NEWLY CONSERVED—Bob Collins Conservation Farm
By Carl Robinson, MALT Executive Director

Those of you who have driven along Route 23 anytime in the past few years surely noticed the real estate signs fronting the 103 acres at the intersection of Perkins Road and Route 23. Middlebury College, the most recent owner of the property, sought to sell this property for development of five houses (3-4 in the field along the road). Several Weybridge residents urged the Middlebury Area Land Trust (MALT) to preserve the 20-acre agricultural field, important wildlife habitat, and significant stretch of scenic views offered from the road between Weybridge and Middlebury.

MALT got to work in earnest about 18 months ago. The land trust documented significant bird and mammal habitat that fell within an important 8-mile habitat corridor (the farmland and scenic character values being already readily apparent). After signing a contract to purchase the property, MALT undertook a variety of efforts to raise the needed funds, including installing signs to encourage conservation of the land. Through an amazing community effort—with donations from more than 60 individuals (the majority of whom live in Weybridge) along with a contribution from the Weybridge Conservation Fund—MALT was able to purchase the property on September 30, 2014. Thank you!!

After purchasing the property, MALT conveyed a conservation easement to the Vermont Land Trust (which also provided some financial support through the Darby Bradley Legacy Fund) ensuring the continued agricultural viability of the front field and preserving the habitat and views in perpetuity.

MALT then sold the land to Monument Farms, which will continue to use the agricultural lands and has taken responsibility for maintaining the habitat through specified land management practices.

Bob, Jon, Peter James and Carl Robinson, newly conserved lands.
Working with our community to conserve natural and productive landscapes, and to enhance scenic, recreational, and educational opportunities.

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Joni Osterhautd, Stewardship
John Derick, Trail Coordinator

**Volunteers**
Dave Hallam
Katherine Branch

MALT News is the official newsletter of the Middlebury Area Land Trust, Inc.

Call 802-388-1007 for information or with your comments. E-mail us at info@maltvt.org

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Collins Continued...
The management responsibilities outweigh the agricultural benefits for Monument Farms, and its contribution to the character of Weybridge should be recognized. Please thank Jon, Pete, and Bob when you see them! As part of the management activities Monument Farms will bush hog a path around the property for use by the public...you can park on Perkins Road; please be careful during hunting season!

MALT has named the parcel The Bob Collins Conservation Farm to honor the memory of the late Bob Collins, who loved and stewarded these acres for many years. Bob served on MALT’s Board from 1992 to 1998, working closely with its first two executive directors to build a tradition of land conservation in the area. Dedicated to the preservation of our remarkable working and natural landscapes, Bob spent his professional career in Addison County with the USDA Soil Conservation Service, now known as the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Bob helped farmers apply best farming and conservation practices. His knowledge of and passion for environmentally sound agriculture not only helped farms flourish, but also improved Vermont’s water quality, wildlife habitat, and other natural resources. We know Bob would be proud of this project and be as grateful for the community effort that achieved it as we are.

We hope you will take in that view, those fields, and that wildlife corridor next time you drive that stretch of Route 23!

**TAM Intern Report**
Marshall Strong, our Middlebury College summer intern, spent June through August working with John Derick on maintaining the TAM. Major accomplishments included building a new boardwalk off of Creek Road, and fixing several existing ones. Marshall also worked on mapping side trails in Wright Park, Battell Woods, and Chipman Hill, and on creating maps for the kiosks at the trails’ entrances. He is currently in the process of making an online, interactive version of the TAM map, which will hopefully be up and running in the next month.
MALT welcomes two new board members

I live in Weybridge and have a wife and two kids and a dog, all of whom like to walk and hike, so we use the TAM a lot where it passes through Weybridge. The new spur off Sheep Farm Rd to Route 23 is part of my morning run and as it cuts between Hamilton Rd and Route 23 it passes two huge old oaks and there are fantastic views in all directions. I figured at some point I would end up being involved with MALT, and when asked last summer to join the board it was hard to say no. Public trails are such an important part of a community's recreational infrastructure and we are lucky to have a strong organization to develop and maintain trails and conserve land. I have a strong interest in matters involving real property as a real estate attorney and in an academic sense (history, culture and environment), so being on the board of a land trust seems like a good fit. Plus the other people involved with the organization are nice, fun and interesting!

Ben Bruno is excited to bring his passion for outdoor recreation access, the trails, and land stewardship to the MALT board. Ben loves running, biking and hiking the TAM with friends, his wife, his dog, and on his own. Ben has lived in Middlebury for the past 5 years and graduated from Middlebury College in 2006. Ben works in the field of business immigration law, based out of his home in Middlebury.

MALT is always on the look out for new board members and volunteers.

Contact MALT for more info.

802-388-1007 or info@maltvt.org
Fun Facts: The Eastern Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo silvestris*)

This time of year you may be thinking about turkey on your dinner table, but the ones you see in the woods are much more interesting. There are six subspecies of wild turkey, all native to North America. The eastern wild turkey, or forest turkey, has a range that covers the eastern half of the United States and extends into Canada. After being hunted nearly to extinction by the early 1900s, restoration programs helped their numbers rebound to the millions. According to Vermont Fish and Wildlife, state turkey counts for 2014 are 3091 hens, 12898 poults, 534 toms and 1918 unknowns.

Male turkeys are called toms, females are hens, and young males and females are called jakes and jennies. Babies are poults. While the males do “gobble”, other turkey sounds include “purs,” “whines”, “cutts”, “yelps” and “kee-kees.” There are stories of hens gobbling on occasion, too.

An adult tom weighs 16 to 22 pounds on average, has a feather beard on his breast that reaches seven inches or more, has sharp spurs on his legs for fighting and can be up to 4 feet tall with wingspan of over 4 feet. A hen is smaller, around 8 to 12 pounds, with no beard or spurs. Both genders have a snood (a dangly appendage on the face), wattle (the red dangly bit under the chin) and a few feathers on the head. When a male turkey is excited, its head and snood turn blue; when ready to fight, they turn red.

A hen will lay about 10 to 12 eggs, one egg per day. The eggs will incubate about 28 days before hatching, and the hatchlings stay in the nest only 1 day. Poults eat berries, seeds and insects, while adults have a omnivorous diet that can even include small reptiles. A turkey’s gender can be determined from its droppings – males produce spiral-shaped and females’ droppings are shaped like the letter J.

Wild turkeys can run as fast as 25 mph and fly as fast as 55 mph, and can even swim. This helps them escape, as they are hunted by coyotes, bobcats, raccoons, mountain lions, Golden Eagles, Great Horned Owls, and people. Nest predators include raccoons, opossums, striped skunks, gray foxes, woodchucks, rat snakes, bull snakes, birds, and rodents.

The modern domestic turkey is probably descended from the subspecies, *M. gallapavo gallopavo*, the south Mexican wild turkey. The Aztecs domesticated the birds, the Spanish brought those turkeys to Europe, and the pilgrims then brought several of these domestic turkeys back to North America.

This has been a busy year on the Trail Around Middlebury…
by, John Derick

- This spring, we started doing gravel work on the ’97 trail in the woods north of the college garden with students from the Counseling Service of Addison County (CSAC).
- First mowing of the field portions of the trail was mid May, then every 2-3 weeks until the end of September.
- In June, our summer intern from the college, Marshall Strong, joined us. We soon started work on rebuilding the boardwalk between Creek and Middle roads. Marshall, Carl, Adam Kelly (another Middlebury College student) and I worked on the rebuild a couple mornings a week for a month. At the same time, the students in the summer program at CSAC were building up the trail with gravel at the Creek road end. This project will mean a dryer, wider trail and boardwalk.
- On good dry days, Marshall worked on putting wood preservative on the Arnold Bridges. Other days, he cut brush, moved gravel and installed motion cameras. These cameras were thanks to Helen Young from the college and let us track usage on the trail. We also graveled wet areas in the Otter Creek Gorge with the counseling service summer students.
- In early summer we had the engineer who designed the Boathouse and Arnold bridges do an inspection on both. The bridges were found to be in good condition after 15 years of use. Marshall and I worked on the few minor issues from that inspection during the summer. Students from the Diversified Occupations Program (DO) at the high school put wood preservative on the Boathouse bridge.
- This summer, we mowed the Blue Trail (to Prunier Road) and improved signage.
- On the United Way Days of Caring, students in forestry from the Hannaford Career Center rerouted the trail between Creek road and the Boathouse bridge. The erosion of the creek bank was taking part of the trail. In late summer, Marshall, Adam and I rebuilt the boardwalk north of the college garden.
- This fall, we have been putting gravel on the Jackson and Johnson trails and next to the new dentist building on Middle road with the D.O. and CSAC students. We also have two students from the high school, Eric Podraza and Phillip Pierce, working on the trail.

...and in Otter View Park

- In July, I hauled rock from Monument Farms to Otter View and the CSAC summer students lined the stream under the boardwalk. Heavy rains the last few years eroded around the supports.
- Marshall applied wood preserve to the benches and Phillip cleaned leaves off the boardwalk and trimmed the brush back. Adam Kelley, neighbor Gary Starr and I put the kiosk back in place after a strong wind storm blew it over.
THE JOHN DERICK ENDOWMENT FUND FOR THE TAM

We all have stories we like to tell and I’ve got a short one about how I first discovered the Trail Around Middlebury (TAM). Shortly after moving into a new home back in 1998 I was exploring the woods around the neighborhood and came across a yellow trail marker near the Arnold Bridge which is part of the northern Wright Park section of the TAM. Within a few weeks I was pretty familiar with most of the trail on either side of the bridge and noticed where some improvements could be made. A year later I responded to an article in the paper requesting help to work on the trail and met John Derick for the first time. About eight people showed up and spent the morning building a short 24 foot narrow span over a water inlet. By that point I had been running two different loops on the TAM and that “rice paddy foot bridge” extended one of them further. After participating in some more trail workdays I was asked to join the MALT board. My previous stint in the 2000s was for seven years and last year I was asked to come back on the board.

Many of us remember our stories about how we have gotten acquainted with the TAM and how virtually all of us got to know John Derick and have witnessed up close his enduring passion that’s been unwavering since the trails beginning 24 years ago. For a quarter of a century John Derick, the TAM coordinator, has been the one constant driving force behind the trail from its early development to the present with its ongoing maintenance and improvement. Year in, year out, and year round, John’s access to equipment, coordination of work crews, and the countless hours and commitment to the TAM have been remarkable. It’s truly amazing how he just gets the job done.

Every organization reaches a point where it steps back to recognize its accomplishments and begins to plan for its sustained future. And it’s time MALT takes the next steps to secure this Addison County emerald necklace. Rising to this challenge a new MALT Committee was formed about a year ago with the charge of raising these endowment funds. The committee produced an 8-part series in the Addison Independent featuring different sections of the trail (available on MALT’s website if you missed it). The committee also determined TAM costs a minimum of $15,000/year to maintain and improve. Membership and TAM TREK funds help cover some of these annual expenses but not the whole amount. The committee concluded it was necessary to raise $125,000 over two years to address the remaining need. This fully funded endowment will help ensure the trail’s future viability and enjoyment for generations to come. To date this committee has raised about $62K from 100 generous people in our community. Thank you so much.

I know there are more of you out there who can (and even want) to contribute to a fund that we, of course, named after John. Here is the policy MALT’s board adopted for the use
and management of this endowment:
This fund is dedicated to the long-term maintenance and viability of the Trail Around Middlebury (TAM). It is named after John Derick who for many years tirelessly and selflessly contributed countless hours and dedication to maintaining and improving the TAM. John is the unsung hero of the TAM.

The John Derick Endowment Fund for the Future of the TAM

This fund is dedicated to the long term maintenance and viability of the TAM. It is named after John Derick who for many years tirelessly and selflessly contributed countless hours and dedication to maintaining and improving the TAM. John is the unsung hero of the TAM.

Inspired by his contributions and to ensure a quality hiking experience, MALT has established this Fund with the following provisos:

- This fund is entirely dedicated to the care and longevity of the TAM.
- The intent of this Fund is to invest the principal to generate interest. This interest from the fund may be used each year to help pay for annual maintenance and improvement costs for the TAM.
- MALT’s Board of Directors shall oversee the Fund’s investment with the Vermont Community Foundation or some other reliable investment or management entity, and shall authorize expenditures from the Fund’s interest.
- Only in exceptional circumstances of need for purposes related to the TAM may the Board authorize a withdrawal out of the Fund’s principal. Any funds used in this manner must be repaid according to a reasonable schedule to be determined by the board. Major capital improvements should not be considered as “exceptional circumstances” and, therefore, such projects would have a separate fundraising campaign.

Our goal is to hit $75K by the end of 2014...just $13,000 left. Please consider a contribution to this Fund over and above your annual contribution (which helps MALT do what it does... and more).

Please visit the MALT website or check with the office to find out more on how to make a donation. We would greatly appreciate your support and it will certainly be a gift that keeps on giving.

Submitted by Jono Chapin on behalf of the TAM 25 Endowment Fund Committee
Thank you to our volunteers!

MALT would like to extend a big thank you to our hardworking volunteers.

John Derick, TAM work
David Hallam, office
Katherine Branch, hikes representative
Peg Goldman, hikes representative

Otter Creek Audubon Society, partner with Wildlife Walks at Otter View Park and Hurd Grasslands, and the Quest Walk at Wright Park.

Hike leaders:
Mo Bissonnette, Winter Tracking Hike
Carson Hauck, Flying Squirrels
Carol Ramsayer, Quest Walk
Suzanne Young, Family Hike in Battell Woods
Dan Redondo, Paddle on Otter Creek

TAM Trail Workers:
Adam Kelly
Eric Podraza
Phillip Pierce
United Way Day of Caring Volunteers
Middlebury College students
AC Counseling Service
Hannaford School of Diversified Occupation

TAM Trail Keepers:
Ferguson Family
Nancy Ward
Chris Anderson
Aurora School
Middlebury Bike Club

TAM 25 Endowment Committee:
Jono Chapin
Christy Lynn
Bud Reed
Bill Roper
Amy Sheldon

The 11th TAM Trek, Sunday, September 28th

The TAM Trek was planned by the TAM Trek Committee: Christy Lynn, Jerrod Rushton, Jono Chapin, Nicole Wilkerson, Amy Roberts and MALT staff. Event Volunteers: Ben Bruno, Jono Chapin, John Derick, Amy Roberts, Story Jenks, Barb Osterhaudt.

Thanks to the sponsors, participants, and volunteers for making the TAM Trek so successful with $5200 raised in support of trail maintenance and improvements!

MALT is grateful for the following foundations for their generous support

Otter Creek Audubon Society
Middlebury College
North Country Trail Association
National Park Service
Town of Middlebury
United Way of Addison County
Vermont Community Foundation
Vermont Dept of Environmental Conservation
Vermont State Dept of Forests, Parks and Rec
Vermont Housing and Conservation Board
## FINANCIAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR OCTOBER 1, 2013—SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

### Income

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<td>Grants</td>
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### Expense

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<td>Management and General</td>
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<td>Development and Fundraising</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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### MALT Statement of Financial Position for Fiscal Year 2014

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<th>Assets</th>
<th>Liabilities and Equity</th>
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<td>Cash and Equivalent</td>
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<td>Notes and Grant Receivable</td>
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<td>Beneficial interest in net assets held by</td>
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<td>Property</td>
<td>Total Liabilities and Equity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>$1,250,516</td>
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### Annual Meeting 2014

There was standing room only at the Weybridge Congregational Church for the October 29th meeting. MALT board president Story Jenks introduced Bill Roper, former board president, and Clark Hinsdale who spoke about the new conservation project in Weybridge and the dedication to Bob Collins, a dedicated supporter for conservation in Addison County. Two new board members, Ben Bruno and Eben Punderson, were introduced and voted in. Featured speaker Sue Morse (Keeping Track.org) treated the crowd of over 60 people to her wildlife photos and stories of tracking deer, bobcats, coyotes, beavers, otters, moose, bears, and more. She is a lively and amusing speaker and fantastic photographer, MALT was very glad to have her as our guest for this annual meeting. Finally, MALT board member Jono Chapin summarized our efforts raising funds for the TAM Endowment. Thank you to all who came to the event and to those who brought refreshments to share!
Upcoming Outings

Marsh, Meadow, and Grassland Wildlife Walks

Middlebury Area Land Trust and Otter Creek Audubon Society invite you to join us as we survey birds and wildlife of Otter View Park and the Hurd Grassland.

All walks start at Otter View Park parking lot in Middlebury. Shorter and longer routes possible. The primary walking path at OVP is universally accessible.

Thursday, December 11, 8am

Saturday, January 10, 8am

Thursday, February 12, 8am

Saturday, March 14, 8am

I want to help preserve the natural beauty of the Middlebury area and maintenance of the Trail Around Middlebury!

I would like to contribute at the following membership level:

☐ Benefactor $2,500  ☐ Friend $100

☐ Supporter $1,000  ☐ Contributor $50

☐ Sustaining $500  ☐ Other $__________

Please provide the following information and mail with your check to MALT, PO Box 804, Middlebury, VT 05753.

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone:

Email:

If you would like to remain anonymous, check here. ☐