

A continuous stream of inquiries about the VCLT flows into the agent's mailbox. About 364 of our pamphlets were included in the Fr. Co. Community Union's mailing for Oct. If you know of an organization or group which might include our pamphlet in its mailing or an article in its newsletter, or want to invite us to speak to the group - call or write Betsy in Whately, 665-2894.

Several of us learned more about land trusts at the National Community Land Trust Conference held Oct. 21 in Voluntown, Conn. The NCLT Center is alive and has been joined by the Community Investment Fund Corp. and the American Natural Resource Trust, all located at 639 Mass. Ave in Cambridge. These organs have been formed to help funnel land and money to local land trusts and other enterprises involved with social change. Pam Roberts has spent the past two weeks helping with office work there and has news of NCLTC activities as well as info on financing, etc.

CLT workshops were held at the Norman Wilson Memorial Conference on Cooperative Self Reliance, the weekend of Nov. 5-6. In addition to talking with some area residents about the VCLT, we heard more about Earthbridge's progress. Formerly the Abenacki CLT, Earthbridge now holds about 360 acres in 4 locations where 30 adults and children live as lessees. Earthbridge has developed quite a slide show which we hope to have at our next general meeting in January.

News of the Board-- The VCLT board has met twice since the annual meeting in Oct. Much of our time has focused on how best to use the services of Betsy Corner, our paid consultant. The board decided to review our need for a paid position in Jan. and to ask Betsy to work on our three critical needs--land, lessees and funds. We hope that Betsy can make use of board members and others on a "matching" basis so that volunteers will be equaling the current twenty hours per week that she works on VCLT tasks. One way in which we hope to raise funds will be through benefit concerts and/or dances. It seems clear that the board will be meeting more than the scheduled six meetings a year, for there is much to be done before we are actively stewarding our first piece of land.

S.M.

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The money supply is nearly nil so don't hesitate to ask friends, relations and yourself for a contribution. Jodi Simpson in Amherst will be glad to accept \$\$\$. Since acting as treasurer, Jodi reports that we have spent \$40 for corporation fees, \$276 for legal and staff fees, \$77.80 for sundry, \$52.46 for membership related costs, and have received \$110 in membership fees, \$315 in donations, \$29 from the bake sale, and \$9.24 from by-law sales, all totaling a balance of \$107.55.

LAND We looked at an abandoned but still pastured farm which will be on the market soon. It is owned by a family hoping to see it continued as a farm rather than sold at a developer's price. The farm is crossed by the Sawmill River and a stream runs down through a stand of mature hemlocks and pines. Most of the 50 acres is in pasture. The barn and tobacco shed seem to be in good shape while the farmhouse needs some extensive repair. There is plenty of frontage on paved roads and open views of the surrounding farmland.

Pam and Ed are still hoping to land in Colrain but if you know of a place, call. Ed Bourgoise is looking for a farm suitable for sheep raising....

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Circle January 12, 1978 as the evening to spend together. There will be a slide show for new and old members, some singing if we can, orienting for recent members and business for others. As of this moment the writer is unable to locate the meeting so there'll be another letter waltzing your way before Jan. 12. The membership committee has set the Jan. 12 date as the beginning of a short orientation time for interested persons. If you know of anyone who might want to learn more about the land trust philosophy, tell them about the meeting.

As Pam says... VCLT..A way to keep the family in farming.....