesnake Gutter Trust
Sawmill River Run
The Trustees of Reservations
Town of Barre
William Wharton Trust
Unity Foundation
University of MA-English Department

SUPPORT FROM BUSINESSES

ACK Farming, Aiken, SC
Ag Farm Management, Urbana, IL
Seed Systems, Inc., Wendell
Athol Credit Union, Athol
Athol-Clinton Co-Op Bank, Athol
Athol Daily News, Athol
Bruce's Browser, Athol
F.W. Environmental Services, Attleboro
GFA Federal Credit Union, Barre
Highland Press, Athol
Legacy Partners, Greenfield
LandVest/Keith Ross, Orange
LandVest/Jay Closser, Orange
Main Street Millworks, Greenfield
Mike Ruocco, Graphic Designer, Orange
Mount Tully Kennels, Orange
Mount Tully Heating, Orange
Haley's Antiques, Athol
Haven & Oddy, Esq., Athol
People's Pint, Greenfield
Sirum Equipment, Montague
Whittier Plumbing & Heating, New Salem

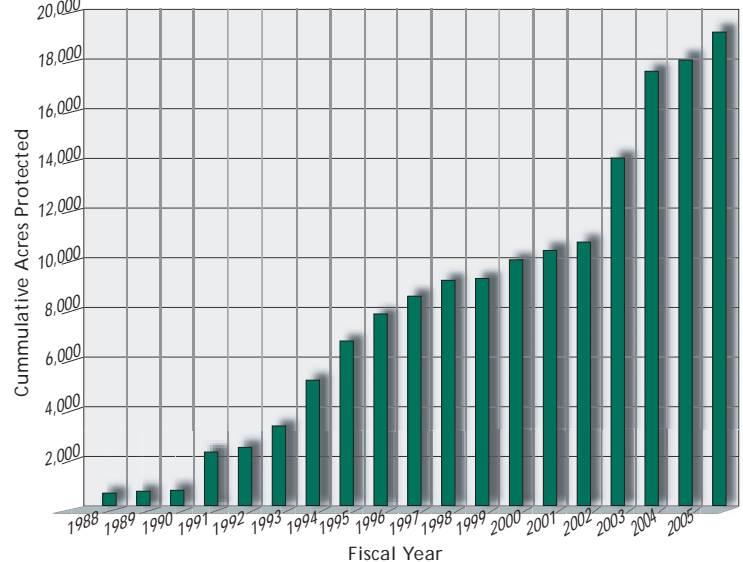
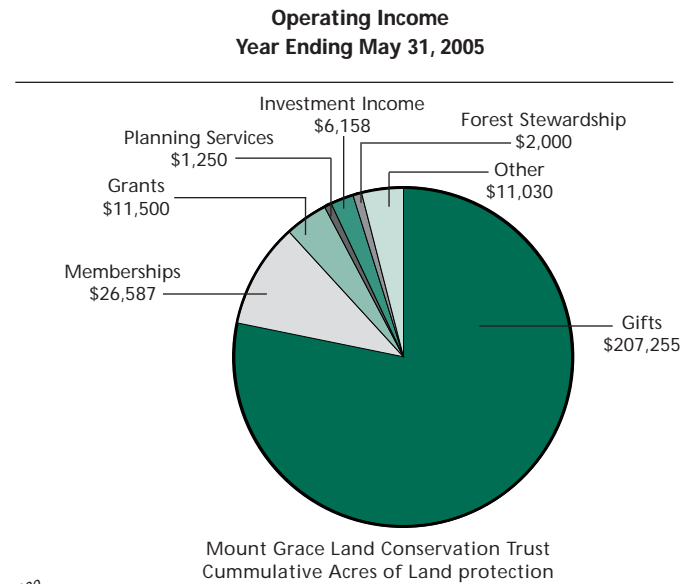
BEQUESTS RECEIVED

Estate of John M. Woolsey, Jr.

Preliminary Financial Summary *for the* Year Ending May 31, 2005

Statement of Activities	FY05	FY04
Operating Support and Revenue		
Gifts	\$207,255	\$121,670
Memberships	\$26,587	\$25,610
Grants	\$11,500	\$40,900
Planning Services	\$1,250	\$8,143
Investment Income	\$6,158	\$4,574
Forest Stewardship	\$2,000	\$19,227
Other	\$11,030	\$9,945
Total Support and Revenue	\$265,780	\$230,069
Expenses		
Personnel	\$187,824	\$158,121
Contract Labor	\$17,803	\$338
Professional Fees	\$15,213	\$13,246
Office	\$34,100	\$33,259
Stewardship & Land Maintenance	\$7,525	\$23,040
Other	\$2,805	\$0
Total Expenses	\$265,270	\$228,004
Net Operating Income	\$510	\$2,065
Unrealized Gain	\$2,847	\$11,743

Statement of Financial Position	FY05	FY04 (corrected)
Total Current & Long-Term Assets	\$1,220,414	\$1,154,716
Conservation Land & Restrictions	\$828,755	\$828,756
Buildings & Equipment	\$207,279	\$204,279
Project Asset	\$65,122	0
Total Assets	\$2,321,570	\$2,187,751
Total Current & Long-Term Liabilities	\$409,078	\$364,038
Total Equity (including land)	\$1,912,492	\$1,823,713
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$2,321,570	\$2,187,751



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

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Visit our web site at www.mountgrace.org.

Mount Grace Staff

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Alain Peteroy
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Elliott Hunnewell
Membership Coordinator (P/T)

Amanda Nims
Program Assistant

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