



The Richmond Land Trust Newsletter

Spring 2006

Vt. Youth Conservation Corps is up and running in restored Monitor Barn



After decades of neglect, near collapse and then rescue and reconstruction by RLT, the West Monitor Barn is now the statewide headquarters of the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC).

With final fundraising still underway, VYCC moved into its new Education and Training Center last winter. VYCC is now completing landscaping and, in the conserved woodlands behind the barn, building lean-tos to shelter work crews during training sessions.

Hiring young people
VYCC is a private, non-profit organization that hires hundreds of young people

ages 16-24 each year. They restore watersheds, maintain trails, manage state parks and work on other high-priority conservation projects throughout Vermont. All projects are designed and supervised to provide environmental education while teaching teamwork, leadership, personal responsibility and other skills.

In 2004 RLT turned over ownership of the barn and adjacent 229 acres of conserved land to VYCC. We continue working with the organization to help it raise the money needed to complete the project.

Set VYCC's future in stone
VYCC is still about \$900,000 short of its fundraising goal.

One way that local residents and businesses can help close the gap is by buying a stone paver cut from native granite, inscribed with a name of their choice and set in the barn's main entryway.

Sales of the pavers at \$1,000 each will go a long way towards helping VYCC reach the goal. Pavers make great purchases for families or as an organization effort. Payments can be conveniently spread over 36 monthly installments of less than \$28.

Besides helping to provide a home for training Vermont's next generation of conservation leaders, your paver purchase will also help in maintaining a beautiful, historic feature of the local landscape plus 229 acres of surrounding farmland, meadows, forest, wildlife habitat and hiking trails.

To purchase your part of Richmond's past and future, call Katey Gordon, VYCC's director of community development, at 434-3969, ext. 111.

RLT Awarded \$100,000 Grant to Help Conserve Vt. Farm Bureau Land

The Richmond Land Trust recently won a \$100,000 grant from the State of Vermont Agency of Transportation to put toward conserving the fields, forests and diverse wildlife habitats owned by the Vermont Farm Bureau in Jonesville.

Next door, RLT has already helped restore the West Monitor Barn and conserve 229 adjacent acres. We've transferred ownership of that barn and land to an outstanding conservation organization, the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps.

Linking conserved lands
Now we're working on the rest of the Monitor Barn Project, including protecting the East Monitor Barn and adjacent lands owned by the Farm Bureau. Conserving those lands, threatened by development pressures, will enhance scenic views along the I-89/Rt.2 corridor while also creating important scale for wildlife habitat protection in that area.

RLT has already worked with the Farm Bureau to conserve part of its land. This new money brings us closer to an agreement to conserve the entire parcel.