



**BELMONT CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TRIBUTE TO JEFF MARDEN
NOVEMBER 7th**

ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND

BELMONT, NH - A tribute to community activist Jeffrey A. Marden will be held on Wednesday, November 7, 6:30 -7:30 PM at the Corner Meeting House. Sponsored by the Belmont Conservation Commission, the event will feature the unveiling and installation of a framed giclee print dedicated to Jeff's memory. A reception with refreshments will follow and all are invited to attend.

"Jeff's care, commitment and contributions to Belmont made a true difference," according to Ken Knowlton, chairman of the seven member Commission. "Protecting local rural heritage and wildlife habitat, and improving recreational opportunities and universal access were his passions and his life's work."

Efforts are ongoing to remember this native son and outstanding citizen. The 65 acre Town Forest has been renamed "The Jeff Marden Town Forest" in Marden's honor, Knowlton reports. A scholarship opportunity for Belmont High School graduates pursuing environmental and conservation-related studies now bears his name, according to Ginger Wells-Kay, who spearheaded this educational award for the Commission several years ago. "We hope that Jeff's community spirit and service will inspire our young citizens and that the scholarship will keep Jeff and his works in our hearts and minds," she said.

Jeff was an emerging and vocal leader in several key New Hampshire organizations promoting handicap accessibility, especially concerning recreation. He was a promoter of recreational trails and worked with the New Hampshire Statewide Trails Advisory Committee. The Belmont Conservation Commission is currently arranging to make The Jeff Marden Town Forest handicap accessible.

Before his death this March, Marden was a twice-elected Planning Board member and a representative to the Lakes Region Planning Commission. "Conservation and the outdoor life were close to his heart and high on his policy agenda," recalls Belmont Planning Board Chairman Peter Harris. "We all owe Jeff for Belmont's wildlife habitat preservation principles. He believed in the need to balance our community's green space with its residential and commercial development," Harris said.

Jeff gained recognition in the state by recommending that innovative language to protect wildlife be included in the re-writing of the Belmont Zoning Ordinance. The new language seeks to protect wildlife corridors and buffers and to enhance wildlife habitat. The NH Audubon Society was also intrigued with this use of language as a conservation tool and featured the innovative idea in its newsletter.

A framed giclee print of an original oil painting was chosen by the Commission to commemorate Jeff and his contributions to his community. Entitled "Autumn's Abundance", the painting is by Judith Hartke, noted New York State wildlife painter and conservationist whose work has supported many organizations concerned with wildlife and environmental conservation. The 16" x 20" limited edition, signed giclee captures a young deer feeding in the brilliant autumn sunlight. Framed in natural, rustic barnboard, "Autumn's Abundance" will be permanently displayed in the Corner Meeting House, site of many community meetings.

Jeff Marden would have been 42 on November 3 this year.

Contributions to the Jeffrey A. Marden Belmont Conservation Commission Scholarship are managed by the Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation and are tax deductible. For further information on making a donation, please contact Joan Cormier at the Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation, 527-3533. Or you may make out a check to LRSF, writing on the memo line: For Jeffrey A. Marden BCC Scholarship. Mail to LRSF, PO Box 7312, Gilford, NH 03247-7312.