

Willowell Foundation-hosted Keeping Track Monitoring Course



Overview:

Congratulations on your continued interest in Keeping Track and wildlife conservation! Volunteers in over 90 communities in the northeastern U.S. and Quebec have been trained to participate in Keeping Track Monitoring Programs (KTMPs). Land trusts, conservation commissions, and watershed associations are discovering the value of a wildlife habitat-monitoring program established and maintained by citizen volunteers. Through the largesse of a recent grant, The Willowell Foundation is working with Keeping Track to offer a unique program that trains community members to monitor wildlife. This course will build on the foundational Keeping Track Monitoring Program and is open to past KTMP participants

as well as those interested in starting monitoring and conservation work.



Training:

Willowell's Keeping Track Monitoring Course includes:

- Three full-day training workshops in the field.
- One evening workshop and slideshow.
- A team may consist of up to 15-18 community members.
- Each day may involve three to five miles of walking or snowshoeing through rough, untracked terrain in all kinds of weather.
- Comprehensive training materials are provided and participants receive an extensive list of suggested supplemental reading.

You Will Review and Learn:

- Tracks and sign of black bear, bobcat, moose, otter, fisher, and mink as encountered
- Tree and shrub identification as it relates to habitat quality and specific resources wildlife need and use
- Topographical features of the landscape as they relate to habitat quality
- Natural disturbance regimes and forest management
- Wildlife foraging and cover requirements

- Search imaging
- Focus on bobcat: the importance of cliffy refugia, including dens, lays, thermal and security habitat
- Protocol terminology - 'core habitat', 'corridor', 'linkage zone,' 'transect', 'focal species'
- And other topics important for tracking and monitoring wildlife

Scheduling 2010-2011

- Community Course Dates: One training workshops will take place in Addison County.
- Workshops may be postponed due to weather, tracking conditions or road conditions, and the group must work together to reschedule.
- Individuals can make up a missed workshop with another group, although every effort should be made to attend originally scheduled classes!

Readings and 'Dirt Time'

As part of the course, we expect participants to read and review the following materials:

- Keeping Track Tracker's Packet (containing articles on each species and conservation biology topics)
- Keeping Track Project and Data Management Protocol
- Keeping Track Guide to Photographing Animal Tracks and Sign

Keeping Track recommends these resources on tracking:

Paul Rezendes. 1999. Tracking and the Art of Seeing. 2nd Edition. Harper Perennial.

James Halfpenny. 1998. Scats and Tracks of the Northeast. Falcon Press.

Lynn Levine and Martha Mitchell. 2001. Mammal Tracks: Life-Size Tracking Guide. Heartwood Press.

Diane Gibbons. 2003. Mammal Tracks and Sign of the Northeast. University of New England Press.

Mark Elbroch. 2003. Mammal Tracks and Sign: A Guide to North American Species. Stackpole Press.

We recommend that participants create the opportunity while taking our course to get in additional 'dirt time', practicing your newfound skills in track and sign identification, search imaging, photography, and data collection with other trackers.

For More Information:

Please contact Kelsey Haigh at: 802-349-2077 or kelsey@willowell.org

And visit: www.keepingtrack.org and www.willowell.org

Keeping Track[®] Monitoring Program for the Monkton/Five Town/Vergennes Area
Statement of Interest/Intent

Name: _____ Date: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Town/State/Zip: _____

Physical Address: _____

Telephone(s): _____ e-mail: _____

I am interested in encouraging, supporting or being involved in the creation and ongoing success of a local Keeping Track Monitoring Program.



_____ I am ready to commit to being a member of a local KTMP team.

_____ I realize this commitment requires 3 day-long training sessions.

_____ Enclosed is a check for \$25.00 payable to The Willowell Foundation to ensure reservation of one of the twenty slots for me. [This will be applied to tuition.]



_____ I suggest you contact _____, another potentially interested person.

Questions/Suggestions/Ideas/Words of Encouragement...

Please return this form to: kelsey@willowell.org

or mail to:
The Willowell Foundation
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Bristol, VT 05443