



# PASSUMPSIC VALLEY LAND TRUST

Volume 13

Number One

Spring, 2007

## Leave No Child Inside – take them to a PVLT Property

For environmental conservationists, and others have worked to bring more children to nature - usually with inadequate support from policymakers. A number of trends have now brought the concerns of these veteran advocates before a broader audience.

One indication of this is a national movement known as "Leave No Child Inside" which seeks to

decades, educators,

provide more opportunities to connect children and nature through creating connections between Land Trusts,

educators, and civic leaders.

While not directly involved in the "Leave No Child Inside" movement, PVLT does offer local residents a number of places for children and adults to reconnect with nature.

Arlington Woods, for example, in the heart of St. Johnsbury provides easy trails that wind



PVLT's fishing platform in Passumpsic village makes a great place to take the kids

## **Leave No Child Inside – take them to a PVLT Property –from page 1**

through a typical mix of Vermont hard and soft woods. Arlington is frequently used by school teachers, who plan science units around a trip to the woods. Because the 33-acre woods includes wildflowers, a meadow, a stream and other natural features, it is an ideal place to allow children and adults to experience the solitude and wonder of nature within easy access of town. PVLT holds an easement on the property, which is owned by the town of St. Johnsbury.

Likewise the “Murphy Property,” located directly behind White’s Plaza market near the Interstate in Lyndonville, is a place local people can easily access. The riparian acres of this property hug the main branch of the Passumpsic and provide easy

access to the river. In addition the land offers exposure of a typical Passumpsic flood plain and can serve as a lesson in how preserving shoreline vegetation can impact the damage of erosion. Because of its openness, the Murphy property is ideal for sighting wildlife.

One of PVLT’s oldest properties, the Passumpsic Village Fishing Platform makes an ideal place to take a child. Easy to get to, and complete with picnic table, the site allows children, as well as their parents, to cast a line into the river while enjoying the roar of the near by falls. Early morning and just before sunset are the best times for fishing.

Since most of the land that PVLT has conserved is along the Passumpsic or one of its tributaries, a visit to a

parcel allows for a variety of river activities. The Land Trust’s newest acquisition, near the Randall Bridge (see article this page) can serve as another fishing spot, and it could also serve as a put in or take out point for a canoe trip.

With summer fast approaching, remember that teaching our children now about the values to nature, gives a greener hope for the future.

Local chapters of Leave No Child Inside have been formed in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Chicago, the San Francisco Bay Area, St. Louis, Connecticut, Florida, Colorado, Texas, and elsewhere. For further information on the movement visit:

## **PVLT acquires riverfront property near Randall Bridge**

PVLT recently acquired a three-acre riverfront parcel well known as a trout fishing and canoe launching site neighboring the Town of Lyndon’s historic Randall Covered Bridge. The parcel is located between Lyndonville and East Burke, on the north side of the Burlington Bridge Road, just off of Vermont Route 114. The bridge is on the south side of the road. PVLT’s ownership of the parcel will ensure additional riparian protection for the East Branch of the Passumpsic, as

well as guarantee public access to the river for recreation. The parcel was donated to the land trust earlier this year by Paul Calkins, its former owner.

“The conservation of this parcel nicely furthers our long range hopes for the Passumpsic,” said Lenny Gerardi, president of PVLT. Gerardi explained that for the past several years PVLT has been working on a river corridor conservation project along this portion of the river. The Riparian Landowners Project is focused on

acquisition of land and conservation easements along the Passumpsic River mainstem and East Branch. The project involves PVLT negotiating with interested landowners to obtain easements or ownership of riverside properties with high conservation and river recreation value, through gifts or purchase. For more information contact Alan Boye, 626-6229.



## Request for Qualification

The Passumpsic Valley Land Trust is seeking a qualified consultant to perform field work and negotiations related to land acquisition and conservation easements. The ideal candidate will have experience in promoting and negotiating new easements or property purchases. The person shall act as a liaison between the property owners and the PVLT Board.

Major functions include:

- Explain pertinent laws, rules, regulations, policies and procedures to landowners in regards to conservation easements or fee purchases along the Passumpsic River.
- Assist the Board in identifying landowners and their issues.
- Develop appropriate and legally sound easement and/or fee purchase language.
- Present land transactions proposals to Board, and report to the Board on a monthly basis.
- Obtain all legal and appraisal services required for the projects as budgeted by the Board.
- Perform all post-closing duties such as baseline documentation.
- Interact directly with landowners and town officials.
- Prepare progress reports for the Upper Connecticut River Mitigation and Enhancement Fund.
- This position may require frequent on-site visits to locations throughout the Northeast Kingdom, and night meetings with town officials are likely.

Qualifications: Must be able to communicate effectively and comprehend both landowner and Board objectives. Experiences related to land use planning, conservation easements and/or land transactions in Vermont. The ideal candidate would have considerable knowledge and history working in the Northeast Kingdom region. Knowledge of legal issues and GIS mapping is beneficial. Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to work independently with sporadic Board input are important.

This consultant work is funded through a grant from the Upper Connecticut Mitigation & Enhancement Fund.

The Contract is budgeted to last for one year, renewable on a monthly basis thereafter if the project continues to warrant assistance. It is anticipated that the person will work an average of 16 hours per week, depending on what transactions are under discussion. A letter of interest, resume, references and fees for services should be sent to Passumpsic Valley Land Trust, PO Box 624, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819.

The Passumpsic Valley Land Trust is a small Board run volunteer organization. Our mission is to conduct conservation activities related to the Passumpsic River and its watershed, with a focus on the recreational, educational, ecological, and historic assets afforded by the resource. The PVLT works to permanently protect the Passumpsic River watershed and provide boating access, recreational trails, picnic areas and wildlife habitat for everyone in the community to enjoy.

## **Help contribute to the future of the Passumpsic Valley**

The Passumpsic Valley can be protected best by those who know it best. The land trust is your chance to protect the Passumpsic River watershed. Your membership fees go directly to preservation and recreation projects. Make a commitment to the future of the Passumpsic Valley

<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>\$250</b>	<b>Family</b>	<b>\$25</b>
<b>Associate</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>Individual</b>	<b>\$10</b>
<b>Supporting</b>	<b>\$50</b>	<b>Business</b>	<b>\$100</b>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your tax-deductible check to: Passumpsic  
Valley Land Trust, Box 624, St. Johnsbury, VT  
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