



Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park

A Report for the Years 2000 & 2001



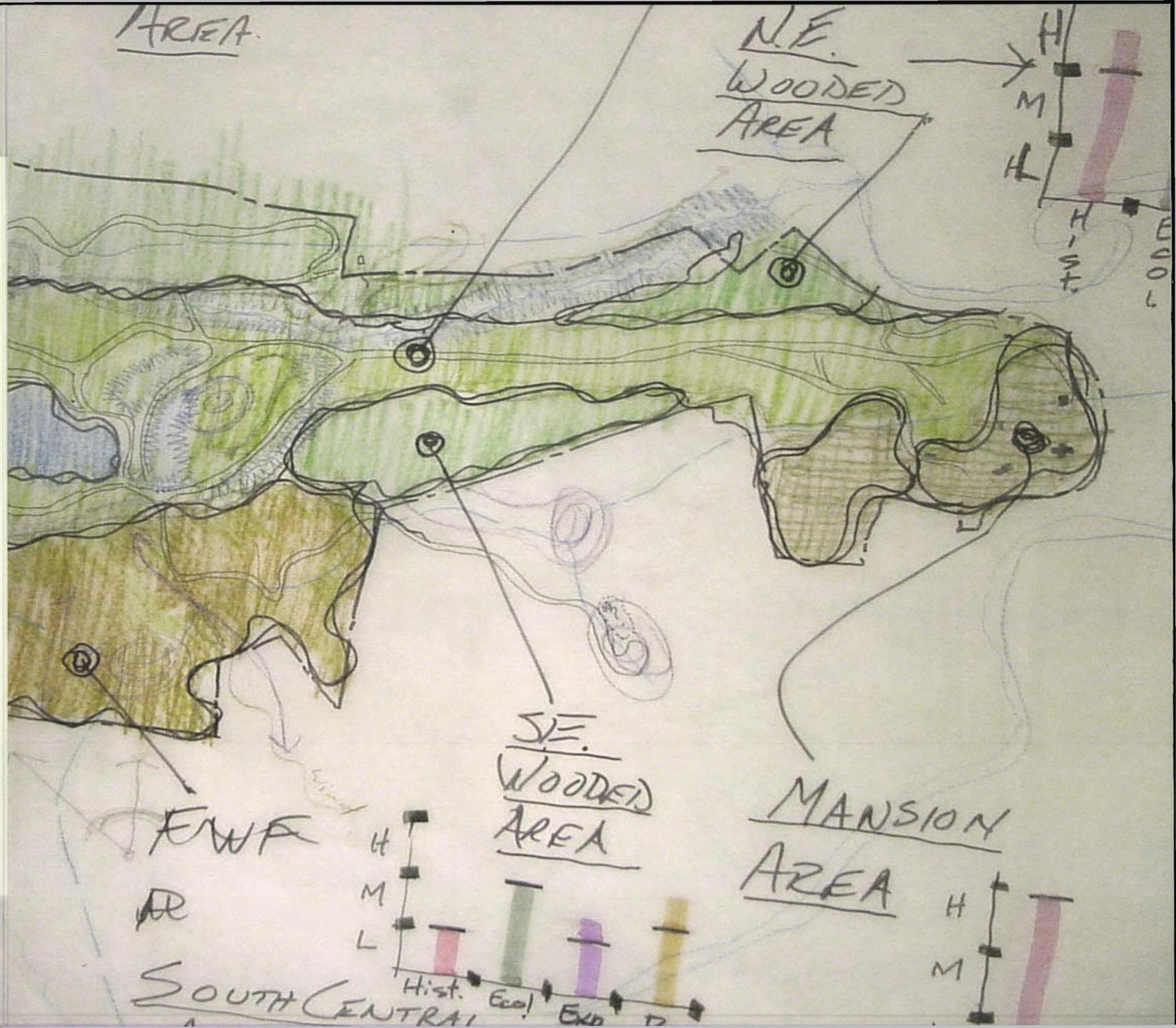
*“Here in Vermont, there is a
mandate to invent an
entirely new kind of park.
It must be one where the
human stories and the
natural history are inter-
twined; where the relatively
small acreage serves as an
educational resource for the
entire National Park Service
and a seedbed for American
environmental thought.”*

*– John Elder, Opening Day of
Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National
Historical Park, June 5, 1998*

Prominent Tree Species on Mount Tom

On the pages of this report are illustrations of many tree species found in the Park. Number in parenthesis indicates page number.

Alternate Leaf Dogwood (9)	<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>
American Beech	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>
American Elm (16)	<i>Ulmus americana</i>
American Sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>
Black Locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>
Black Willow (6)	<i>Salix nigra</i>
Box Elder	<i>Acer negundo</i>
Butternut (8)	<i>Juglens cinerea</i>
Eastern Hemlock (15)	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>
European Larch (11)	<i>Larix decidua</i>
Grey Birch	<i>Betula populifolia</i>
Bitternut Hickory	<i>Carya cordiformis</i>
Hop Hornbeam (13)	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>
Norway Spruce (12)	<i>Picea abies</i>
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>
Red Pine (3)	<i>Pinus resinosa</i>
Scotch Pine (14)	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>
Silver Maple	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>
Striped Maple (5)	<i>Acer pensylvanicum</i>
Sugar Maple (7)	<i>Acer saccharum</i>
White Birch	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>
White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>
Yellow Birch	<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>



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Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park is the only national park to tell the story of conservation history and the evolving nature of land stewardship in America. In 1864 Woodstock-born George Perkins Marsh wrote the book *Man and Nature*, one of the seminal texts of environmental thinking. ✿ Strongly influenced by *Man and Nature*, Frederick Billings began reforesting the slopes of Woodstock's Mount Tom in 1874, creating one of the earliest planned and scientifically managed forests in the United States. The Park was established in 1992, when Frederick Billings's granddaughter, Mary French Rockefeller, and her husband, conservationist Laurance S. Rockefeller, conveyed their estate's residential and forestlands to the people of the United States. ✿ The Park, working in partnership with the Billings Farm & Museum, chronicles three generations of stewardship and the emergence of a national conservation ethic.

LEFT: Sketch from 2000
forest management
charrette, Mount Tom

Staff of the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park,
NPS Conservation Study Institute, NPS VT/NH Rivers & Trails Program,
NPS HAER team, and Student Conservation Association work crew, 2001





Letter from the Superintendent

KEYS TO THE PARK

Four years ago this January we received keys to all the buildings in the Park as it passed into public ownership, and we began operations. The "Ice Storm of '98" was just beginning to invade the hills and valleys of Vermont. We all gathered in the kitchen of the Mansion for an impromptu, unofficial ceremony with Chet Williamson and David Donath, of The Woodstock Foundation, Inc.—a few brief words of thanks, some handshakes and the passing of the largest bundle of keys I have ever seen. The official ceremony and the public opening of the Park were still six months off, and there was much to do, but for a moment we sat transfixed by this enormous key chain with its great pile of keys on the kitchen table. Then we all took a deep breath, began to sort through the keys and started our work. As it turned out, the ice storm hit above and below our elevation, and the new park and its historic forest were miraculously spared. It was a good omen. In June 1998, the Park opened to the public, inspired by the words of Laurance S. Rockefeller: "The opportunity is great—not only for conservation of the land but also for the renewal of the human spirit."

As time passes, we are realizing, in a larger sense, that the keys we were given unlock much more than buildings, barns, and gates; they are keys for conservation, they are keys for renewal of the human spirit.

We were given a key for education, as we work with teachers and students developing new models for place-based, "hands-on," real-world learning opportunities and strengthening long-term relationships among schools, communities, and public lands.

We were given a key for capturing people's imaginations when we engage them through our tours and special programs, when we create opportunities for them to say "Aha!" as they see their world a little differently, or when we move them to say "thank you" for a gift of inspired interpretation and the extraordinary beauty and power of this landscape.

We were given a key for interpreting the rich history and ecological diversity of Mount Tom and for continuing into the twenty-first century a legacy of forest stewardship that stretches back to Frederick Billings in the 1870s.



We were given a key to scholarship, as we work with universities and historians around the country on research projects that enhance our understanding of historical context, changing values, and perceptions of conservation.

We were given a key to new conservation thinking and practice through our association and close collaboration with the National Park Service's Conservation Study Institute and its many and diverse programs.

And we were given a key to good will and friendship, extended to us by our operating partners at Billings Farm & Museum, The Woodstock Foundation, Inc., and the community of Woodstock, as well as organizations and individuals throughout Vermont, the nation, and abroad. We are grateful to be working alongside outstanding organizations such as Shelburne Farms, QLF/Atlantic Center for the Environment, University of Vermont, Pennsylvania State University, Green Mountain National Forest, National Wildlife Federation, and the Student Conservation Association.

This spirit of partnership is the master key to so much of what we do.

Rolf Diamant

Building
Pathways
to Learning

WISDOM

A student journals at her "power spot."





FROM THE WOODS

New Partnership Helps Teachers Nurture Stewardship

by Doug Wilhelm

One day this fall, a mother in Hartland, Vermont, took a walk with her third-grade son beside the woods near their home.

"Along the way," says the boy's teacher, Ginny White, of Hartland Elementary School, "the mother was astounded as he proudly pointed out and explained to her about a snag, a blowdown, a deadfall, the difference between the pine and hemlock tree, and some reasons for the stone walls they came upon, places where humans had an impact."

"And that, I believe," White adds, "is what this is all about."

What White is talking about is an unprecedented collaboration called "A Forest for Every Classroom," begun this year by the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park in partnership with the Conservation Study Institute, the Green Mountain National Forest, the Northeast Natural Resource Center of the National Wildlife Federation, and Shelburne Farms.

In its first of three planned years, A Forest for Every Classroom has brought together seventeen classroom teachers from Vermont communities that border forest resources with leading area experts in biology, forestry, forest archeology, field naturalism, and civic and service learning. In a series of four, multi-day workshops that began last May and will conclude in February 2002, the teachers are gaining new expertise, ideas, and resources for building curriculum units and teaching practices that encourage students to learn, "hands-on" and in depth, what a forest is and how to make choices for its future.

The goals are long term. First, the project aims to build students' understanding of forests as living places near their homes. Second, it

nurtures in young people, through their teachers, elements of citizenship: the skills and attitudes they will need to communicate well and solve problems as stewards of their communities and the natural world.

"The Ultimate Benefit"

"We're really thinking about ways to tie a community and its teachers and students together with people who are responsible for the management of important land—and, in that process, to enhance the capacity of the next generation to make important decisions," explains Park Superintendent Rolf Diamant.

The project is the first time in Vermont that public and private partners, including the National Park Service and the Forest Service, have come together to foster what is often called "place-based education." In time, the partners hope their work, and the model they are developing, may have a wider, even a national, impact.

"This happens to be focused on forests—but the principles have a more universal application," says Diamant. "Being able to make good choices about the future of your home is as important in downtown Cleveland as it is in rural Vermont."

There are other benefits from this program, as well. "We have gone into the field and become hands-on learners ourselves," says Ginny White of the participating teachers. "This experience has renewed and re-energized me, both personally and professionally. It has deeply



broadened my understanding and knowledge base; and I have a huge library of resources to share with my colleagues. The ultimate benefit has been the energy, enthusiasm, and knowledge that I was charged with, which is being transferred to my students.”

The “Power Spot”

All this comes down, in a way, to Toby Sola and his power spot.

Toby is a sixth-grader at Pomfret School, in the rural community that borders the Park on the north. One Friday afternoon in September, teacher Rob Hanson, a participant in A Forest for Every Classroom, took his class out to walk the wooded stretch of Barnard Brook that runs behind the school. Each student chose a “power spot,” a personal place where he or she would return on Friday afternoons throughout the year for a series of projects that build on scientific observation, creative writing, and artwork.

Rob calls these adventures “Forest Forays,” which he believes stimulate and integrate learning in ways not always achievable in the classroom. A Forest for Every Classroom “has been outstanding,” he says, “and has brought a new dimension to my work.”

“To be able to come in contact with specialists who know everything about the forest—it really enriches me as a teacher,” he says. “To translate that into what I do in the classroom: that’s my job.”

Toby Sola’s power spot is a dead tree that has fallen over the stream. The tree is whitened and bare; Toby sits on it. He thinks it’s beautiful. He has written haiku here, done artwork with a first-grader, watched a burrowing raccoon, and carefully noted his observations.

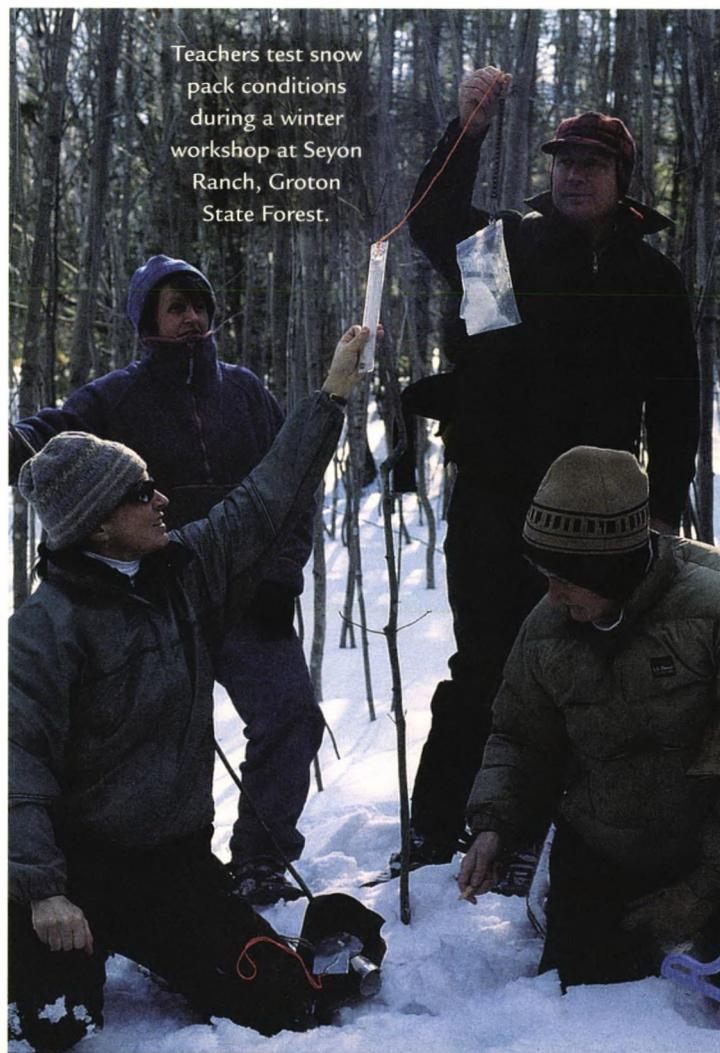
“It’s not like school—it’s like learning in a fun way,” Toby says.

This day in November, something special happens. Along with Maggie Dembinski, a student whose spot is up the stream, Toby catches sight of an unusual animal: something slender and speedy, light on the belly and brown on top. Perhaps a weasel, changing to its white winter coat? The students don’t know—yet.

“It was running across the shore,” says Maggie. “You saw it for like one second, and then it’s gone. It was pretty cool!”

Rob Hanson hopes that, as the year unfolds, these Forest Forays will lead to “aha! moments”—when students will grasp for themselves something of ecology, of the natural world as a whole.

“If you make these connections on your own,” Rob reflects, “they never leave you.” ❁



Teachers test snow pack conditions during a winter workshop at Seyon Ranch, Groton State Forest.



An Expanding Array of Educational Partnerships

The Park continues to be involved with numerous other educational programs.

The Woodstock Seventh Grade Makes Its Mark

This was also the second year of a special collaboration with two seventh-grade classes in the Woodstock Union Middle School, combining service learning and academic achievement. Students work with both their minds and hands as they explore the Mount Tom forest. This year's program made connections among the forest, wood construction, and architectural design. After visiting

the Woodstock Historical Society and viewing photographs of the forest, students learned to identify trees in the field and how the various woods have been used. They measured tree volume and helped select wood harvested and milled on Mount Tom

to construct a new compost center for the Park. Students learned the basic

Woodstock Union Middle School students work with Park staff to build a compost center.

INSET: Wood building framing plan by Woodstock Union Middle School student





elements of wood framing and construction, and at the same time each one learned to draw a perspective framing plan of a small wood building of his or her own design.

Making Connections for Place-based Learning

The Park is a partner of the Greater Woodstock Educational Resource Consortium (GWERC), a partnership of non-formal educational institutions working collaboratively to provide opportunities for place-based learning to local schools. In 2001 GWERC and the Vermont Education for Sustainability Project hosted “Making Connections,” a three-day professional development workshop for local teachers. This workshop explored ways to integrate the concepts of sustainability and place across disciplines. Teachers participated in journaling and “reading-the-landscape” activities at the Park, reflecting on their own experiences with stewardship and those of the land’s past inhabitants. GWERC partners include the Conservation Study Institute, Billings Farm & Museum, Vermont Institute of Natural Science, Woodstock Historical Society, President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, and Windsor Supervisory Union.



The Paths Less Traveled

In addition to providing daily, seasonal tours of the Park, the Visitor Services staff offers a series of special guided walks and programs for visitors. This year’s series, “The Paths Less Traveled,” focused on the natural and cultural heritage evident in the Park, and included:

“**Forest Celebration Weekend**”—two full days of workshops, walks, and demonstrations aimed at making the public aware of the multi-faceted nature of the Mount Tom forest. Presentations included reading the landscape using clues from the past; wood-craft demonstrations; drawing and dendrology for children; the story of white pines in Vermont; and a walk with Windsor County Forester Jon Bouton;

“**Romantic Designs: Landscape Meets Literature**”—a discovery of how nineteenth-century literary and artistic movements influenced the estate’s garden and ground design, combined with a reading of Romantic and Victorian nature poetry;

“**Tale of the Green Man**”—a magical and musical adventure for children six to sixty, in which the Green Man delivered a special message about caring for the land and its special inhabitants;

“**Robert Morris Copeland: A Country Life**”—a discovery of the life story of Copeland and the impact of his country estate design philosophy on the Park’s garden and grounds;

“**Conservation Through the Artist’s Eye**”—a look at the paintings and artists that have inspired conservationists for over 100 years, including works by Hudson River School artists such as Thomas Cole, Albert Bierstadt, and Asher Durand;





“The Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller Mansion: Art & Architecture”—a closer look at the intricate architectural features of the nineteenth-century Victorian mansion, including decorative and functional aspects.

In addition, Park rangers provided educational programs for special tour groups, including K-12 school groups, college classes, bus and bike tours, elder hostels, student work crews, art workshops, and at-risk youth.

Celebrating Black History Month

In celebration of Black History Month in 2001 and the National Park Service’s strong connection to the Underground Railroad, the Park cosponsored the drama “O! Freedom!” in partnership with Pentangle Council on the Arts. Vermont played a major role in the national movement to abolish slavery in the antebellum era. The Park is currently planning a special tour program on the causes and consequences of the Civil War and the unique role Woodstock played on the “home front.”

Volunteers

Volunteer work crews, comprised of high school or college students, come to the Park for summer work projects that last two to three weeks. In 2001 crews from the Student Conservation Association and Landmark Volunteers helped with the preservation of historic stone walls, carriage roads, bridges and trails, and Park landscaping. These groups also participated in special environmental and historical education programs presented by Park and Conservation Study Institute staff.

The Park also enjoys volunteer services provided by the Career Exploration Program of Woodstock Union High School. Participating students gain hands-on work experience while helping out at the Park during the school year. Facility Manager John Gilbert proudly accepted, on behalf of the Park, the program’s award for Employer of the Year 2000.



SCA founder Liz Titus Putnam joins the 2001 summer work crew for an afternoon of work and discussion at the Park.

Bringing
America's
History Alive

Marsh home (*top center*) on the lower slopes of Mount Tom, c. 1865-69





MANAGING MT. TOM

Keeping Stewardship “Readable”

by Doug Wilhelm

Walking in these woods, it's hard to imagine how devastated the Mount Tom forest once was.

At the time of the Civil War, this mountain—really a broad, prominent hill that overlooks Woodstock—had been stripped of its trees for cash crops and sheep farming. In dry weather, hot dust rose up. When it rained, mud flowed down.

“It was an absolute mess,” notes Jon Bouton, the county forester for this part of Vermont, walking on the broad, gentle carriage roads that Frederick Billings built after he acquired Mount Tom in 1869.

Today, visitors walk these winding roads up into a majestic, mature forest—a mosaic of hardwoods, predominantly maple, beech, and birch—and 140 acres of historic plantations including white pine and Norway spruce, some stands dating back to the 1870s.

The denuding of the Mount Tom forest and other forests across Vermont during the early to mid-1800s shocked and inspired George Perkins Marsh, who grew up exploring Mount Tom, to write *Man and Nature*. Marsh's 1864 landmark book called for professional manage-



ment of forests and a new ethic of stewardship. *Man and Nature* inspired the creation of the first U.S. forest preserves, forerunners of our national forests—and also motivated Frederick Billings, in Woodstock, to undertake an ambitious and in many ways unprecedented program of reforestation and land recovery on the cutover and eroded landscape of Mount Tom.

Decades of intensive planting by Billings were followed by the careful, uninterrupted management of the forest by Billings' heirs, including his granddaughter, Mary French Rockefeller, and her husband, conservationist Laurance S.

Rockefeller, who together gave Mount Tom to the National Park Service in 1992.

The Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park is dedicated to telling the story of conservation stewardship, and the Mount Tom forest is its epitome. This is not only the oldest planned and continuously managed forest in the U.S., these woods were also an inspiration for the birth of the American environmental movement.



The Essence of Stewardship

So how then to manage this forest?

It is not a simple question—and it is the center of a multi-year initiative, guided by the Park and involving many partners.

“Mount Tom’s story is still readable on the land,” says Park Superintendent Rolf Diamant. “One challenge is how do we maintain some of this *legibility*, particularly historic features and forest character, that speaks to this extraordinary story of stewardship, while actively managing the forest in a sustainable, ecological way?”

There are many more questions—and most center on the impact people have had, and will continue to have, on this forest.

“This is in some ways the opposite of wilderness,” forester Bouton



Carriage Road on Mount Tom

notes. “One of the really interesting messages of this place is that it is an environment that’s been heavily influenced by human activity.”

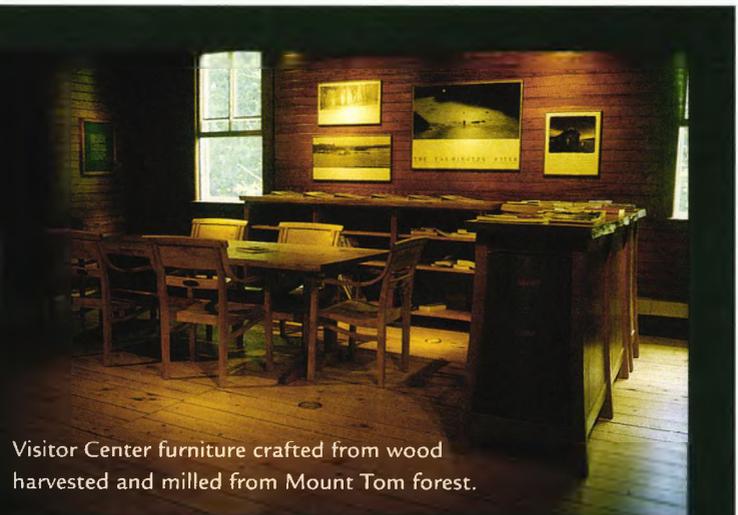
The conscious and careful interaction between humans and the natural world is, of course, the essence of stewardship. So how this park manages Mount Tom forest is a vital question for its future, and one it is approaching with great care.

“We must conceive of stewardship not simply as one individual’s practice,” writes Vermont author John Elder in the essay “Inheriting Mt. Tom”—“but rather as the mutual and intimate relationship, extending across the generations, between a human community and its place on earth.”

It’s just a 550-acre forest, Mount Tom. But it has been—and, with wise human choices, can continue to be—so very much more. ❁

Exploring Forest Certification

The Park is looking at the feasibility of demonstrating and interpreting certification as a new chapter in its legacy of forest stewardship. Third-party certification is one of the fastest-growing developments in sustainable forestry, providing recognition of good forest management through credible, independent verification of best practices and public identification of associated products. A public forum was conducted at the Park looking at the process of third-party forest management certification, discussing its application in the Park, and talking about opportunities for other forest landowners.



Visitor Center furniture crafted from wood harvested and milled from Mount Tom forest.



Preservation and Research Projects

It has been an active two years for preservation and research projects at the Park. We have undertaken important research and restoration projects to ensure that the historic character of the Park is preserved for future generations. A number of important projects are being accomplished through the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller Fund of The Woodstock Foundation, Inc., created and endowed by Mary F. and Laurance S. Rockefeller and dedicated to preservation and conservation work in the Park. We've included in this Annual Report a sampling of several diverse preservation projects.

“Sunscreen” for Collections

The Park has installed ultraviolet filtering film on all the windows of the historic buildings at the core of the Park property: the Mansion, Belvedere, Bungalow, and Carriage Barn. The clear film aids preservation efforts, while being virtually invisible when installed. It protects against fading and bleaching, and reduces heat

gain during the summer in building interiors. Portions of the cost of the project were donated by the film's maker, CP Films.

Fire Suppression System for Mansion

The Park is installing a state-of-the-art fire suppression system in the Mansion. When completed, this system will protect this treasured nineteenth-century home and its contents against catastrophic fire.

Before engineers installed any pipes or fixtures, historic architects carefully planned exactly where to place each pipe and sprinkler, taking special account of the historic floors, wallpapers, ceilings, and woodwork. The system was designed so that the pipes are hidden from view in the walls and ceilings.

When the project is complete, several thousand feet of pipe will snake throughout the walls, floors, and ceilings of the Mansion. This hidden matrix of pipes will lead to nearly 200 sprinkler heads, positioned on both ceilings and walls. Every square

foot of space in the Mansion will be protected. The first floor of the Mansion reopened to visitors in September 2001.

Cutting Edge of Composting

In 2000 the Park began an ambitious program to integrate the recycling of organic waste generated in the Park with the transition to organic turf management practices. Two growing seasons later, the Park has a state-of-the-art composting program and has greatly reduced the amount of chemicals applied to the turf. The goal is to make the property safer for visitors and employees and to demonstrate sustainable practices.

Now 100 percent of the wood materials generated from clearing trails and slopes, plus the landscape debris from the Mansion grounds, is converted into a renewable resource. Special machinery turns, chips, and shreds the material over the two-year composting process. The final product—a dark, crumbly, earthy-smelling fertilizer—is considered black gold by organic gardeners.

Compost grinder at work.



The material is spread on the lawn of the Park grounds as a fertilizer. Over time, this switch in management practices will improve the condition and vigor of the turf.

Over 6000 Museum Objects Cataloged

The overarching task that defines the ongoing work of the Park's curatorial department is the cataloging of the approximately 20,000 objects in the Park. These objects include historic furnishings, books, carpets, and works of art. To date, over 6000 entries have been added to a computer database, which can be consulted for scholarly research.



History of Art and Conservation Study

In 2001 the Park completed a long-anticipated Historic Resource Study analyzing the origin and significance of the works of landscape art in the Mansion collection. Called “Art and the American Conservation Movement,” the study was written by Robert McGrath, professor of art history at Dartmouth College, and was produced under the auspices of the Cultural Resource Preservation Program of the National Park Service.

Forest Monitoring

In order to look at long-term changes in forest growth and structure in the Mount Tom forest, the University of Vermont (UVM) School of Natural Resources is in the process of installing and measuring forest monitoring plots in the Park. UVM has also inventoried the natural communities of plant species and soils in the Park. The resulting maps show sixteen different natural communities, including hemlock-northern hardwood forest and rich northern hardwood

forest. Another research project, conducted by the US Forest Service State and Private Forestry, will produce an inventory of forest diversity and tree volume in each of the forested stands in the Park. All of these forest research projects will help inform future Park management decisions.

From Bats to Fish

The Park, in cooperation with the Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences (VINS), has conducted quantitative assessments of the amphibian, reptile, bat, fish, and breeding bird species within the Park property and on adjacent lands. Another research project, sponsored by the US Fish and Wildlife Service in cooperation with VINS, used radio telemetry to track the movements of Jefferson and Spotted Salamanders around the Park. (And they travel surprisingly far—an average of 175 meters from their breeding pools.) The broad goal of these research projects is to provide Park managers with the baseline data necessary to develop an ecologically sound forest management plan and

Nellie Warren Kidder driving on Mount Tom, c. 1887-1896



formulate effective monitoring strategies for the future. For example, by knowing how far salamanders travel from their breeding pools, the Park can establish strategies for protecting the habitat of the salamander population.

Mount Tom Carriage Roads

In the summer of 2001 an interdisciplinary team of researchers from the NPS Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) chronicled the history and construction of the Park’s roads. The HAER documentation process includes detailed drawings, large-format photographs, and comprehensive histories. This project is part of a multi-year program to document the history of road building in America’s national parks and parkways.

Cultural Landscape Report

The preparation of a “Cultural Landscape Report” by the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation is underway to guide the Park’s management of the ten-acre residential complex within the Park. The buildings and cultural features of the Park were developed and altered during nearly two centuries of historically significant occupancy. The Park’s goal is to plan and manage the historic landscape in a way that conveys a sense of the site’s evolution through the tenure of the Marsh, Billings, and Rockefeller families. The “Cultural Landscape Report” will clearly document the history and significance of the landscape and recommend future landscape preservation management and protection strategies.



Partnership Programs with the National Park Service's Conservation Study Institute

The Park continues to work closely with the National Park Service's Conservation Study Institute, one of its principal partners. The mission of the Institute is to create opportunities for dialogue, inquiry, and lifelong learning to enhance the stewardship of parks, landscapes, and communities. The Park collaborates with the Institute on educational, network building, and research projects, including:

NPS Staff Development

- ✿ NPS Superintendents' Roundtable—a pilot program to help senior leadership develop collaborative relationships with their peers;

- ✿ NPS Intake Class, for leadership development—hosting graduations in 2000 and 2001;

Educational Programs

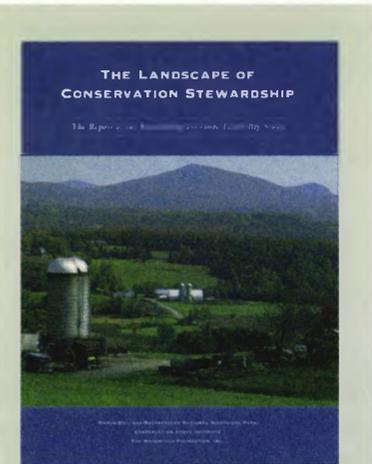
- ✿ “A Forest for Every Classroom: Making Choices for the Future of Vermont's Forests”—a community-based, K-12 pilot curriculum

exploring stewardship and decision making for forests on public lands, in partnership with Green Mountain National Forest, National Wildlife Federation, Shelburne Farms, Ittleson Foundation, and NPS Parks as Classroom Program;

- ✿ “Vermont Summer Land Conservation Program”—an annual program for professionals, students, and volunteers involved in conservation work, in partnership with University of Vermont Natural Areas Center, Billings Farm & Museum, The Woodstock Foundation, Inc., QLF/Atlantic Center for the Environment, Vermont Land Trust, Shelburne Farms, Equinox Preservation Trust, and Middlebury College;

- ✿ Vermont Education for Sustainability Project: “Making Connections”—a teacher-training program;

Participants at the 2000 workshop “Planning and Collaboration: Lessons Learned in Areas Managed through National Park Service Partnerships”



The Landscape of Conservation Stewardship is the national and international report of the Stewardship Initiative Feasibility Study, which was co-sponsored by the Park, The Woodstock Foundation, Inc., and the Conservation Study Institute. The report findings identify a long-term strategy that will deepen the understanding of conservation stewardship and its benefits, boost the effectiveness of practitioners, and promote an integrated stewardship approach across disciplines, professions, and sectors.



Conservation Dialogue

✿ Charrette on monitoring large conservation easements—anticipating trends in land conservation practices, in collaboration with Pingree Forest Partnership;

✿ “Planning and Collaboration: Lessons Learned in Areas Managed through NPS Partnerships”—a national work-

shop examining the wisdom gleaned from current NPS partnerships, convened with NPS Park Planning and Special Studies Program and QLF/Atlantic Center for the Environment;

✿ Conservation Leadership Network Course: “Balancing Nature and Commerce in Gateway Communities”—building collaborative teams in towns that border public lands, in partnership with The Conservation Fund, NPS Planning and Special Studies Program, Sonoran Institute, US Fish and Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center, The Woodstock Foundation, Inc.;

Public Programs

✿ National lecture series by David Lowenthal—celebrating 200 years of conservation stewardship since the birth of George Perkins Marsh;

✿ “An Evening with John Elder”—a public reading and book signing, in partnership with Billings Farm & Museum and The Woodstock Foundation, Inc.;

✿ “Imagining the Vermont Landscape: Past and Future”—a two-part workshop on shaping Vermont’s future, in partnership with

the Orton Family Foundation and The Woodstock Foundation, Inc.;

✿ “An Evening with John Hanson Mitchell”—a public reading and book signing.



Vernazza,
Italy

International Programs

Both the United States and Italy share the legacy of George Perkins Marsh, the first U.S. ambassador to Italy (1861-1882). Marsh’s prescient environmental observations were shaped by his experience in both countries. Marsh’s book, *Man and Nature (L’Uomo E La Natura)*, influenced early forest conservation legislation in both the U.S. and Italy. Building on this legacy, the US National Park Service (NPS) and the Italian Nature Conservation Service (INCS) are working together on a variety of landscape and park management issues common to both agencies. The NPS and INCS have signed an international agreement commencing a staff exchange program for professional development. Most recently, the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park has teamed up with Lazio Regional Park Agency of Italy to work on education and interpretation of large-scale landscapes.



The Park was honored to receive two Northeast Region Resource and Planning Awards in 2000. Kyle Jones (*in front*) was named Natural Resources Manager of the Year (Small Parks), and Rolf Diamant was awarded the Natural Resources Superintendent of the Year.

Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park Staff and Partners

Park Staff

Rolf Diamant, Superintendent
B. J. Dunn, Assistant Superintendent
Polly Angelakis, Park Ranger
Mea Arego, Administrative Officer
John Gilbert, Facility Manager
Peter Glover, Wood Crafter
Janet Houghton, Curator
Kyle Jones, Park Resources Manager
Tim Maguire, Chief of Visitor Services
Chrissy Marts, Recreation Planner
Kim Murray, Horticulturist
Ned Olmsted, Writer
Ella Rothgangel, Lead Cataloger
Jennifer Shaw, Museum Technician
Valeri Wolffe, Administrative Technician

Billings Farm & Museum/ The Woodstock Foundation, Inc.

David Donath, President
Darlyne Franzen, Associate Director
Robert Benz, Curator
Geraldine Brown, Education
Coordinator
David Ferrero, Facilities Manager
Marian Koetsier, Administrative Officer
David Miles, Assistant Director/
Operations
Virginia Nix, Business Manager
Susan Plump, Public Relations Assistant
Esther Swift, Librarian/Archivist
Marjorie Wakefield, Receptionist
David Yeats, Assistant Director/Farm

Conservation Study Institute

Nora Mitchell, Director
Virginia Farley, Program Associate
Deb Jones, Program Associate
Daniel Laven, Program Associate
Barbara Slaiby, Program Coordinator
Jacquelyn Tuxill, Program Associate

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Franklin S. and Polly Billings
John Elder
Green Mountain and Finger Lakes
National Forests—Kathleen Diehl,
Paul Brewster, and Dave Lacey
Grey Towers National Historic
Landmark—Ed Brannon
Phil Huffman
Ittleson Foundation
Landmark Volunteers
Lazio Regional Park Agency (Italy)—
Maurillio Cipparone, Giuliano
Tallone, and Filippo Belisario
David Lowenthal
New England Forestry Foundation
Northeast Forest Center
NPS Historic American Engineering
Record (HAER)—Blaine Cliver
and Tim Davis
NPS Northeast Museum Services Center
National Wildlife Federation—Liz Soper,
Eric Palola, and Stacey Brown
Olmsted Center for Landscape
Preservation—Bob Page, Charlie
Pepper, and Gina Bellavia
Orton Family Foundation—Bill Roper
and Helen Whyte
Pennsylvania State University—
Dan Nadenicek, Tom Yahner,
and Mary Beth Carlin
Pentangle Council on the Arts—
Sabrina Brown
Pinchot Institute for Conservation
QLF/Atlantic Center for the
Environment—Larry Morris, Jessica
Brown, and Brent Mitchell
Quechee Chamber of Commerce
Jeff Roberts
Shelburne Farms—Megan Camp,
Alec Webb, and Pat Straughan

Society for the Protection of New
England Antiquities
Student Conservation Association—
Joanne Smoger
SUNY/College of Environmental Science
and Forestry, Syracuse—John
Auwaerter and George Curry
Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional
Planning Commission
University of Vermont, School of Natural
Resources—Bob Manning, Bill Keaton,
Leslie Morrissey, and Don DeHayes
US Forest Service State and Private
Forestry—Bob Cooke, Deirdre Raimo,
Arlyn Perkey, and Roger Monthey
Vermont Attractions Association
Vermont Department of Forests, Parks
& Recreation—Jon Bouton and
Neil Lamson
Vermont Education for Sustainability
Project
Vermont Institute of Natural Science—
Steve Faccio and Kent McFarland
Vermont Regional Marketing
Association—Susanne Schaefer
Windsor Central Supervisory
Union Schools
Woodstock Area Chamber of Commerce
Woodstock Historical Society—
Corwin Sharp

We wish to extend special thanks
to the people of Woodstock for their
continued support.

Financial Report

FUNDING BY SOURCE, FY 2001:

Park Operating Base
\$1,565,000

Fee Revenue & Income
\$47,447

Park Fund (Endowment)
\$260,532

Grants & Projects
\$254,360

Total \$2,127,339

PARK OPERATION EXPENDITURES, FY 2001:

Resource Protection & Forest Stewardship
17%

Management & Administration
9%

Visitor Services & Educational Programs
32%

Facility Maintenance & Preservation
42%



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Billings Family Archives: 10,14
B. J. Dunn: 9
Jon Gilbert Fox: 2
John Gilbert: 13
NPS: inside front cover, inside back cover,
12 (top), 15, 16 (right)
Ed Sharron: front cover, 7,8
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Barbara Slaiby: 3,4,6
Emily Sloan: 11,12 (bottom)

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The Park at a Glance



- * 555 acres in public ownership, including one of the oldest professionally managed forests in the country
- * National Historic Landmark in conservation history
- * Vermont's first tree farm, with eleven historic forest stands
- * 300 acres of scenic easements
- * Two visitor center operations featuring exhibits on conservation history and current practice
- * Home of the NPS Conservation Study Institute and Vermont and New Hampshire Rivers & Trails Conservation Assistance Program
- * Twenty miles of historical carriage Roads and trails, including six miles of historic carriage roads
- * Nineteenth-century mansion with twenty-eight rooms, 3,000-volume library, and more than 500 works of graphic art, including landscape paintings by Thomas Cole, Albert Bierstadt, J. F. Kensett, and others
- * Sixteen horse-drawn carriages and sleighs
- * 20,000 museum artifacts
- * Sixteen historic structures
- * Five acres of landscaped grounds and formal gardens

MARSH * BILLINGS * ROCKEFELLER NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
National Park Service
Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park
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*Established in 1992,
Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park
is the only national park to tell the story
of conservation history and the evolving nature
of land stewardship in America.*