

Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests

116th Annual Report

Peak to Peak: Forest Society members and friends can stand atop Mt. Major, after hiking up trails acquired by the Forest Society in the past fiscal year, to see Pine Mountain (to the right in this photo), where member Mary Jane Morse Greenwood donated additional acreage to the Evelyn H. and Albert D. Morse, Sr., Preserve, also in FY2017.



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Board of Trustees — Committee Assignments 2016–2017



The Forest Society's Board of Trustees. *Front:* Bill Smith, Drew Kellner, Barbara Russell, Margo Connors, Rebecca Oreskes, Bill Tucker, John Brighton, Karen Moran, Andy Smith; *Back:* Bill Webb, Jane Difley, Deanna Howard, Amy McLaughlin, Merle Schotanus, Stephen Froling, Andy Lietz; *Not Pictured:* Charlie Bridges, Karl Heafield, Lorin Rydstrom.

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Supporters of the Powder Major's Farm and Forest conservation project take a fall tour of the property.

116th Annual Report

May 1, 2016– April 30, 2017

To our members:

When the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests was founded, we represented diverse interests in our mission "to perpetuate the forests of New Hampshire." Ours was then, and is today, a "big tent" of people and opinions, sharing common values associated with forest conservation.

The 1904 mission statement goes on to say that we would perpetuate forests "through their wise use" and "their complete reservation in places of special scenic beauty." We continue to use sustainable management, including harvesting (wise use) as a means to keep forests as forests. And we continue to defend places of scenic beauty from forces that would degrade them.

The language of our mission statement, like our name, may ring a bit old fashioned in 21st-century ears. But the values we stand for do not. Our success over 116 years derives from those widely shared values, from focusing like any good forester on the long-term outcomes, from being willing to compromise when it's reasonable to do so and standing our ground when it's clearly not.

Each year we measure our achievements in a variety of ways. We track our revenues and expenses, of course, and you'll find those in these pages. We also celebrate our land conservation



successes, measuring success in the number of acres our generous donors help protect in concert with conservation-minded landowners and partners.

You'll see in this report that we conserved more than 2,000 additional acres this year, primarily through conservation easements (1,581 acres). Our fee acquisitions (land we conserve by owning it and managing it ourselves) totaled 698 acres. Those eight projects reflect a conscious strategy to focus on available opportunities to expand and enhance our existing Forest Reservations.

As of the end of the fiscal year, we owned 180 Forest Reservations constituting 55,487 acres in more than 100 communities in New Hampshire. Additionally, we held 759 conservation easements protecting 128,572 acres statewide.

More important than the number of acres, and more important than the increase in net assets to more than \$80 million (primarily land), is that we are conserving the best land we have the opportunity to protect. Our strategic conservation plans help us prioritize opportunities region by region.

Increasingly we recognize that our long-term effectiveness in "perpetuating the forests" will be measured by more than "bucks and acres" accomplishments. Our capacity to conserve more land will be influenced by our ability to steward—to take care of and enhance—the lands we have already conserved. Our capacity to steward conserved lands will be influenced by our ability to engage the people and communities who enjoy and benefit from those lands.

Our new Powder Major's Farm and Forest in Madbury, Lee and Durham is an example of success that we must measure beyond the \$2.25 million we raised to conserve 192 acres (plus another 60-acre easement). This multi-community project in the Seacoast Region, where open land is increasingly at risk and water quality is a priority, came about because of the tremendous

Clockwise from top: A fall of 2016 timber cut on 100 acres of the Crider and Rumrill family forests in Stoddard harvested white pine while opening up views along the Monadnock-Sunapee Greenway Trail and setting the stage for pine regrowth; blueberries ripen on conserved land; Volunteers and staff improve a trail during the annual Monadnock Trails Week.



Clockwise from top: The Forest Society offered a series of guided hikes, co-sponsored by WMUR and Stay Work Play New Hampshire, that reached people unfamiliar with the Forest Society's work; Sawlogs are loaded for the journey to regional wood markets during a timber harvest at the Robie Forest in Franklin and Andover; autumn leaves. support of diverse interests. Town officials, high school students and teachers, local volunteers and generous donors all pitched in to permanently protect a place special to them all for different reasons.

Frankly, at its inception the Powder Major project seemed daunting to many, complicated and expensive. But protecting land that is important to many, with natural resources critical to many and regularly enjoyed by many, brought the community together. That community conservation process engendered new 21st-century conservationists. That success and others like it will go a long way to ensuring the Forest Society's ability to "perpetuate the forests of New Hampshire" for decades to come. It is hard to quantify that value in an annual report.

Looking ahead, we see the Powder Major's Farm and Forest and other Forest Reservations as opportunities to engage the people who use and enjoy our properties in the ongoing stewardship of conserved lands.

We endeavor to manage our own lands in an exemplary way, seeking to plan well for ongoing stand and infrastructure improvement, including trails and access roads. During the course of the year, our staff worked with eight consulting foresters and 10 logging contractors to conduct 10 timber sales, treating 570 acres and yielding 2.5 million board feet of sawlogs and 20,730 tons of low-grade chips.

We also measure success—and accomplish a tremendous amount of work—through our volunteers. Overall we welcomed 456 active volunteers who donated 6,130 hours, including 174 land stewards who conducted 588 Forest Reservation monitoring visits and 22 group workdays. During Monadnock Trails Week, 55 volunteers contributed 657 hours improving trails on the mountain.

In addition to training 20 new land stewards, we launched two new volunteer initiatives: We trained nine new volunteer easement monitors to monitor 32 conservation easements, and



six volunteers to assist with our growing Mount Major Outdoor Classroom hikes for school groups.

In addition to our ongoing policy advocacy at the state and federal levels, we continue to defend New Hampshire's landscape from the proposed Northern Pass transmission line. With our attorneys from BCM Environmental Land Law, we are fully engaged in the state Site Evaluation Committee process. We continue to believe that if the proposed 192-mile transmission line is to be built, it should be buried entirely along appropriate transportation corridors. Our efforts continue to be buoyed by the generous support from thousands of donors who also value New Hampshire's special scenic attributes.

Our members continue to demonstrate extraordinary generosity and commitment. I want to thank everyone who has contributed, from new members to those who have consistently supported the Forest Society for more than half a century. Ours is a big tent filled with diverse points of view. Our success derives from coming together in support of shared values.



Sincerely,

Jane Ginlyley

Jane A. Difley President/Forester

The Forest Society continued its commitment to preserving the forested landscape of Mt. Kearsarge and Black Mountain this fiscal year by acquiring a 233-acre addition to the Black Mountain Forest Reservation.

Land Conservation Summary Fiscal Year 2017 (May 1, 2016–April 30, 2017)

Special thanks to those whose names are in bold and italics for having made a significant donation of their land or conservation easement's value!

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

Landowner	Acres	Location	Property Name
Town of Madbury	60	Madbury	
Town of Acworth	5	Acworth	Addition to East Acworth Marsh
Lorin Rydstrom	374	Northfield	
Town of Milan	1,127	Milan	Additions to Milan Community Forest
Mary Jane Morse Greenwood	15	Alton	
Total: 5 projects	1,581 acr	es	

RESERVATIONS

Anonymous	91	Deering	Dudley Pond Forest
P.K. Brown & Sons, Inc.	233	Sutton	Addition to Black Mountain
Edward, Phillip and Charles Goss	192	Durham, Lee, Madbury	The Powder Major's Farm and Forest
Cynthia H. Thorburn	90	Hillsborough	Addition to Dawson Memorial Forest
Fred and Judith Ierlan	6	Greenfield	Addition to Gipson Forest
James A. & Jane K. Gregoire	38	Alton	Addition to Quarry Mountain Forest
Steven P. Rollins	22	Alton	Addition to Mount Major Reservation
Mary Jane Morse Greenwood	26	Alton	Addition to the Morse Preserve
Total: 8 projects	698 acres	5	

LAND ACQUIRED FOR TRANSFER

Richard A. Ware

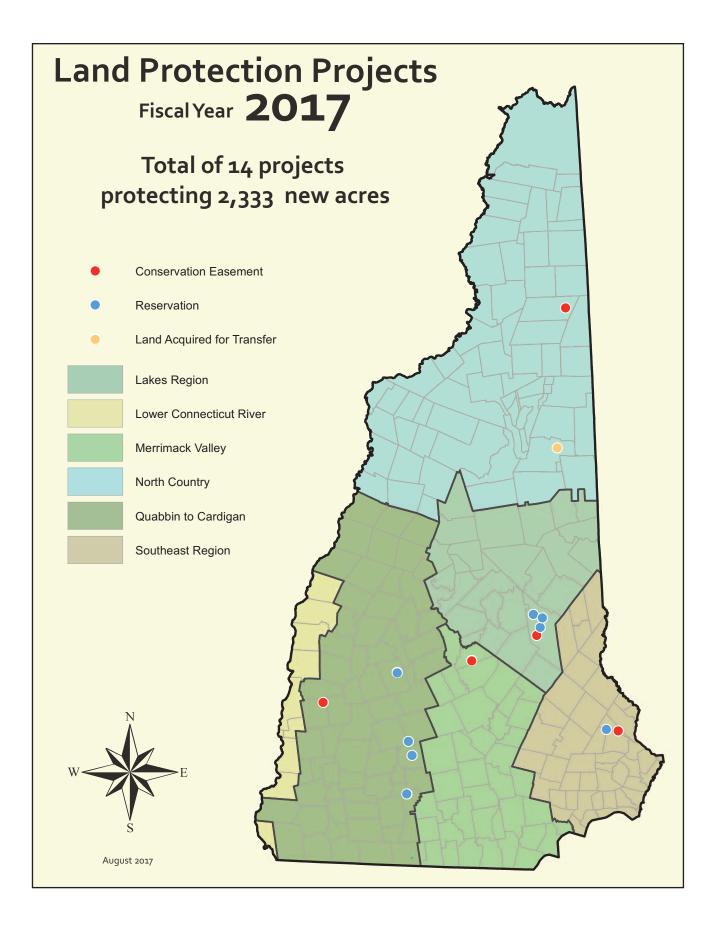
Bartlett

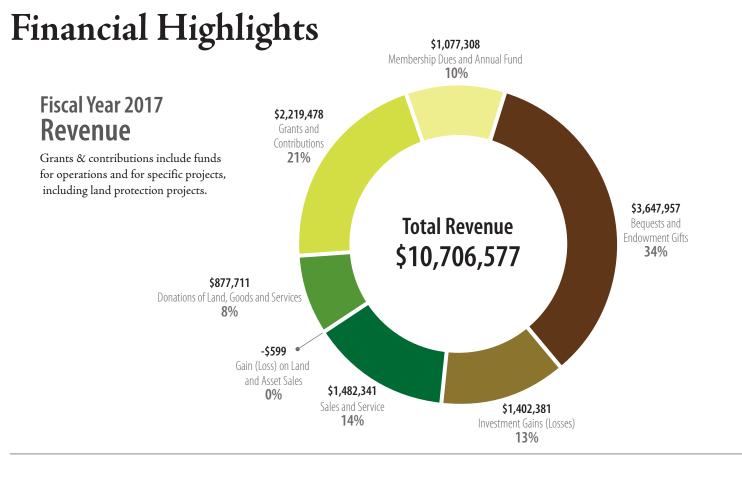
54 acres

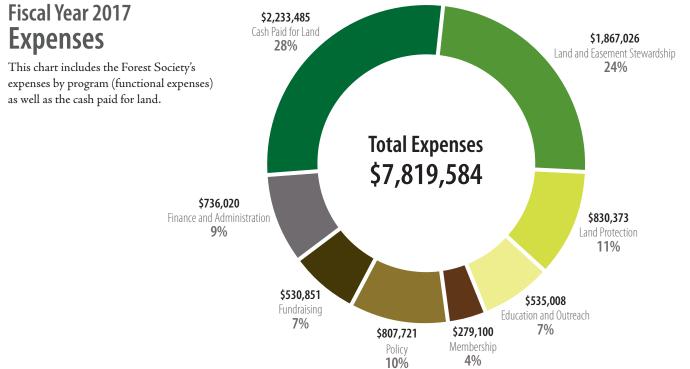
54

Grand Total: 14 Projects, New Acres Protected 2,333 acres

8 Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests







Questions on the financial statements should be directed to Denise Vaillancourt, Vice President, Finance (dvaillancourt@forestsociety.org) or Susanne Kibler-Hacker Vice President, Development (skh@forestsociety.org).

Statement of Operating Activities

for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2017

Revenue and Support	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Annual fund	632,830	-	-	632,830
Contributions	108,669	1,966,498	-	2,075,167
Bequests	570,575	-	-	570,575
Endowment gifts	_	_	1,105,017	1,105,017
Grants	144,311	_	_	144,311
Contributions of land	149,000	_	551,635	700,635
Contributions for land and land stewardship	_	_	1,972,365	1,972,365
Investment income	90,638	188,665	35	279,338
Realized & Unrealized gains on investments	436,773	686,270	_	1,123,043
Loss on disposal of assets	(599)	_	_	(599)
Membership dues	444,478	_	_	444,478
Rental income	328,452	-	-	328,452
Forest operations	371,880	_	_	371,880
Reimbursement for services	122,811	-	-	122,811
Sale of materials	366,676	_	_	366,676
Donated conservation easements, goods and services	177,076	-	-	177,076
Lease release settlement	292,125	-	-	292,125
Miscellaneous Income	397	_	_	397
Total Revenue and Support	4,236,092	2,841,433	3,629,052	10,706,577
Net assets released from restrictions for satisfaction of purpose	1,451,549	(1,451,549)	_	_
Total Revenue, Support, and Net Assets released from restriction	5,687,641	1,389,884	3,629,052	10,706,577
Program Expenses				
Land and Easement stewardship	1,867,026	_	_	1,867,026
Land protection	830,373	_	_	830,373
Education & Outreach	535,008	_	-	535,008
Membership	279,100	_	_	279,100
Policy	807,721	_	_	807,721
	4,319,228	_	-	4,319,228
Supporting Services and General Expenses				
Fundraising	530,851	_	_	530,851
Finance and administration	736,020	_	_	736,020
	1,266,871	-	-	1,266,871
Total Expenses	5,586,099	-	-	5,586,099
Increase (decrease) in net assets	101,542	1,389,884	3,629,052	5,120,478
	-			
Net Assets, beginning of year	7,082,319	5,083,099	65,680,740	77,846,158

Assets

	FY 2017	FY 2016
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	3,522,418	2,891,728
Receivables		
Current portion of contributions receivable	2,065,317	992,200
Other receivables, including bequests	2,631	5,712
Inventories	208,890	180,758
Prepaid expenses	59,025	40,342
Total Current Assets	5,858,281	4,110,740

Total Assets	83,953,202	79,025,029
	13,298,118	12,831,104
Other long-term assets	105,437	102,647
Inventories, long term	276,043	288,022
Contributions receivable, long term, net	16,437	18,126
Investments	12,900,201	12,422,309
Investments and Other Assets		
Property and equipment, net	2,811,150	3,031,652
Land	61,985,653	59,051,533



Left: The Mt. Kearsarge Outdoor Classroom Project brought together Forest Society staff and contractors with students and teachers from Kearsarge Regional High School to improve the trails on the Black Mountain Forest Reservation in Sutton.

Right: The Forest Society completed a parking area for the Quarry Mountain Forest that was made possible by a generous donation of land by Jim and Jane Gregoire of Meredith.

Liabilities and Net Assets

	FY 2017	FY 2016
Current Liabilities		
Current portion of note payable	71,250	71,250
Current portion of annuities payable	35,639	49,588
Current portion of deferred compensation	21,000	21,000
Accounts payable	33,811	109,761
Accrued liabilities	96,363	92,307
Total Current Liabilities	258,063	343,906
Long-Term Liabilities		
Note payable – less current portion	435,000	506,250
Annuities payable – less current portion, net	167,089	186,209
Deferred compensation – less current portion	126,414	142,506
Total Long-Term Liabilities	728,503	834,965
Total Liabilities	986,566	1,178,871
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	2,245,502	2,067,458
Unrestricted – invested in land, property and equipment	4,938,359	5,014,861
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	7,183,861	7,082,319
Temporarily restricted	6,472,983	5,083,099
Permanently restricted	69,309,792	65,680,740
Total Net Assets	82,966,636	77,846,158
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	83,953,202	79,025,029

For details, see the complete audited financial statements on our web site at www.forestsociety.org/annual-reports.

Questions on the financial statements should be directed to Denise Vaillancourt, Vice President, Finance (dvaillancourt@forestsociety.org) or Susanne Kibler-Hacker Vice President, Development (skh@forestsociety.org).



The undeveloped shoreline of Dudley Pond in Deering became a new Forest Society reservation when the Deering Conservation Commission partnered with the Forest Society and an anonymous donor to conserve the 91-acre forest.

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As the conservation easement holder, the Forest Society will help to steward the new Milan Community Forest, the creation of which was a multi-partner collaboration that ultimately yielded more than 1,300 protected acres. Dennis J. Card and Maureen F. McCanty Fund – Renaissance Mr. Andrew Dodge Drew D. and Elizabeth G. Kellner Charitable Fund – Schwab Craig S. Duncan Mr. and Mrs. William H. Dunlap Edith C. Crocker Charitable Trust -J.M. Forbes & Co. Joseph Emerson and Ann Brayfield Dr. Douglas and Dr. Rebecca Ewing Dr. Donald Farguharson Ms. Nicole C. Faulkner Scott C. Ferguson Mr. and Mrs. Walter F. Fortier, Jr. Fortview Foundation – Fidelity Stephens and Linda Fowler Mr. Jay W. Francis Mr. Stephen Froling Stanley and Cheryl Fry Paul Gagnon Stephen and Mary Gasiorowski Mr. and Mrs. Ron Gehl Robert and Janet Genatt Gerard and Jane Gold Dr. Paul M. Guyre and

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Carl and Sandra Lehner

Ms. Ingeborg Lock







Clockwise from top: The Dawson Memorial Forest in Hillsborough grew by 90 acres, thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor in collaboration with neighboring landowners; a rose-breasted grosbeak feeds its chick; a young participant in the Forest Society's "Five Easy Hikes in Five Weeks" guided hiking series examines milkweed leaves at the Merrimack River Outdoor Education and Conservation Area in Concord.

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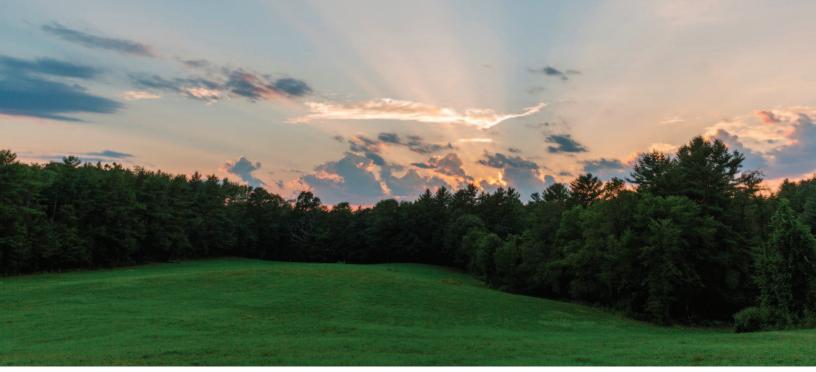
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Though we count donations to the Forest Society in dollars, their impact is reflected in the acres we protect, the policy goals we achieve, and the passion for conservation we inspire throughout New Hampshire. The Trustees and staff thank all supporters for their dedication to our mission, and we only regret that our space limits our annual listing to those donors who contributed \$250 or more.



What Will We Leave Them?

Since 1901, members of the Forest Society have taken action to protect this land we call New Hampshire. Its natural beauty colors our lives. Our forests, lakes and streams contribute to the overall health and well being of our communities.

From the forests of the North Country to the shorelines stretching along the Connecticut River to the wetlands along the seacoast, our protective work becomes more and more important in a changing world. Ongoing care of our forests, mountains and fields nurtures an environment where wildlife thrives and the air and water can remain clean.

Your membership helps to preserve a way of life that is enriched by the landscape around us—the New Hampshire way of life.

Thank you for supporting the Forest Society. We can't do it without you.

Above, clockwise from upper left: A young hiker peeks through blueberry bushes on Gap Mountain during a guided hike; a student celebrates reaching the Mt. Major summit; a little girl picks blueberries on the Morse Preserve; "5 Easy Hikes in 5 Weeks" participants explore the Creek Farm Reservation; and members of the Oyster River High School Sustainability Club gather during a fundraising event at the Powder Major's Farm and Forest.

Front cover: Maple leaves by Forest Society volunteer Kate Wilcox.

Image credits: Kate Wilcox: cover, p.5 (upper right and bottom), p.6 (bottom left); A. Garrett Evans: p.7; Linda King: p.16 (bottom left); Jerry Monkman/EcoPhotography: p.21; Suzanne Marvin: back cover, bottom right. All other photos by Forest Society staff.

