



## **Full Circle Forest, Thetford, VT**

Post-Trip Summary

February 17, 2008

Landowner and forester, Ehrhard Frost and his wife, Brenda, hosted 25 delightful participants this Sunday snowshoe hike through the Full Circle Forest. Although the sun wasn't shining, the weather was great, providing just enough wind to keep us from overheating. Frost granted a conservation easement to the Upper Valley Land Trust at the close of 2007, to keep this 287 acre property permanently protected from development. As all of us on the hike learned, this land has many special features, and we are grateful to Ehrhard and his family for the generous decision to keep this place preserved forever.

Beginning at Frost's hogans, we walked around a beautiful emergent wetland that hosts beaver and other wetland mammals, across an open pond and through a forested wetland containing black ash (a distinctive tree which likes wet growing conditions) and other associates such as red maple and yellow birch.

From there we climbed steeply in elevation, in switchback fashion, over the snowy terrain. Ehrhard navigated through the trail-free property, stopping on occasion to tell a story about the land. Slated boulders occasionally poked through the snow, creating hidden snow covered hills of icy waterfalls. We climbed the undulating topography to the top of the ridge, following coyote tracks along the way. Walking back down along a different course, some of us enjoyed a little sledding on our snowshoes down the steeper terrain!

Upon our return, Dave Grobe of Plainfield summed up the hike, "Well Ehrhard," he said, "I guess you could say we walked *full circle*."