

## ENDURING DEDICATION TO COVERTS GOALS

### James Bruce Engle



James Engle's path from his eastern Montana birthplace to the woodlands of northern Vermont involves a journey of remarkable scope – in both duration over nine decades and diversity of accomplishment on four continents. The journey first took him eastward to the University of Chicago, on to Harvard, then to Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar, and to an extraordinary U.S Foreign Service career of 45 years, with senior assignments in South America, East and Southeast Asia, and then Africa with Ambassadorial rank. But as much as we honor his achievements in international relations and diplomacy, we celebrate today James Engle's exceptional contributions here at home on behalf of "Woodlands for Wildlife."

First as a seasonal visitor and later as permanent resident of Vermont, James has been committed to protecting, conserving, and productively using his family's fields and forest lands in two communities. In both Peacham and Groton, he has been a persistent advocate for sustainable, wildlife-friendly woodland management, and is well and widely known. Among our earliest Cooperators, James came to Coverts in 1988 already dedicated to its principles. Four years later, when Thom McEvoy and UVM's "Coverts Project" Council took the leap of faith toward independence, James accepted Thom's challenge to serve as the first president of Vermont Coverts Inc. and then, from 1996, as Council chair. His seemingly boundless energy in those early years, when administration had to be invented and funding found, assured our healthy growth. His vigorous representations to state officials and agencies heightened Coverts' visibility and influence. After his tenure at the helm, James' commitment did not fade. Always a creative voice as Council member and generous host of many demonstration workshops on his own lands, James has been an indispensable resource for Vermont Coverts. He is, indeed, a "Coverts Institution" who we are delighted to thank and honor today.

John McNerney, President – September 25, 2010