

VERMONT COVERTS ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Thank You!

We thank everyone who has contributed to Vermont Coverts! Every contribution – no matter how large or small – makes a difference.

OUR MISSION

To enlist Vermont landowners in a long-term commitment to maintain and enhance diverse wildlife habitat and healthy ecosystems.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

2019 was an outstanding year for Vermont Coverts. Forty people graduated from two three-day Cooperator Training workshops, bringing the total number who have gone through the program to more than 800. This translates to tens of thousands of acres of Vermont woodlands managed and influenced by Coverts Cooperators.

In addition, we hosted and partnered in more than 40 stewardship workshops on a wide array of topics such as passing land to the next generation, the “From the Tailgate” series on timber harvest, emerald ash borer (for both landowners and foresters), Game of Logging, coyote population biology and nature journaling.

We welcomed Alicia Carlson to Coverts in 2019 as Program and Outreach Technician, assisting Executive Director Lisa Sausville. This important step dramatically increases Coverts’ ability to provide education and networking opportunities to Vermont landowners.

This staffing increase is possible because, thanks to your generosity, Coverts is in strong financial shape. We surpassed our 2019 fundraising goal, raising just over \$38,000. Our endowment is robust and our Legacy Society is in its early stages and growing.

Partnership grants in 2019 from VT Fish and Wildlife, the High Meadows Fund and Vermont Housing and Conservation Board brought in over \$27,000 for technical assistance, Passing Lands and the Women Owning Woodlands programs.

Collaboration continues to be central in getting our message out. We have strong working relationships with a wide array of state and private conservation organizations. An excellent example of this is Coverts’ participation in Land Ethic Vermont, which held its first 3-day training workshop in 2019.

This great work is possible through the support, commitment and leadership of Lisa, Alicia, the Coverts Council and the large and ever-growing cohort of passionate and engaged Coverts Cooperators and Friends. Together we are making Vermont an even better example of healthy forests and wildlife habitat.

Richard M. Chalmers

Rich Chalmers, *President*
Vermont Coverts
Woodlands for Wildlife

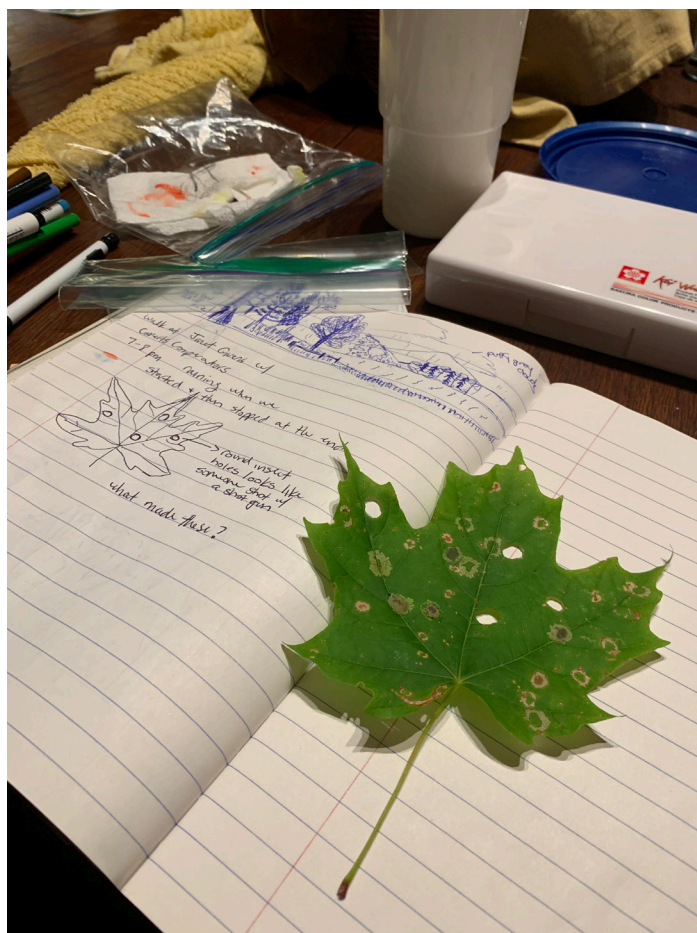


COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

Women Owning Woodlands

Vermont – Vermont Coverts, Vermont Land Trust, Vermont Woodlands Association and UVM Extension have joined forces to engage and empower women to implement forest stewardship activities in their woods. The team is using models of Women Owning Woodlands (WOW) programs from around the country. The goal is to; address gender-related differences in how women approach estate and succession planning, enhance confidence and knowledge regarding woodland stewardship, and increase participation rates in forest landowner outreach and educational programs in Vermont. In 2019 we conducted focus groups and a survey of women landowners to determine the best direction for the program.

individuals and organizations committed to fostering and exploring a land ethic among Vermont's residents and visitors. The events and programs by partners are designed to help Vermonters explore their personal and community land ethic. For more information visit www.ourvermontwoods.org



Our Vermont Woods is a website operated by UVM Extension that connects landowners, educators, professionals, and municipalities with relevant information to manage, conserve and enjoy Vermont's forest resources. The website provides access points for each audience and access by topic providing relevant information and links. Check it out at www.ourvermontwoods.org

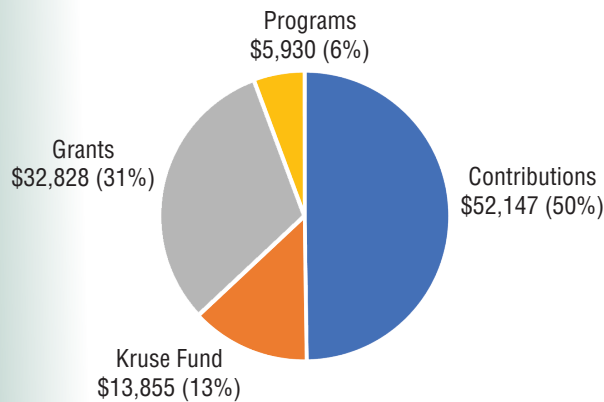
OUTREACH AND PROGRAMMING

In addition to our Cooperator Trainings and Stewardship workshops, Coverts provided a number of networking opportunities and information on forests and wildlife in 2019. One example, the Cooperator Coffee Klatch, a chance to get together over food and drink to trade knowledge and experiences, was expanded to include Rutland and Windsor Counties. We published three newsletters with feature articles on otter, salamander and barred owl as well as frequent posts on our Facebook page. The hiring of Alicia Carlson allowed us to increase our Cooperator Survey conversations. We thank all those that have participated to date and encourage you to share your experiences with us. The plan is to wrap up this survey in 2020 and share our findings in 2021.

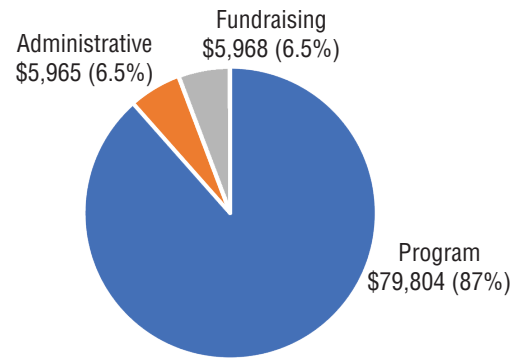
Land Ethic Vermont is a collaborative movement to develop, maintain, inspire, and promote a land ethic amongst the people of Vermont with the goal of maintaining the health of the Vermont landscape for people and wildlife. It grew from the Vermont Land Ethic Partnership, a founding group of

FINANCE

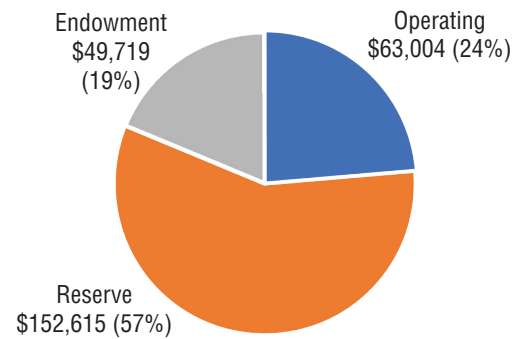
INCOME Total \$104,763



EXPENSES Total \$91,737



ASSETS Total \$265,338



Vermont Coverts continues to be financially strong mainly through the generosity of individual donors. The higher than usual operating fund is due to grant funds received for projects that will continue into 2020.

2019 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Skip Abelson, *Sudbury*
 Dawn Andrews, treasurer, *Cabot*
 Tina Barney, secretary, *Hartland*
 Jon Bouton, *Hartford*
 Blair Brooks, vice president, *Norwich*
 Alan Calfee, ex officio, *Rupert*
 Rich Chalmers, president, *Williamstown*
 Steve Crihfield, *Brownsville*
 Donna Foster, *Sharon*
 John Hawkins, *S. Strafford*
 Bob Lloyd, ex officio, *Rutland*
 John McNerney, *Monkton*
 Owen Rogal, *Hancock*
 Kimberly Royar, ex officio, *Wallingford*
 Ann Vanneman, *Shrewsbury*
 Mark O'Meara, fall class representative, *Andover*
 Dawn Holtz, spring class representative, *Caledonia*

Executive Director: Lisa Sausville
 Outreach Technician: Alicia Carlson

