

# Meet a Landowner

Greg Cox lives with his family in Hawley, MA

Greg's grandparents bought an old farm and tavern in Hawley in the **1920s**. Greg grew up in Holyoke spending summers in Hawley restoring the overgrown fields with his family.



After getting a degree in urban economics, Greg moved to Hawley during the 1973 energy crisis to sell firewood previously cut opening up the fields. He spent **12 years** as a logger thinning woodlots in Western Massachusetts, selling cordwood, and harvesting 60 acres of hay each summer.



In the mid-80s Greg sold most of his logging equipment and began writing for the Greenfield Recorder and other publications fulltime. Greg continued to thin the family woodlands to heat family homes. In 1993, Greg became Executive Director of the Massachusetts Forestry Association and editor of the *Woodland Steward*. Greg's position has evolved over time and he is now MFA's **Program Director**, administering the Tree Farm program, writing the monthly newsletter, and organizing workshops, tours, and other events during the year.

## 60 Acres

Greg and Sue own 60 acres of woodlands, wetlands, and fields which they manage as a Tree Farm for timber, firewood, bird habitat, hay, and trails. The family heats their home with a wood/oil furnace using wood salvaged from trees damaged in the 2008 ice storm.

## 90 Acres

The Cox family's Taverntop Trust owns another 90 acre Tree Farm in Hawley, managed for timber, wildlife habitat, firewood, maple products, and family recreation. Over 40 years, this woodland has had four harvests. Greg takes the lead by coordinating the forest management activities.

## 2008

The Cox family properties were extensively damaged by the December 2008 ice storm. After the storm, the Trust received NRCS funding to remove the damaged overstory, control the beech understory, and promote regeneration of a healthy diverse hardwood forest.

# Recreation and Community...

**Greg** is an experienced photographer and always keeps a camera at hand. Frequent visitors to his woods include moose, bears, and more than 50 species of birds. Greg recently constructed two barn owl nest boxes to encourage wildlife diversity. Greg also added onto his house using pine and spruce lumber sawn from the family's own trees. He purchased red maple flooring and hemlock lumber from local mills.



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**Sue** is an Area Supervisor for the Mass. Department of Transportation. Their son **Ben** starts college this fall. The family enjoys spending time gardening, skiing, hiking, and canoeing in Massachusetts and the Adirondacks.



Greg has been the chief of Hawley's volunteer fire department since 1987 and is an invaluable member of the community.

Photos by Greg Cox: *Moose in Field*, *Broadwing in Flight*, *Ice Storm Aftermath*, *Woodlot Two Years After Harvest*, *Sun Spike*, *Turkey Parade*.