



PASSUMPSIC VALLEY LAND TRUST

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Fall, 2005

Volunteers Needed to Help With Monitoring Land

Now there is a way to be directly involved with the activities of PVLТ, while being able to get outside and enjoy some of the area's most exciting locations.

Once a year PVLТ must monitor each of its parcels in order to ensure that the special qualities which have made the land worthy of preservation are not being threatened. You can volunteer to monitor one or more properties. The monitor's job is to carefully walk the property and to observe the conditions there. To make sure the monitoring is consistent from year to year, PVLТ

provides each monitor with a check-list form to use while surveying the property. The checklist makes the job easy, while allowing you to become a more careful observer.

Volunteers who wish to monitor a property can select one that fits their sense of adventure and meets their time restraints. Depending on the size and remoteness of the property the activity could take from 30 minutes to a couple of hours. Most of PVLТ's parcels are easy to get to and would make a fine family activity.

For example, the well-known Arlington Woods in St.

Johnsbury is a 33 acre city park for which PVLТ holds a conservation easement. The park includes a mile long trail that winds through evergreens and ferns, past ancient orchards and granite outcroppings.

The Passumpsic fishing platform is the Land Trust's smallest property, and provides visitors with a restful place to watch the river flow.

People who would like a bit more rugged view of the river, but still want the feel of human culture, should enjoy monitoring PVLТ's three properties in East Burke. (Continued on Page 3)

Why You Receive the PVLТ Newsletter Year After Year

PVLТ began inviting membership in the non-profit land conservation organization shortly after its founding in 1993, contacting people and organizations that we thought might have an affinity to the type of work PVLТ was undertaking. PVLТ's current mailing list has been built since then using the names of those making membership contributions, gifts of lands or easements, and donations of time, expertise, equipment or materials. We have also made many other additions to the mailing list for the purpose of disseminating information about PVLТ and its work to a broader audience. If you have become a part of our mailing list for any of these reasons, you currently receive our newsletters and special mailings.

We believe there is great value in sharing news with the community about land conservation and riparian protection efforts in the Passumpsic River

watershed. In this spirit we do not routinely purge our mailing list. In essence, if you made a single membership contribution in 1995, for example, but have never renewed your membership, you are probably still on our mailing list and receiving the PVLТ newsletters. PVLТ is perfectly happy to keep you on the list and up-to-date about the organization. Of course we would be even happier to have you as a dues-contributing current member. Nevertheless, if you do not wish to be a member and would prefer not to receive the newsletter or other mailings, we can readily remove you from the list. This will serve you by eliminating some unwanted mail, and will help us reduce our operating expenses for printing and postage. If you wish to be removed from the mailing list (or to restore your membership!), just write us at Box 624, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819, or leave a phone message at (802) 748-8081.

Everything You Ever Need to Know About Your Membership

PVLТ is a membership organization. It relies on the annual dues contributed by its members to achieve its conservation mission. Also, the input of the membership helps orient the organization. According to the PVLТ bylaws, payment of annual membership dues entitles a member to vote for PVLТ's directors and on matters considered at the annual meeting and at any special meetings during

the one-year period of membership.

When you make a membership contribution, we register the date of receipt of your contribution in our membership database. As noted above, your voting rights are tied to this date. In addition, we use the month of your contribution, minus one month, as the reminder to contact you about your next membership renewal. In the invitation to renew, we

let you know the date of your most recent contribution. So, if you renew your PVLТ membership in October 2005, you will receive an invitation to renew your membership sometime in September 2006. The letter will note that your last contribution was received in October 2005 and that your membership runs for the one-year period beginning with this date. (Continued on Page 3)

Volunteers Needed

Both **the Cox property** and the **Davis property** hug the shore of the sparkling East Branch of the Passumpsic, while **the East Burke Dam** site

allows monitors to get a feel for the history of the human impact on our watershed.

One of the least explored but most accessible and enjoyable stewardships

is **the Murphy parcel in Lyndonville**. The land includes several acres of shoreline meadows, woodlands and fields. The stroll through the property provides a unique look at our own backyard.

The Joes Brook property follows a series of rapids and pools along the clear cool waters of that stream. It includes berry bushes, granite

overlooks and solitude from the bustle of everyday life.

Perhaps the most isolated and wild stewardship is **Cow Mountain Pond in**



Granby. It is not named after the bovine, but rather for the many moose that roam the area. Standing below pretty Cow Mountain at the edge of Vermont's least populated region, Cow Mountain Pond is a jewel in the Passumpsic watershed.

Not far from Cow Mountain Pond in Granby is the less prosaically named **Mud Pond**. Moose are also

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frequent visitors to this site and it hosts unusual plants and rare migratory birds.

Finally, the shoreline **Kirby property** provides a feel

for wild Vermont while in sight of busy US Highway 2. Fox, beaver, and otter frequent the thick under-story of this

unusual land just east of St. Johnsbury.

To volunteer, call PVL T at 748-8089 during normal, weekday business hours, or contact a member of the board. Please specify which property or properties you would like to visit. We'll provide you with the monitor checklist and directions to the parcel.

Membership

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Our intention is to help you keep your membership on an annual basis without interruption. After four

to five years without renewing your membership we stop sending you the regular membership renewal

solicitation even though we keep you on our newsletter mailing list until you ask to be removed.

New Trustee Member Joins PVLT Board of Directors

A new trustee has been appointed to the PVLT board.

Kellie Merrell comes to the board after being a PVLT member for two years. She currently monitors the water quality of local lakes and ponds for the state. Merrell said she has a deep respect for nature and the aquatic environment, and believes she can use her professional knowledge to help an organization with limited resources, like PVLT.

“I feel like the conservation of land is one of the only ways we can ensure that ecological integrity will continue in the future,” she said. “I wanted to get more involved at the local level.”

Merrell said she kayaks, skis and hikes in the areas covered by PVLT. She lives in Danville with her husband, where they grow much of their own food and live off the grid, relying on solar power.

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

Sponsor	\$250	Family	\$25
Associate	\$100	Individual	\$10
Supporting	\$50	Business	\$100

Name: _____ Address: _____ State/Zip: _____ Mail your tax-deductible check to: Passumpsic Valley Land Trust, Box 624, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
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This issue was edited and designed by Rachael Morrow.

