

HISTORY ON THE ROAD

MARSH-BILLINGS-ROCKEFELLER NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
AND THE CONSERVATION STUDY INSTITUTE



Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park (MBRNHP) nestled in the rolling hills and pastures of eastern Vermont, is the only national park to tell

the story of conservation history and evolving nature of land stewardship in America. In 1864, Woodstock born George Perkins Marsh wrote the book *Man and Nature*, one of the seminal texts of environmental thinking. Strongly influenced by *Man and Nature*, Frederick Billings began reforesting the slopes of Woodstock's Mt. Tom in 1874, creating one of the earliest planned and scientifically managed forests in the United States.

The park was established in 1992, when Frederick Billings' granddaughter, Mary French Rockefeller, and her husband, conservationist Laurance S. Rockefeller, conveyed their estate's residential and forest lands to the people of the United States. The Park, working in partnership with the Billings Farm & Museum, chronicles three generations of stewardship and the



Rolf Diamant, Superintendent of the MBRNHP and Nora Mitchell, Director, Conservation Study Institute outside the old carriage house which now houses an educational display, offices and meeting room.

emergence of a national conservation ethic. National Park Service Director James Ridenour promised that the Park would continue the tradition of sustainable forest stewardship and conservation practiced by the Billings and Rockefeller families throughout the 20th century.

The National Park Service, in partner-

ship with the Woodstock Foundation, manages the 550-acre forest as a cultural landscape and as a living exhibit illustrating more than a century of forest stewardship in America, from the earliest scientific silvicultural practices borrowed from 19th Century Europe to the best contemporary practices of sustainable forest management and value-added conservation. The National Historical Park is currently exploring the feasibility of third party forest management certification, to demonstrate and interpret certification as a new chapter in its legacy of forest stewardship.

The Conservation Study Institute, established by the National Park Service at MBRNHP, concurrent with the opening of the Park in 1998, contributes to leadership in the field of conservation. The Institute creates opportunities for dialogue, inquiry, and lifelong learning to enhance the stewardship of landscapes and communities. In a broad collaboration between the National Park Service, academic and non-profit partners, the Institute provides a national and international forum to discuss conservation history, contemporary issues and practice, and future directions. □



Aerial view of Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park (foreground) in Woodstock, Vermont.