



CHARLOTTE LAND TRUST

P.O. BOX 43 • CHARLOTTE, VT • 05445

November 2, 2009

Dear CLT Supporter:

As you may be aware, there is an exciting conservation project going on known as Raven Ridge that encompasses land in the three towns of Charlotte, Monkton and Hinesburg. The Charlotte Land Trust is happy to be helping on this project, although the bulk of the work is being carried out by the Vermont Land Trust and the Nature Conservancy. Since the Charlotte Land Trust has decided to commit \$40,000 to help conserve this spectacular piece of land, we thought our members and friends would be interested to know more about the property and why we are enthusiastic about it.

This project will result in the conservation of a 365 acre preserve of exceptional natural beauty and ecological value. The Nature Conservancy will own and manage the property, including maintenance of trails, signage and a public access area with parking. Creation of the preserve will not only protect the natural resources of the area; it will secure public access for the enjoyment, study and appreciation of these resources now and into the future. This project provides more public access for Charlotters than almost any other one we have ever funded.

After carefully reviewing the Raven Ridge project we concluded that the property was of critical importance to this part of Charlotte. The land is exceedingly rich in ecological diversity and wildlife habitat with forests, wetlands, streams, vernal pools, endangered species habitat, unusual geological features, and inspiring scenic vistas. Many of these features are of statewide as well as local importance.

The amazing wildlife and diverse natural resources that are present at Raven Ridge cross town boundaries and, thus, the conservation effort must be broader as well. The Charlotte land does not exist in isolation but is a component of this rich diversity. Helping to conserve the contiguous lands in Hinesburg and Monkton is a good investment in the protection of the Charlotte portion of the ecosystem, as well as the whole (which, in conservation terms, is clearly worth more than the sum of its parts).

We are extremely pleased to be able to help support this worthwhile project and we look forward to have it be available for all townspeople to visit and enjoy. Please don't hesitate to contact me or anyone on the Board with any questions about this project, or check our website at www.CharlotteLandTrust.org.

Sincerely,

Frances Foster
President

Note: Contributions are being sought by the Nature Conservancy to bring this project to completion. If you would like to help, please mail your contribution to: The Nature Conservancy, 27 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05602. Please note Raven Ridge on the memo line of your check.