

## CROSS-BORDER COLLABORATION IN THE NORTHERN GREENS

By Bridget Butler



First row: Bridget Butler (CHC), Stansje Plantenga (Ruiter Valley Land Trust)  
Second row: Caroline Dauge (Appalachian Corridor), Louise Gratton (Appalachian Corridor), and Nancy Patch (CHC)

Cold Hollow to Canada's program director Bridget Butler and board member Nancy Patch recently visited our partners in Quebec to discuss cross-border collaboration. The Ruiter Valley Land Trust and Appalachian Corridor both work in Quebec in the Northern Green Linkage and are part of Two Countries One Forest's Staying Connected Initiative.

A wonderful spring morning was spent outside discussing areas of common interest and overlap. All three groups have been gathering data on wildlife using the Keeping Tracking Monitoring Program protocols and are interested in developing a database about wildlife crossing roadways. Moving forward the

three partner groups will look to maximize the use of volunteer skills by cross posting tracking survey dates and events. The goal is to reinvigorate volunteers by encouraging them to visit other survey sites and learn from each other. The groups will also collaborate on CHC's new WildPaths Project to monitor roads for wildlife through live sightings, roadkill and tracks.

Ruiter Valley Land Trust, Appalachian Corridor and CHC will also be sharing stories of their conservation successes with each other through newsletters and social media. We hope to continue to build a stronger constituency cross-border with our Quebec partners as wildlife and wild places have no bounds, and neither should we.