



Moosalamoo

Fall 2006

NEWSletter



The Moosalamoo Association is a non-profit organization that brings together specialists in tourism and conservation to learn from each other and to develop a framework for cooperative activities for natural resource conservation, recreation experience enhancement, and educational and interpretative services for visitors to the Moosalamoo area. The mission of the Moosalamoo Association is to:

Collaborate with public entities to plan, manage, and provide stewardship for wildlife habitat conservation and quality public recreational opportunities and facilities.

Promote responsible recreation participation and environmental awareness through interpretation, education, and resource monitoring.

Demonstrate the unique capabilities of public and private partners working together.

Strengthen partnerships at the local level in cooperative projects such as trail construction and maintenance, wildlife habitat improvement, and visual enhancement of roadsides.

We need your help to accomplish this mission.

Dear Friends:

It has been another great year in Moosalamoo. The year started with the Moosalamoo Association hiring a new Executive Director, Joel Flewelling. Joel has been working with the Association as a Project Manager for the past five years through Ghostwriters Communications. One of Joel's first tasks was to open an office in the Ski Center at Blueberry Hill. This new office in Goshen will allow us to have more contact with visitors and establish a greater presence in the area. Joel works out of this office on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

This spring we saw the introduction of the Vermont Wilderness Act. Introduced by Vermont's congressional delegation, this bill would add additional wilderness areas in the Green Mountain National Forest and designate Moosalamoo as a National Recreation Area (NRA). The bill passed in the Senate and is awaiting approval by the House in November's lame duck session. The NRA designation would insure permanent protection of the region's unique natural, cultural, recreational, and historical resources.

The Association has continued working with the Forest Service to maintain the trail system in Moosalamoo. Our partnership with the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) has allowed us to have a crew here for the entire summer. The VYCC worked on many tasks including trail maintenance, recreation site enhancements, historic preservation, and maintaining the Moosalamoo campground. The Association has also maintained wildlife habitat with annual mowing contracts and by hiring contractors to work on the apple trees.

I am now turning to you, our past guests and supporters of Moosalamoo, to help insure that we are able to continue our work and enter a new phase for the Association. Due to decreasing budgets and competition for grant funding the Association is struggling to maintain our current level of activity. My goal is to raise \$100,000 and not only maintain our current level of work, but increase and expand our work. The Moosalamoo Association is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization; and as such donations to the Association are tax deductible. For every donation to the Moosalamoo Association for \$100 or more the donor will receive a custom pen, locally handcrafted from apple wood that was pruned from Moosalamoo apple trees.

Thanks again for your continued support of Moosalamoo.

Sincerely,
Tony Clark, President



Moosalamoo is a 22,000-acre region of public and private land nestled in the Green Mountain National Forest. Moosalamoo's diverse ecosystem is home to a large number of plants and animals. This beautiful natural area is also a marvelous recreation area for wildlife viewing, berry picking, hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, picnicking, and camping.



Jeffords, Leahy, and Sanders Introduce Wilderness Legislation

On April 6, 2006 U.S. Senators Jim Jeffords and Patrick Leahy and U.S. Representative Bernie Sanders introduced the Vermont Wilderness Act of 2006, which would build on the wilderness study areas recently recommended by the United States Forest Service.

“The Vermont Wilderness Act is the result of years of hard work, thorough analysis, and significant public input,” said Jeffords. “This legislation will help the Green Mountain National Forest remain one of Vermont’s most precious environmental treasures, while continuing to support our state’s economic and recreational needs. I look forward to working with my colleagues to see this legislation become law.”

The bill closely tracks the Forest Service plan. The proposed additions in the Breadloaf, Big Branch and Peru Peak areas are nearly identical to the Forest Service plan. In addition the bill adds two new wilderness areas in the Glastenbury and Romance/Monastery Mountain regions. Finally, in the Moosalamoo area, this legislation codifies the Moosalamoo National Recreation Area, which has the strong support of the various communities and local partners.

Since the last major expansion of wilderness areas in Vermont was enacted in 1984, the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) has acquired an additional 110,000 acres of land. The GMNF is now approximately 400,000 acres and constitutes about 6 percent of Vermont. Of these 400,000 acres roughly 59,000 are currently designated wilderness. This legislation would increase the number of wilderness acres in the Forest to about 107,000.

Leahy said, “This legislation demonstrates our commitment to additional Wilderness areas on the Green Mountain National Forest. In many ways this legislation is an endorsement of the superb work done by the Forest Service staff in Vermont. Our legislation is a compromise between those who would prefer signifi-

cant additions in wilderness areas and those who would prefer none.”

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In the Romance/Monastery Mountain area the bill creates a new wilderness area called the Joseph Battell Wilderness to honor the historic champion of Vermont’s public lands. This area was designated as remote backcountry in the Forest Service plan—a management classification that is similar to a wilderness area. In the Glastenbury area, the Forest Service added more than 8,000 acres to their original plan, and this legislation further increases the acreage of a proposed Glastenbury Wilderness Area.

Sanders said, “I am very pleased to join Senators Leahy and Jeffords in introducing the Vermont Wilderness Act of 2006. While I’m sure that this bill won’t satisfy everyone completely, it is an important step forward in preserving wilderness for future generations of Vermonters, while honoring the tradition of Vermont’s working landscape and the interests of the tens of thousands of Vermonters who enjoy our state’s many outdoor recreational activities.”

In addition, recognizing the recreational appeal of the area surrounding Mount Moosalamoo in the northern half of the forest, the bill formally designates a new 16,900-acre Moosalamoo National Recreation Area. This designation will draw tourists from around the world for hiking, biking, snowmobiling, and a variety of other outdoor activities. Other uses of the forest, including logging, are not prohibited activities under the National Recreation Area designation.



VYCC Continues Partnership with Moosalamoo

The Forest Service and the Moosalamoo Association were able to jointly sponsor two Vermont Youth Conservation Corps crews this summer. The VYCC crews and supervisors did a wonderful job clearing brush, removing trash, repairing walls in the head race of a historic mill, and generally making these tangible reminders of a by-gone day appear cared for

and more visible. The crews worked on several trails including the Goshen Trail where they rebuilt a footbridge. The Wilkinson Trail was the focus of one crew where they raised the tread and built a new bridge on a very wet section of the trail. The crews also mowed developed recreation sites every week and took care of the Moosalamoo Campground.



VYCC First Crew

Goshen Brook Fisheries Habitat Improvement

The Moosalamoo Association and the Forest Service worked to restore Large Woody Debris (LWD) to 2.6 miles of Goshen Brook and its two tributaries, Gonya and Hale Brooks. Fish habitat improvement structures were placed in the lower 1500 feet of these streams in the early 1990s. Habitat monitoring at these sites and others on the forest indicate the intensity of treatment (53 pieces/mile) was not sufficient to create the desired future condition for habitat

described in the Forest Plan. In addition, recent research on LWD loading indicates that 200 pieces of wood per mile would naturally occur in forest streams. LWD was placed in the previously treated sections of stream along with the remaining upstream reaches of the three streams as part of this project. LWD is an important habitat component for Brook Trout because it provides cover, creates pools, and also provides habitat for aquatic insects that the trout feed on.



VYCC Second Crew

Palettes of Vermont Project

Bruce Brown, Field Director with Moosalamoo joined many Brandon Artists and created a palette that was displayed and sold at the Brandon Artists Guild. The palettes are part of the Palettes of Vermont project. Palettes of Vermont is arguably the world's largest arts exhibition, spanning the entire state and showcasing the artistic talent of more than 37,000 Vermonters! The palettes will be exhibited at community events around the state through October 2006. Find out more at www.vermontartscouncil.org/palettes.



Local Boy Scout Improves Access

John Slocum, a Boy Scout from Middlebury, lead a group of scouts on a project to create an accessible path into the blueberry management area. John organized the project as part of the requirement to become an Eagle Scout. The blueberry area is a popular destination for the kids who attend Camp Thorpe. The camp serves children and adults that have various disabilities. The new path is designed to meet the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act, making it easier for everyone to enjoy the blueberries. The Association works with the Forest Service to maintain the blueberries by mowing and burning. For the last few years burning has not happened due to poor weather conditions or a lack of available staff. The Association hopes that burning will occur this year. Burning the area every few years promotes re-growth and the production of fruit on the plants.



Blueberry area access path

The Moosalamoo Association is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization created to help protect and preserve the Moosalamoo region's 22,000 acres of wild and forested lands. Your donation will be used to help the Association in continuing its educational, recreational, and stewardship efforts.

- Friend \$100 Supporter \$250
 Sponsor \$500 Benefactor \$1,000 Other \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

- I would like to receive a Moosalamoo Outdoor Recreation Map
- I would like to receive a Cross Moosalamoo Trail Guide
- I would like to receive a Moosalamoo Driving Tour Guide
- I would like to receive a Rocky Point Interpretive Trail Guide
- I would like to receive a Moosalamoo Birding Guide

**Please send with your check payable to:
 Moosalamoo Association
 P.O. Box 108, Forest Dale, VT 05745-0108**

Future Plans

- Trail maintenance
- Forest management demonstrations
- Wildlife habitat improvements
- Environmental education in local schools
- Membership drive



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