

ENDURING DEDICATION TO COVERTS GOALS

Thom McEvoy



As everyone assembled here surely knows, Thom McEvoy is father to us all and, like a good parent, a constant inspiration from his perch as Professor and Extension Forester in UVM's School of Environment and Natural Resources. A 1981 immigrant from the University of Connecticut, he brought with him the seeds of the Coverts dream and a passion for "outreach," not only to his colleagues in extension forestry, but especially to private woodland owners. In creating the "Coverts Project" at UVM, he saw a comprehensive agenda that was both immediately practical and visionary, addressing everything from silviculture techniques, timber markets, technical training for loggers, interpersonal communication among landowners, and legal issues in woodland ownership, to imagining the forests of the future, estate planning, and creating family legacies. In 1985, Thom inaugurated

formal training programs for prospective "Coverts Cooperators" that tapped a great reservoir of woodland owner interest and energy. Within a few years, he was convinced that, in Vermont, Coverts had a more vital future as an independent, self-governing organization than as a university-based project. By 1992 Thom and the Coverts Council had created the vibrant organization we celebrate today.

Though Thom set us loose long ago, he did not set us adrift, staying actively engaged on the Council with a constant flow of program ideas while writing a half dozen award-winning books and hundreds of articles that have been core resources for Coverts programs. As speaker and advisor in countless workshops and projects, Thom has been immensely generous with his time, and his growing reputation, national and international, has enhanced his creation's visibility as well. For his vision and foresight decades ago, and his continuing devotion to "Woodlands for Wildlife", Vermont Coverts gratefully honors Professor Thom McEvoy.

John McNerney, President – September 25, 2010