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Forest Notes

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S CONSERVATION MAGAZINE

Special photo issue

A farm grows by conserving

AUTUMN 2015

SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE FORESTS

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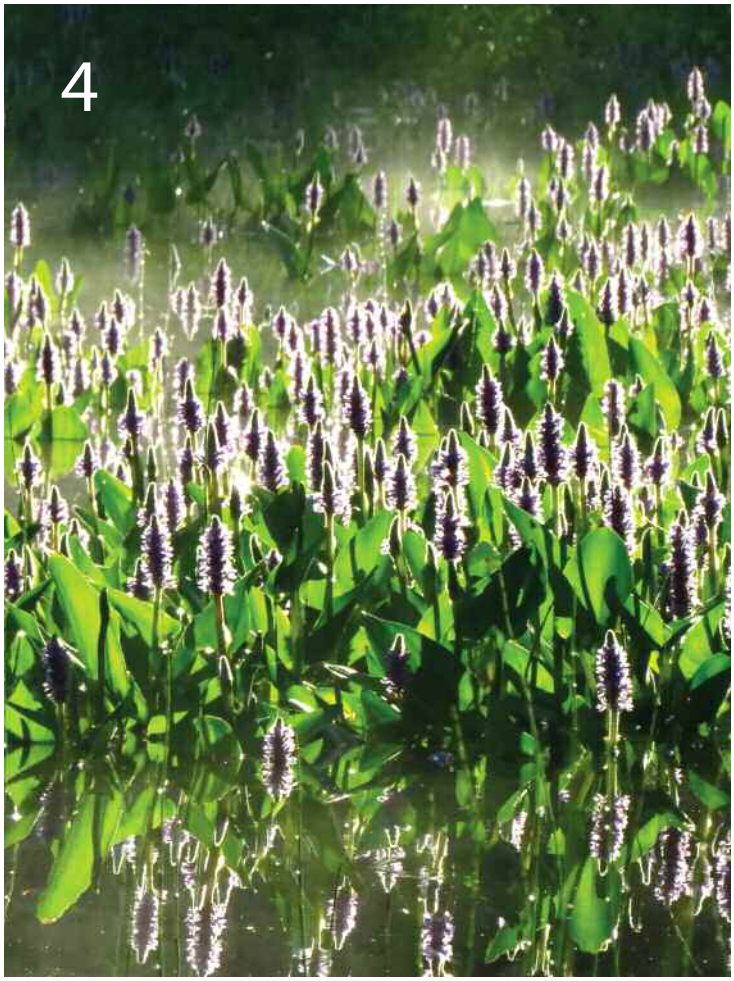

FEATURE

DEPARTMENTS

On our cover:

In Sandwich, Kusumpe Pond and a solo canoe look inviting in one of our photo contest's winning photos by Daniel Heyduk, a volunteer land steward for the Coolidge Tree Farm (and the builder of the canoe.)

See the winning photos from our first annual contest on page 4.

Welcome!

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then the photos from our contest that are featured in this issue of *Forest Notes* are worth a travelogue of our reservations. Many of the pictures by our members and friends were taken on the floodplain at the Conservation Center, but they all explore the diversity, beauty and outdoor opportunities Forest Society lands offer to members and other visitors. As George Frame, our director of forestry, writes on our website:

Whether you are seeking some solitude on a quiet woodland walk or you want to really stretch your legs over the rocks and freshets found on a steep mountainside, we've got a place for you. If you want to gather a few wild mushrooms, or explore an old farm site with stonewalls and foundations, orchards and fields, we've got a place for you. If you want to hide or find a geocache, take stunning scenic or nature photos, put your field glasses on hawks, geese, turkeys or songbirds, we've got a place for you. With nearly 400 miles of trail, dozens of fishable streams and ponds, lots of scenic vistas, and over 53,000 acres to wander, believe me, ***we've got a place for you!***

The contest participants captured the essence of the special places that the Forest Society protects. There are 178 possibilities at this writing with more added every year. Have you walked in our woods and fields lately? I invite you to explore the possibilities on our website's Reservations Guide and then go out and enjoy them!.

Jane Difley is the president/forester of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.

Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests
A non-profit membership organization founded in 1901 to protect the state's most important landscapes and promote wise use of its renewable natural resources. Basic annual membership fee is $40 and includes a subscription to *Forest Notes*.

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The Forest Society proudly supports the following organizations:

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NCTA President Blake Rafeld, right, presents the Iron Horse Award to Nigel Manley, director of the Forest Society's Rocks Estate.

Rocks Director Wins National Awards

Nigel Manley, director of the Rocks Christmas Tree Farm in Bethlehem, received awards from The National Christmas Tree Association (NCTA) and the Christmas Spirit Foundation (CSF) at the tree association's biennial gathering in Spring Grove, Ill., recently.

The NCTA presented Nigel with its Iron Horse Award, which honors an NCTA director who has gone above and beyond in service to the association, while the CSF gave him its Outstanding Service Award. The Christmas Spirit Foundation administers the Trees for Troops program, which provides free, farm-grown Christmas trees to armed forces members in all branches of the military and their families. Since its inception in 2005, Trees for Troops has provided more than 157,000 trees to military and their families.

"Nigel has provided endless dedication and has led by example through his role as the chairman of the Christmas Spirit Foundation for the past 10 years, said Blake Rafeld, NCTA president. "To develop and grow such a program as Trees for Troops takes strategic leadership, diligence, and hard work. Nigel exemplifies all of those with humility and class."

Extraordinary Volunteers Improve Monadnock Trails

This year's Monadnock Trails Week was a huge success with 72 participants working over five days in July to fix and maintain trails on Mt. Monadnock.

Volunteers haul a felled tree that will be used for erosion control. Photo by Eliza Cowie.

Great volunteers made the event very effective.

"We reset or replaced more than 20 timber checksteps and/or waterbars on the White Dot Trail, added 15 steps to a stone staircase on the Pumpelly Trail, constructed a new timber ladder on Cliff Walk, re-decked two bridges on Ravine Trail, and installed three checksteps on the Birchtoft Trail, as well as other smaller projects," said Carrie Deegan, the Forest Society's Land Steward Program coordinator.

The annual event is a Forest Society/N.H. State Parks partnership now in its 10th year.

How That Vintage Farm Equipment Really Worked

Two of the captions for the story "Open-Air Museums of N.H. History" from the summer issue of *Forest Notes* contained errors. We thank the readers who called or emailed to tell us how the old farm equipment in our photos really worked.

The top left photo is of a hay loader. It loaded hay but did not rake it first, as was suggested in our caption.

The top right photo is indeed a silage chopper, but it did not travel around the field, as reader Rob Knight pointed out in his helpful email, excerpted here:

> "I have vague memories of helping blow silage into a silo 60 years ago with a very similar chopper. It wasn't pulled by a tractor in the field and couldn't have been since the drive pulley is oriented 90 degrees from the wheels.
>
> I believe the chopper was set up at the base of the silo, the tractor parked facing the side of the chopper, and the material dumped onto the conveyor chain where it was chopped and blown up and through the door at the top of the silo.
>
> I clearly remember my role, since it was a scary one for a 10-year old: spreading the silage evenly from where it landed in the middle of the silo, and walking around on it to pack it down. It was scary to be alone in a spooky, smelly silo with the silage raining down!
>
> Thanks for the informative article.

"November Evening on the Floodplain," Merrimack River Outdoor Education and Conservation Center, Concord. Ellen Kenny, first place, Landscapes.

First Annual Forest Society Photo Contest

WINNERS GALLERY

To showcase some of the Forest Society's 178 forest reservations, we called for entries for our first annual photo contest in the spring issue of *Forest Notes*. The response was terrific; the choosing was tough! After lots of discussion, the selection committee picked the top three photos in five categories (landscapes, close-ups, people, wildlife and "young shutterbugs" for under-18 photographers) but we couldn't resist naming a couple of honorable mentions, too.

We hope this gallery will inspire you to go to the Forest Reservations Guide at forestsociety.org to find a new place to explore and make wonderful memories. And while you're there, take some photos for next year's contest, and send them anytime before July 1, 2016 to photos@forestsociety.org. For contest rules, search for "photo contest" at forestsociety.org.

^ "Pockets of rising mist and the pickerel weed like a thousand votive candles, lit up to celebrate the last morning in June," Merrimack River Outdoor Education and Conservation Area, Concord. Ellen Kenny, second place, Landscapes.

< "Spring Snowstorm," Merrimack River Outdoor Education and Conservation Area, Concord. Jean Stimmell, third place, Landscapes.

< Summer butterfly on the Heald Tract in Wilton. Bart Hunter, first place, Wildlife.

^ Damselfly on a goose feather, Merrimack River Conservation and Education Center, Concord. Ellen Kenny, second place, Wildlife.

Veery on a beaver-chewed stump, Merrimack River Conservation and Education Center, Concord.
Linda King, third place, Wildlife.

^ "I've always found maple samaras to be small miracles of design, as is this one, held in place by moss and illuminated by the early morning sun." Merrimack River Outdoor Education and Conservation Area in Concord. Ellen Kenny, Concord, first place (tie), Close-Ups.

> Water lilies bloom in August on the Heald Tract in Wilton. Stephen Gehlbach, Jaffrey, first place (tie),Close-Ups.

"This photo was taken on the Moose Mountains Reservation on Jan. 28, 2012. There was a freezing rain storm the night before, and it was cold and calm at the New Portsmouth Road parking area at sunrise. I wore light traction on the icy crust and hiked up the North Trail. Everything was coated and glistening like crystal. Being out on a morning like this, with good shooting light, was a rare opportunity." – John Wike, Portsmouth, third place, Close-Ups.

^ "Hiking with grandson Owen at Pine Mountain, the perfect kids' hike," Morse Preserve, Alton. Jim Viar, first place, People Enjoying Our Reservations.

^ Volunteer land stewards Ken and Suzanne Marvin look out over Alton Bay with a local participant of a snowshoe hike they led last February. Kate Wilcox, second place, People Enjoying Our Reservations.

PEOPLE ENJOYING OUR RESERVATIONS

Kayaking at sunset on Grafton Pond, George LePage, third place (tie), People Enjoying Our Reservations.

YOUNG SHUTTERBUGS

< "The Path," Merrimack River Outdoor Education and Conservation Area, Concord. Olivia Bynum, age 13; first place, Young Shutterbugs.

^ "The Merrimack," Merrimack River Outdoor Education and Conservation Area, Concord. Olivia Bynum, age 13; third place, Young Shutterbugs.

< "Sun Trees," late morning on the trail at the Leslie C. Bockes Memorial Forest in Londonderry. Victoria Bergstrom, age 16; second place, Young Shutterbugs.

< Winter at the Monson Center Reservation in Hollis and Milford. Kirsten Durzy, honorable mention, Landscapes.

^ Kusumpe Pond, Coolidge Tree Farm, Sandwich. "I use this solo canoe to monitor the shoreline of the pond and the island (to the left in the photo), which is part of the property" – Daniel Heyduk, land steward, honorable mention, Landscapes.

Another Kind of Fall Foliage

Rocks Estate offers Christmas trees, wreaths, gifts starting in October

The Forest Society's Rocks Estate Christmas Tree Farm is ready to help our members and friends make this Christmas season relaxed and enjoyable. Located in beautiful Bethlehem, N.H., the Rocks Estate is the Forest Society's North Country Conservation and Education Center. The Rocks offers online or in-person shopping for Christmas trees, wreaths, N.H.-made gifts, decorations and fun.

The **Marketplace and Gift Shop** are open daily (except Thanksgiving Day) from Oct. 3 to Christmas Eve. The Marketplace features an array of U.S.A.-made and locally-crafted items, from home goods and holiday decorations to jewelry and handmade soaps, including hundreds of Christmas ornaments. Marketplace favorites include the selection of ginger cottages, handcrafted in Virginia and complete with display lights, as well as a line of wine and cocktail glasses etched with moose images, and designer bottles of maple syrup.

Offerings by local crafters and artisans extend from chocolates and preserves to handmade soaps and pottery. The gift shop shelves are filled with Rocks maple syrup, as well as ornaments, decorations, and tee-shirts.

Want to ship a New Hampshire Christmas tree or wreath to far-flung loved ones? Just go online or call.

You can tag your own Christmas tree during the first three weekends in October when it's warm enough to enjoy a fall hike along the trails and enjoy the foliage.

Starting on Nov. 21, **cut-your-own and pre-cut Christmas trees** are available daily (except Thanksgiving Day) until Christmas Eve. Many families make The Rocks part of their holiday tradition by combining the **search for just the right tree with a horse-drawn carriage ride** around the scenic estate. The carriage rides run on Nov. 21, 27, 28 and 29; and on Dec. 5, 6, 12, 13 and 19. The carriage rides are very popular, so please call ahead for reservations.

Photo by Nigel Manley.

You can combine a fall visit to The Rocks with tagging your Christmas tree during the first three weekends in October.

The Rocks also offers a network of **walking trails**, open daily, year-round, from dawn until dusk. The Rocks Mobile Tour, with more than a dozen signs throughout the property displaying QR codes, allows visitors to use their smart phones to learn more about the history of the Estate, modern day conservation and management practices, and the different types of Christmas trees grown on the farm.

Please visit www.therocks.org for online shopping or call 444-6228 for more information.

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

Art Exhibit: "Dragonflies: Close and Personal"
Nature photographer Jeff Sluder

Conservation Center, Concord

Nature photographer Jeff Sluder shares the intricate, surprising beauty of dragonflies in this exploratory exhibit. His photos, taken over the course of a summer season near his home in Kingston, display the amazing body design that enables dragonflies to fly any direction—even upside down—and hunt for mosquitos and other prey with 360-degree vision. To see more of his work, go to his website at www.sluderphotography.com.

The exhibit is open for viewing Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Conservation Center Conference Room, 54 Portsmouth St. in Concord. The Conference Room is used for meetings, so please call (603) 224-9945 before visiting to make sure it's open.

See You at Annual Meeting!

The Forest Society's 114th Annual Meeting is Saturday, Sept. 26 at the Rocks Estate in Bethlehem. We are looking forward to seeing members and friends for a great dinner, guest speaker Mel Allen, editor of *Yankee Magazine*, and fun field trips in the Bethlehem area.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2015 • THE ROCKS ESTATE, BETHLEHEM, N.H.

Michael, Christopher and Patrick Connolly have expanded the family dairy operation by offering home-made ice cream and cheese as well as meats, maple syrup and more at their farm store.

An Easement to Grow On

Conserving land generates capital for dairy farm while protecting fields, forests and availability of local foods

By Brenda Charpentier

If the phone rings while Chris, Mike or Pat Connolly are milking cows, boiling sap, cutting firewood, churning ice cream or whatever else needs doing at their Connolly Brothers Dairy Farm, they're never surprised that it's their dad Marty with another idea for growing the farm.

The idea won't be selling their own cheeses. It won't be raising beef cows, sheep, pigs and rabbits. It won't be running a hunting lodge, a farm store or maple syrup tours. It won't be hosting a CSA or building a newfangled barn that yields "Gucci cow compost" to sell by the truckload.

That's all been done.

"We all have our own ideas, and most of the time we get to do them," said Chris Connolly, who attributes that creative freedom to what makes the family enterprise work so well.

"So now my dad is retired and he gets ideas all the time. Sometimes we have to rein him in," joked Chris.

The Connolly brothers bought the dairy farm business from their parents Martin and Lynda soon after college and with their wives have been adding marketable products to it ever since in partnership with

Top: *Grant and Elliott Connolly visit the cows at the new composting barn.*

Bottom left: *Jennifer Connolly helps Elliott hold a piglet.*

Photos courtesy of the Connolly family.

their parents. As the last working dairy farm in Temple, they've become a vital connection to the community's agricultural heritage and an Eat Local beacon, attracting thousands of people annually to their open house events and showing hundreds of kids on field trips that milk actually comes from cows.

It's a lifestyle they've embraced, but it's not easy. They may call their land a "playground" and mean it wholeheartedly, but the commitment is summed up in a Facebook post this past Fourth of July:

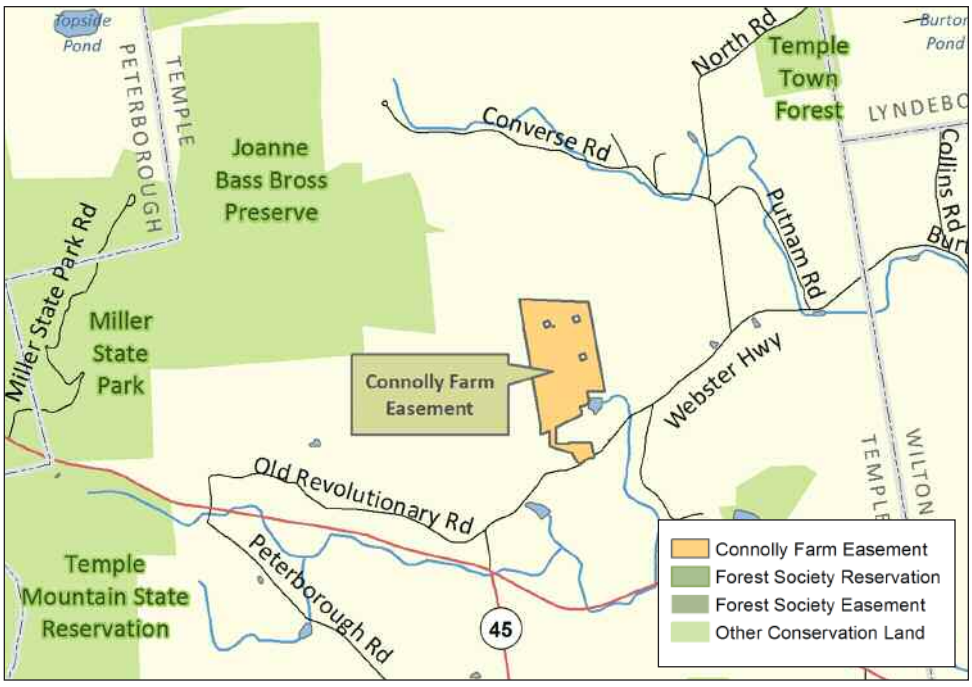
Facebook poster Sherry: "Are you guys open today, on the 4th?"

Connolly Farm: "Yes, we're open 365 days a year, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m."

Like many farmers in New England, the Connollys face a big challenge: How can they keep the land intact as a working farm, and how can they make farming sustainable not just for today but long into the future? There are three grandchildren in the Connolly family, so part and parcel to their long-range planning is the desire for these youngest family members to be able to farm the land one day, if they should choose the farming life.

"The key is more land," Martin said. "If we have enough land, we can make this farm sustain itself."

The farm is now 105 acres of both fields and forest. The family has been able to lease nearby farmland and maple sugar bushes, but there are always uncertainties whenever you lease land rather than own it yourself. They want to add more beef cattle to their herd and grow more hay. They need somewhere to spread all the manure the



Top: *Diversification has been key to the growth of the Connollys' farm.*

Bottom: *The Connolly Brothers Dairy Farm features a working forest managed for timber and firewood.*

cows generate.

But in southern New Hampshire, agricultural land an hour away from Boston is highly developable and pricey, and the trend of family farms getting subdivided and sold continues.

So, in what may be their most innovative, entrepreneurial move yet, the Connollys have sold a conservation easement on much of their land (69 acres) to the Forest Society in order to both conserve it and to generate the capital they need to buy more land. The easement protects the land from development forever while preserving the family's ownership and agricultural use of it.

The easement fit in with the goals the family had for keeping the land intact as a farm. Since they didn't want it to ever be subdivided into housing lots or drilled for oil or gas, giving up those rights through an easement wasn't a problem, Martin said.

"We're able to do everything we do now, and a little extra. It was a great deal for us," he said.

Martin thinks other farmers will start to see the benefits of conservation easements once they become better known and understood in the farming community. "Easements today are different from easements of the past," he said. "Some people think they're going to lose something, and easements can seem too complicated in a busy world. But landowners have options. They're in a good position and can say what's okay and what's not okay—it's a give and take. It's a business deal is all it is."

Conserve a farm, conserve a forest

From a conservation standpoint, the easement means the community will continue to benefit from a local working farm, the forested land will continue to be managed as a working forest, and that no matter who may own the land in the future, it will remain intact and undeveloped in the midst of the fastest-growing part of New Hampshire.

"Conserving farms also means conserving forests, because most farms have woodlots," said Jane Difley, the Forest Society's president/forester. "We want to keep these woodlots intact for sustainably providing wood products and all the benefits healthy forests give to people, wildlife and the environment."

The other important aspect that made the project possible was that the Connolly family was willing to accept less than market value for the easement. They essentially donated the $150,000 difference between the easement purchase price and the ease-

ment's assessed value, showing an inspiring commitment to both conservation and farming.

The Forest Society coordinated the project's funding through grants from the USDA's Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program, the Russell Farm and Forest Conservation Foundation and the Quabbin-to-Cardigan Initiative.

Ian McSweeney, director of the Russell Foundation, said the Connolly project met his foundation's goal of protecting farmland that meets the exploding demand for locally grown food.

"The Russell Foundation holds the Connolly family and their farm in high regard," McSweeney said, "because of their focus on dairy and cattle farming, strategic diversification of farming enterprises, sustainable stewardship of the home farm and leased hay fields, and the farm's location on the flanks of Temple Mountain, in the southern part of the state where the vast majority the population lives."

These attributes, in addition to the managed forests and prime wildlife habitat conserved through the Connollys' easement, likewise attracted the support of the federal Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program.

"We are proud to have had the opportunity to participate in this project," said Susan Knight, a program specialist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, which administers the program.

The first herd

Visiting the Connolly Farm today, you'd never guess how it all started. Martin and Lynda Connolly were 20-something teachers who moved to Temple from the Bronx in New York City 47 years ago. They both taught school nearby until Martin switched to contracting. When they bought their first small herd of jerseys in 1967, built a barn on their woodlot and became dairy farmers, people told them they were crazy.

Martin was allergic to hay and had never milked a cow. Lynda was a "Jersey girl," not a girl who knew anything about jerseys.

"We were upstarts," Martin said.

Their sons were 11, 8 and 5 when they bought the first herd, and just a few years older than that when they started haying their neighbor's fields, which they still do today. The farming way of life stuck, and all three sons chose to live on the farm with their own families and throw themselves into the challenge of utilizing the land to its maximum potential.

"We were never told we had to do this," Chris said. "My folks kept it interesting enough. We had the freedom to do other things, and they allowed us to buy the farm a few years out of college."

There were six dairy farms in Temple when the Connollys started. Today they're the only ones left. Various outside jobs held by various family members have helped to fill in the gaps. Wholesale milk prices have fluctuated wildly; there have been times when the price of milk has been so low it made more sense to feed their milk to the pigs than to sell it.

The family currently sells some of the milk from their 30 jerseys to Hood but keeps most of it to sell themselves or make into ice cream and cheese. The dairy business is still foundational for the farm, but it's the innovation, community partnerships and sheer hard work that have enabled them to continue farming and offering their community the benefits of local foods and other products.

"People come up and thank us almost every day, and it's wonderful. What other job gives you that?" Martin said.

The innovations continue. At the same time they were working out the details of the conservation easement, the Connollys were working on perfecting meat pie recipes (a selectwoman in town has a particularly tasty recipe, according to Martin), and figuring out how to build a commercial kitchen (on land not under the easement) for making lots of meat pies to sell.

In this context of entrepreneurial farming, the conservation easement that will provide capital to buy more land takes on its full significance. "It will help keep this whole show going," Martin said.

The Assets to Acres Program

How do you turn a house or house lot into a forest?

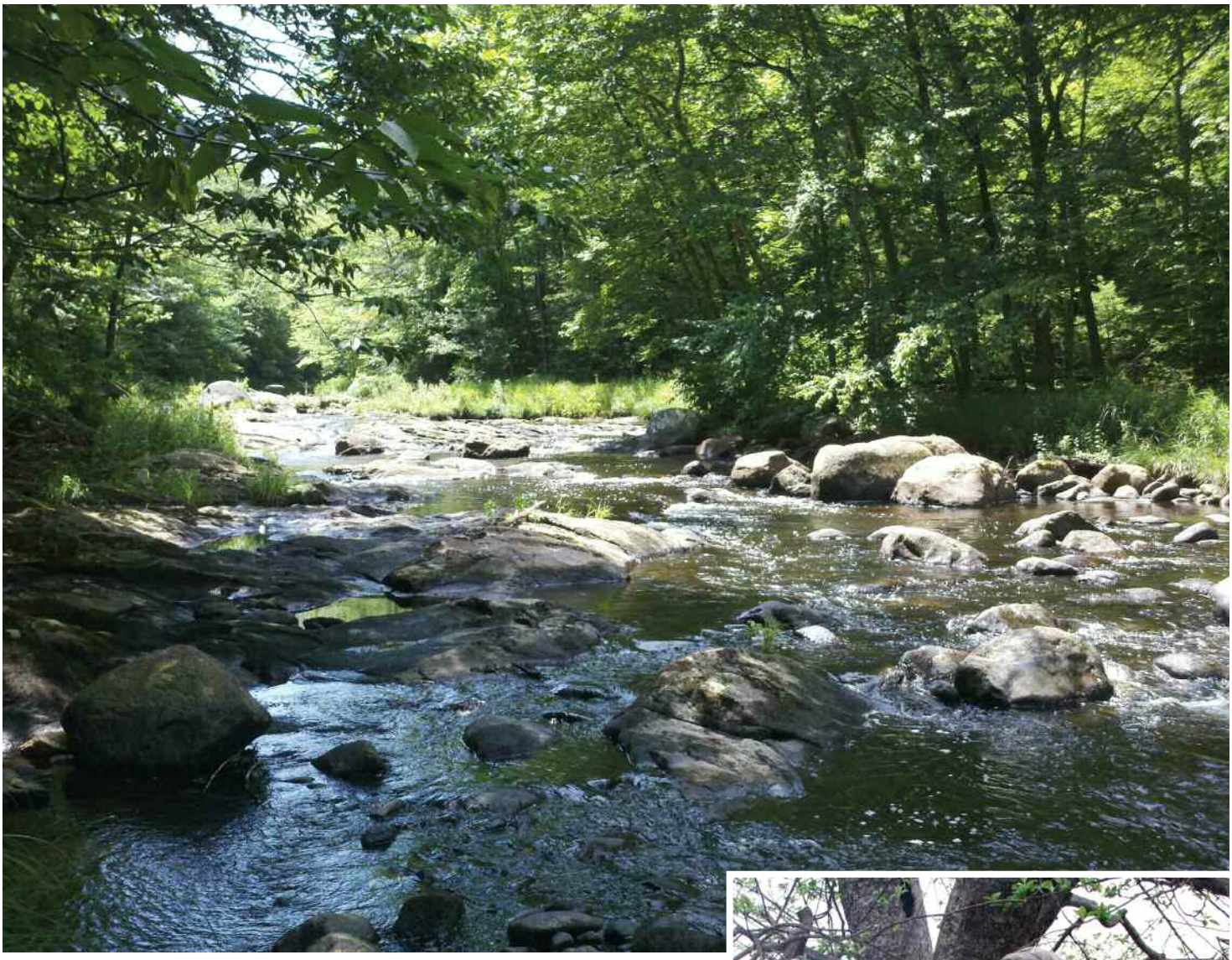
Most people know that the Forest Society accepts donations of conservation land and conservation easements—gifts that protect our forests, rivers, lakes, mountains, and fields for future generations.

But did you know that the Forest Society also accepts gifts of other real estate?

Donating real estate to the Forest Society enables you to quickly liquidate the asset, receive a potential tax deduction, and support land conservation efforts in New Hampshire.

Gifts of houses, cottages, house lots and even woodlots that can be sold by the Forest Society generate funds that will be used to purchase important conservation lands and provide for the stewardship of our forest reservations and conservation easements.

To find out how you could convert your "asset" into conserved "acres," call Susanne Kibler-Hacker or Brian Hotz at (603) 224-9945 or visit www.forestsociety.org/A2A.



The Souhegan River runs alongside the Tallarico land.

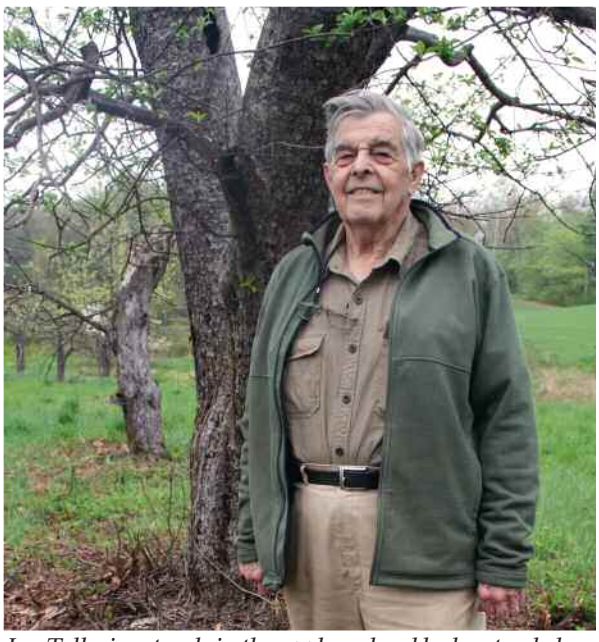
Where the Hardy and Enduring are Made

Expert on New Hampshire farming, history buff conserves hilltop land in Wilton

"The climate of Wilton is the climate of New England on its northern hills and mountains—a long, severe winter... a short and checkered spring, a hot and luxuriant summer, and a brilliant autumn with the foliage turned to brown, crimson and gold.

But if we take all the features of the climate into consideration, we shall come to the conclusion that it is fitted to develop a hardy, vigorous and long-lived race of people, with great activity and endurance of body and mind."

— From *The History of the Town of Wilton*, 1888



Les Tallarico stands in the apple orchard he has tended for most of his life.

Leslie Tallarico traces his roots back to Wilton's first settlers, members of the Kimball, Batchelder and Livermore families who established some of the area's early farms. Jonathon Livermore, Les's great, great, great grandfather, was the town's first settled minister, given charge of one 240-acre grant and the building of the first log church. The 1777 home Les lives in sits on Kimball Hill Road, named for his ancestors who emigrated from England before the Revolutionary War.

It's no wonder he considers caring for the apple orchards, hay fields, forests and river frontage around his home part of a sacred trust.

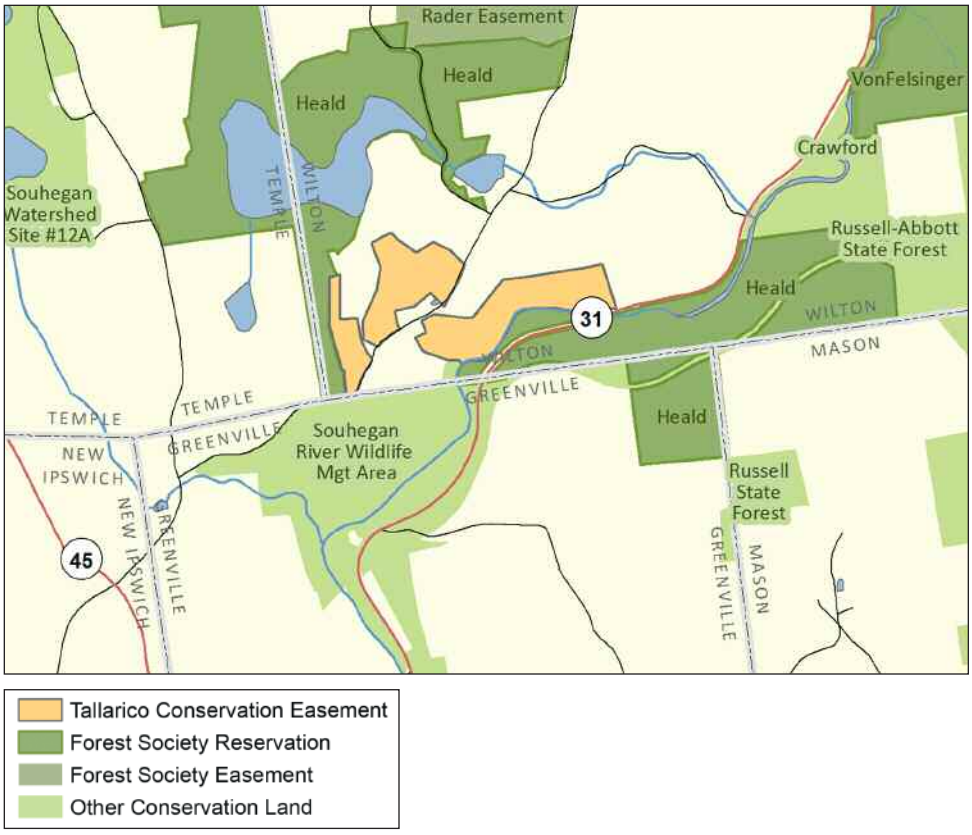
"Growing up here you just got it into your system. The whole thing is a part of me," Les said in an interview at his home. "I'm 90 years old, and this has been home for the whole time."

Les has honored that history and his own personal ties to the land around his home by donating a conservation easement on 87 beautiful acres to the Forest Society. The Russell Farm and Forest Conservation Foundation supported the donation with funds to cover the transaction costs of the project.

"Les Tallarico's donation is an incredible gift to the Wilton community and beyond," said Jane Difley, the Forest Society's president/forester. "We are so pleased to be a part of his longstanding commitment to caring for his forests and fields in a way that benefits both wildlife and people."

Les's donation caps off a lifetime of service to his community. He has served on the Conservation Commission for more than 30 years as well as on the Souhegan Watershed Committee. And improving farms, both his own and those in the region, has been his life's work. Thirty one years with the USDA saw him helping to put in farm ponds and drainages and consulting with farmers about crops and methods throughout Hillsborough and Cheshire counties. As a conservation technician, he got to know the region particularly well, thanks to the advice his boss gave him when he started.

Forests surround the hayfields that stretch out behind the farmhouse, constructed in 1777.



"My boss told me, 'When you go out to a farm, come back another way—that way you'll get to know the county.' And I did."

Les and his wife Phyllis, who died in 2012, grew apples and hay on their farm, a certified Tree Farm, with help from their five children, four of whom live within a couple of miles of Les's house. Although his family members have always owned land on Kimball Hill, it was Les's grandparents George and Abby (Kimball) Batchelder who bought the land that Les has conserved in 1907 as an addition to their apple orchards and hayfields.

The 87 acres is mostly high ground, where Kimball Hill was originally called Kimball Heights. About 25 acres are mowed fields, four acres are apple orchard and the rest is forest that runs right down to touch the Souhegan River. It links to the Forest Society's Heald Tract, as well as to N.H. Fish and Game's Souhegan River Wildlife Management Area. About 35 percent of the easement land is considered the best habitat of its kind in the state by Fish and Game's Wildlife Action Plan.

For Les, the easement on his land is about conservation, to be sure, but it's also about community service and family history. A World War II veteran who served in Japan with the 11th Airborne Division, he is a longtime member of the Wilton Historical Society, and his wife Phyllis was its curator for many years. He is surrounded by history in his 1777 house, with its six chimneys, original wainscoting of 20-inch-wide boards and handsaw marks on the kitchen floorboards.

On the wall in the living room, a different history is represented by a photograph of the ship Les's father rode to America on, the Victoria, which sailed from Cotronci, Italy, with 8-year-old Pasquale Tallarico on board. Pasquale Tallarico, a talented musician and music teacher, married into Wilton's farming community when he married Les's mother Anna Batchelder, and the two raised Les and his six brothers and sisters on the farm on Kimball Hill.

Outside are pieces of more recent history. Les still mows with a 1950 tractor. Its counterpart adorns the driveway: a forest green pickup truck also bought in 1950 and running great with 28,000 original miles.

But it's his connection to the earliest Wilton town history that comes to mind when he's talking about the land and its future.

The town started out in colonial times divided into 200 lots, he pointed out.

"Today there are 3,000 lots, and the town isn't any bigger, it's just cut up more," he said.

That's a trend Les Tallarico doesn't want continued on his land. "A lot of places in town have been divided, and I didn't want this place cut up," he said.

Thanks to his donation of a conservation easement, the trend has come to an end on his beloved Kimball Hill.

Three (Whispered) Cheers for the Undiscovered Places

By George F. Frame, CF

As you can see from this issue's beautiful photos taken at our reservations, we have some lovely land. There are things to do, scenic vistas to enjoy, ponds to fish and trails to hike. There are personal challenges to overcome, goals to achieve, confidence to bolster, and peace to find. And while every one of our reservations is a jewel set on the landscape of New Hampshire, well, let's just say some of them are still "in the rough."

The history of land ownership for the Forest Society stretches back 103 years beginning with Reservation #1, Lost River. In 1913 we added the first of more than 30 parcels that today compose our Monadnock Reservation. And so it has gone until today, when the number of reservations is nearing 180 and the number of acres has surpassed 53,000.

If you were asked to name 30 of those properties you might be able to do it with the help of our online Forest Reservations Guide or a quick read of past issues of *Forest Notes*, but the majority of our reservations exist with almost complete anonymity. Perhaps known to a few locals and to Forest Society staff, many properties slide through the years with only occasional visits to have their boundary lines repainted or perhaps to host a small timber harvest.

Much of the land the Forest Society now owns was given to us by landowners who wanted their land protected and managed as they themselves had done. It might have been the woodlot portion of an old family farm, divided amongst the family members who had no need or time to care for it. It might have been an inaccessible hilltop with poor second growth fighting the rocks for a place on the steep slopes. It could have been "Somethin' I bought for the boy, but he never had an interest, I guess."

Many Forest Society reservations are quiet woodlots, sometimes with an old woods road on them like this one at the James and Eleanor Crider Forest/Rumrill Family Forest in Stoddard.

Many properties slide through the years with only occasional visits...

Compared to the well-known reservations like Lost River, Monadnock or our tracts on Mt. Major, most of our properties are just woods. Acres and acres of woods, usually with just a Forest Society sign to tell you where you are.

But don't feel bad for the apparent lack of attention. There have to be places where those of us who don't like crowds, who don't enjoy white- water canoeing, or who feel they may be getting too old to hike all day at elevations over 4,000 feet, can go and just enjoy the woods. And for me that means quiet strolls, listening to birds calling, catching a bear or porcupine up a tree, being buzzed by an upset broad-wing hawk when you have ventured too close to the nest tree, photographing mushrooms or colorful lichens up close and undisturbed by passing day-trippers, stumbling upon an old cellar hole or other relic of past land use, or finding a pre-Civil War cemetery and letting my imagination take me into the lives and trials of the folks who chose to live and die 'so far back in the woods.

When there is no big view to see, no grand natural beauty smacking you in the face amidst the summer crowds, look closer and see the small things, and see how wonderful those small things can be. We've got lots of small things waiting for you if you're willing to look around our 'other' reservations.

George Frame is the Senior Director of Forestry at the Forest Society. He can be reached at gframe@forestsociety.org.

Underground Advantage: A Brief Look at the Draft Northern Pass Environmental Statement

All alternatives still blocked

By Jack Savage

The analysis contained in the Northern Pass Draft Environmental Statement (DEIS) that was released by the U.S. Dept. of Energy (DOE) to the public in July validated multiple points that opponents of Northern Pass have been making since the proposed 187-mile transmission line was made public in 2010.

Many of the thousands of project opponents have made the case that Northern Pass's preferred route and overhead means of running the transmission line (called Alternative 2 in the DEIS) would be environmentally harmful and would negatively impact property values, in part because of significant scenic impacts. The DEIS concludes that:

"Overall, Alternative 2 would impose the greatest environmental impacts as compared to the other alternatives primarily because of visual impacts, vegetation removal and ground disturbance required for the creation of a new 40-mile long, 150-foot wide route in the Northern Section of the Project"(DEIS Summary pages S-14, S-15).

The Forest Society, among others, has maintained that if the private transmission line were to be built, it should be buried along existing transportation corridors. The DEIS notes that burial along roadways is not only practical and feasible, but that those alternatives that would bury most of the line along roadways (such as alternatives 4a, 4b, and 4c) would have the least environmental impact. It also makes the case that the burial options have other advantages, including higher local tax revenues and more jobs.

One major issue, of course, is cost. But what has interested many observers is that the cost-of-construction estimates in the DEIS are far less than what Eversource/Northern Pass officials have claimed. They have claimed burying the lines would cost from five to 10 times the cost of erecting overhead lines. Instead, the DEIS estimates that Northern Pass's preferred Alternative 2 would cost $1.06 billion, while the fully buried option (called Alternative 4b) would cost $2.11 billion.

Another issue is technical feasibility. Northern Pass is proposing an overhead line with 1,200 megawatts (MW) of capacity. In looking at burial options, the DOE determined that an underground cable with 1,200MW capacity "was not reasonable due to both engineering feasibility and cost." (DEIS page 2-34) So the burial alternatives the DEIS analyzed are based on cable with 1,000MW capacity. A new cable technology, called "HVDC Light," currently tops out at 1,000MW in capacity, is less expensive to install underground and is more efficient to operate than conventional buried cable systems with higher capacities.

This new HVDC Light technology is being proposed for underground use with the New England Clean Power Link, a competitive project in Vermont that has scooted ahead of Northern Pass in the permitting chase. It has also been successfully permitted for a completely buried system bringing Hydro Quebec power to New York City on the Champlain Hudson Express project through eastern New York.

Given the Northern Pass DEIS consideration of eight alternatives using the HVDC Light cable technology (and only one using the conventional, higher capacity, more expensive buried cable system) and given the permitting speed with which other HVDC Light projects have been publicly accepted and approved by regulators, it appears that Northern Pass would be well advised to consider the multiple benefits of HVDC Light for its entire extension through New Hampshire.

Property rights

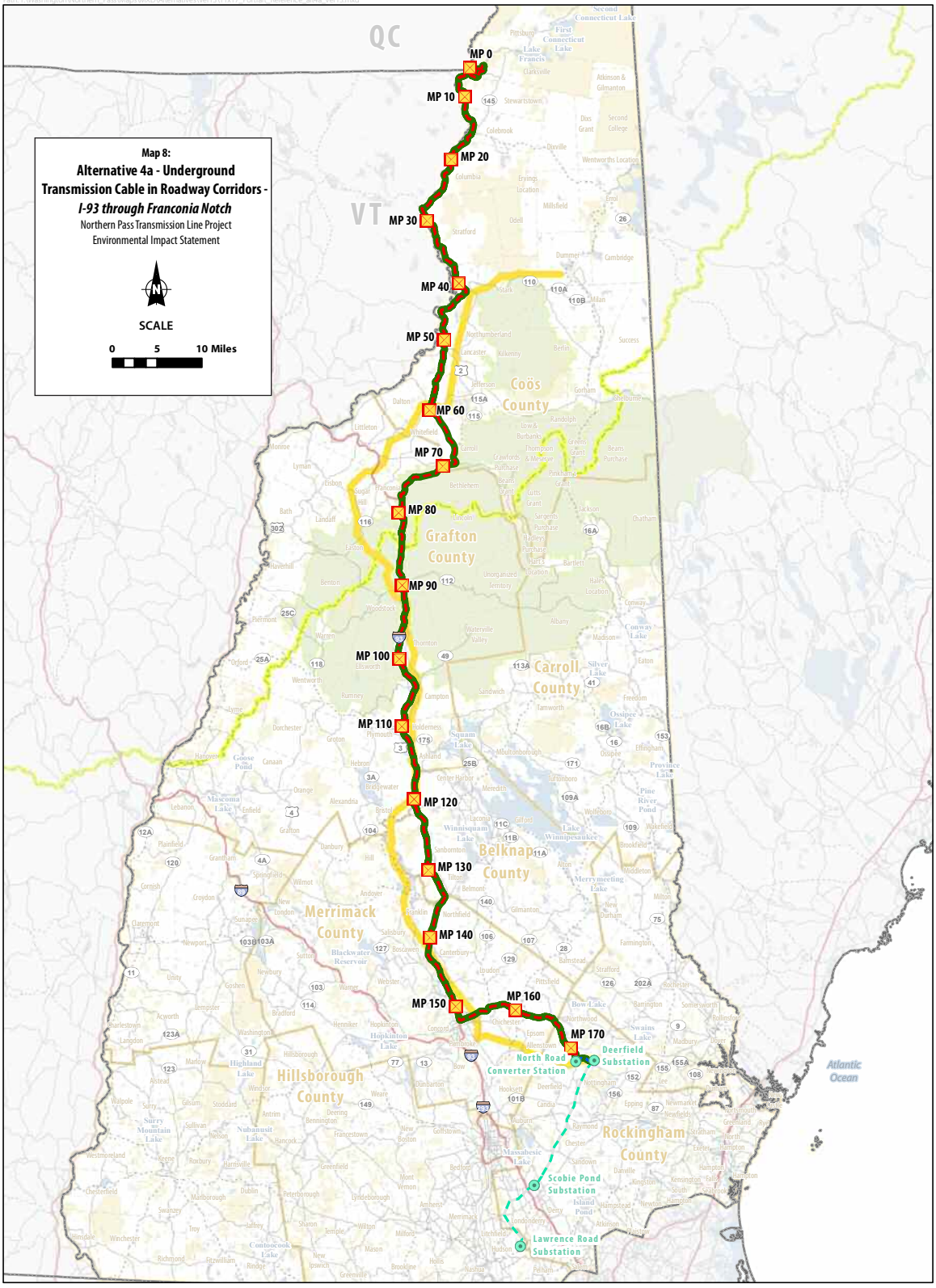
The one burial option that the draft EIS concluded is not practical is Alternative 3, burial of a cable within the Northern Pass proposed route, because of the likely difficulty of acquiring sufficient rights through private property to do so.

"The portion of the Alternative 3 Project corridor which would be located within the existing PSNH transmission route is governed by more than 644 separate easements or other agreements. A review of a representative sampling of these easements indicates the majority of the easements do not grant the Applicant the authority to install or operate underground transmission cables within the land governed by the easements. Therefore, in order for Alternative 3 to be implemented, the majority of these easements would need to be amended through agreement with each individual land owner. This aspect of Alternative 3 may be challenging to implement." (DEIS page 2-15)

Similarly, the Forest Society has maintained that an "alternate route" put forward by Northern Pass in its revised Presidential Permit application is blocked. This would have been an overhead line in Stewartstown (partially on land purchased by Northern Pass) that was blocked by the conservation easement on the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters and bolstered by additional easements on abutting properties put in place by the Forest Society working with landowners.

As the DEIS explains (on page 2-37): "This alternative would require that the

Continued on page 26.



SOURCE: ESRI 2011; GRANIT 2012; Burns and McDonnell 2013; USFS 2012; Ecology and Environment 2013

Legend

Existing Conditions

- State Boundary
- County Boundary
- Political Boundary
- Freeway
- Major Road
- Secondary Road
- Appalachian National Scenic Trail
- Waterbody
- NH Conservation Land (WMA, State Forest, Conservation Areas, etc.)
- White Mountain National Forest
- Existing PSNH Transmission Route

Alternative 4a Projects

- New Transmission Route
- Project in Roadway Corridor
- Underground High-Voltage Direct Current Centerline
- Underground High-Voltage Alternating Current Centerline
- Existing Transmission Line Upgrades
- Project Milepost
- Converter/Substation Location

Continued from page 24.

Project be buried under this parcel [Connecticut Lakes Headwaters] due to specific conditions of the conservation easement held by NHDRED. DOE determined that this alternative was not reasonable due to access restrictions. The terms of the NHDRED easement prohibit this use. The conservation easement was created to protect the qualities of the viewshed and natural resources on the property, with terminology included to specifically preclude the type of development the Project would require. Further, the Applicant made extensive efforts with the land owner to acquire rights for this use of the land which were unsuccessful."

In essence, if one accepts the analysis of the DEIS, Northern Pass's attempt to forge a route by buying land at premiums exceeding $40 million in Coos County alone was a failure.

And that leads to a larger issue: Every alternative analyzed in the DEIS, including all buried options, would require Northern Pass to use land owned and conserved by the Forest Society in Clarksville. Given that the project cannot use eminent domain, it remains unclear how any transmission line using the alternatives analyzed in the DEIS could be built without landowner permission.

What is not in the EIS

While the DEIS discusses energy issues in New England, it is also careful to point out what it does not do: make any determination of need for Northern Pass. In fact, after being asked to consider the project within the larger context of regional energy needs, it concludes:

"This issue was dismissed from further detailed analysis because the analysis of regional energy needs is beyond the scope of this draft EIS....Further, DOE does not have the authority to determine the underlying need for a transmission project within the New England regional transmission system. Regional energy transmission needs and a program of means to meet identified transmission needs within the New England region will be determined by ISONE in coordination with the New England states."

That is disappointing to some stakeholders, who would have preferred the DOE consider the fact that other competitive transmission projects are in the works. But the DOE stuck to its narrow scope:

"The purpose of, and need for, the DOE's action is to determine whether or not to grant the requested Presidential permit for the Project, which is a proposed transmission line crossing the international border (ie, the proposed Northern Pass project) in the location identified in the Northern Pass's amended Presidential Permit application" (DEIS pages 2-37).

That same logic was applied to potential consideration of a different international border crossing, an issue the Forest Society will address (see story below).

Finally, it's important to remember that the DOE does not have any authority for siting a project like Northern Pass in New Hampshire, as it often reminds the public. Ultimately, New Hampshire will decide if New Hampshire wants a project like Northern Pass, and if so, how much of it will be buried underground.

Jack Savage is the Forest Society's vice president of Communications and Outreach.

What's in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement?

By Will Abbott

Two years in the making, the U.S. Dept. of Energy (DOE) released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Northern Pass project on July 21, 2015. The DOE will host public hearings and a public comment period this fall, which will inform a final EIS. The final EIS will then inform permitting decisions that federal agencies need to make regarding Northern Pass.

The EIS, required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), is designed to provide federal agencies making regulatory decisions on major development projects with an assessment of what the least damaging environmental alternatives are to building the project as proposed.

While the federal agencies with decision-making authority are not required to approve the least damaging environmental alternative identified in the EIS, the NEPA process is designed to help decision-makers (project developers and government regulators) understand which choices have less adverse environmental impacts.

The Northern Pass DEIS studies 11 alternatives, including the required "No Action" alternative, which supposes the project will not be built at all and is considered an environmental baseline for all other options studied. Second is the "proposed action" (listed as Alternative 2) that Northern Pass submitted to DOE in June 2013—a largely overhead line that would require 40 miles of new right-of-way in Coos County and a Special Use Permit to go through the White Mountain National Forest. Here is a summary of the other alternatives:

- Alternative 3 proposes to bury the entire line along the same corridor as the proposed action's overhead route, with one major change. Instead of locating the converter station (which converts high voltage direct current to high voltage alternating current) in Franklin, A3 proposes an HVDC line from Pittsburgh to Deerfield, with the converter station constructed at a site in Deerfield three miles from the substation where the AC power is introduced to the grid.

- Alternatives 4a, 4b, and 4c propose three different completely buried

routes, along three different sets of road rights of way, all avoiding a Franklin site for the converter facility in favor of the proposed Deerfield site. These three alternatives would be buried HVDC Light cable with a maximum capacity of 1,000 megawatts (MW).

- Alternatives 5a, 5b and 5c would be largely above ground transmission lines from Pittsburg to Deerfield except in the vicinity of the White Mountain National Forest. Each of these three options uses a different set of state road rights of way to bury the transmission line within. This avoids building overhead lines through the national forest, as the proposed action would. One of the three options (5b) enables a 1,200-megawatt line; the other two enable a 1,000 megawatt line.
- Alternatives 6a and 6b preserve the converter station in Franklin, run HVDC cables underground from Pittsburg to Franklin, and then HVAC lines overhead from Franklin to Deerfield. Both these options use HVDC Light cables limited to 1,000 megawatts in total capacity.

How can Forest Society members help improve the Draft EIS?

The document released is clearly advanced as a "draft" study. Presumably the DOE will review public comments to make the "final" EIS an improvement over the draft. There will be three public hearings in early October (see sidebar on dates and locations, and on how to submit written comments). Over 7,500 comments were received when the DOE held scoping hearings in 2011 and again in 2013 (after Northern Pass amended its original 2010 proposal).

We have three specific suggestions.

First, we think it is unreasonable for the final EIS to limit its entire study to one international border crossing, the one chosen by the applicant to be located over Hall's Stream in Pittsburg. The DOE has repeatedly suggested that its regulatory purview in the case of the NP project is limited to granting a Presidential Permit to cross the international border. It is more than ironic that the DEIS considers 11 alternatives for transmission corridor siting over which DOE has no regulatory authority and only one location for the international boundary crossing, where the DOE decision is focused by law. It would greatly improve the final EIS if it considered at least one other international border crossing.

Second, if the DOE's final EIS does consider more than one international border crossing, the most reasonable location for a completely buried transmission line would be down Interstate 91 from Derby Line, Vt. to the intersection of I-91 and I-93 in Waterford, Vt., then down I-93 to a terminus in southern New Hampshire or northern Massachusetts where the electrons can be successfully integrated with the New England grid. Not only would this likely result in the least damage to the environment of all alternatives studied, it should also reduce the total project construction cost. The length of the facility between Derby Line and Exit 40 on the New Hampshire part of I-93 is actually 10 miles shorter than the serpentine route in the "proposed action" between Halls' Stream in Pittsburg and Exit 40.

Third, the final EIS should eliminate any consideration of building the DC/AC converter station in Franklin, and should consider at least one termination point south of the present terminus in Deerfield. The converter station should be built as close as possible to the point where the electricity is introduced to the New England grid. This allows for less line loss of electricity and provides for the cheapest way of building a completely buried transmission facility through New Hampshire. Since the electrons

Draft EIS continued on page 29.

HOW AND WHEN TO COMMENT ON THE EIS

The DOE will conduct public hearings to receive comments on the draft EIS on the following dates and locations:

Tuesday, Oct. 6, Concord, N.H.

Wednesday, Oct. 7, Whitefield, N.H.

Thursday, Oct. 8, Plymouth, N.H.

More details on the hearings will be announced in the *Federal Register* and in local media, and will be posted on the project website, northernpasseis.us.

Printed hard copies and CD copies of the draft EIS will be sent to those who have requested to receive the documents in those formats. Printed hard copies and CD copies are also available for public review at locations specified at http://media.northernpasseis.us/media/DraftEIS_Hard_Copy_Locations.pdf.

Comments on the draft EIS can be submitted verbally during public hearings; via e-mail to draftEIScomments@northernpasseis.us; or on the project website, northernpasseis.us.

Mark envelopes and electronic mail subject lines as "Northern Pass Draft EIS Comments."

You can also submit comments in writing to:

Mr. Brian Mills
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20)
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Written comments must be received by Oct. 29, 2015

Photos courtesy of N.H. Div. of Forests and Lands.

The Percy Peaks (South Percy is at left) and Sugarloaf Mountain (above) are part of the Nash Stream Forest, which consists of 40,000 acres of State-owned land north of the White Mountain National Forest.

More ATV Trails or Not?

Sport's popularity presents challenge as Nash Stream Forest updates its management plan

By Matt Leahy

If you have never been to the Nash Stream Forest, reward yourself with a visit to this exceptional state reservation. While more remote and less well-known than its big brother to the south (the White Mountain National Forest), Nash Stream Forest offers a deeply fulfilling outdoor experience. Those who hike or fish in its 40,000 acres will find a stunning landscape of secluded ponds, mountain peaks and other natural features that can rival many of the vistas in the WMNF. As the State of New Hampshire prepares to update the Nash Stream Forest Management Plan, the challenge facing us is how to ensure it continues to be this special place.

The Forest Society was part of efforts in 1988 that led to the State's acquisition of the property. Our involvement was driven by the significant impacts this area has long had on the regional forest-based economy, scenic forest landscapes, fish and wildlife habitats and public recreation. The first Nash Stream Management Plan, adopted in 1995, recognized these multiple uses and called for the Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) to oversee it with all those uses and needs in mind.

The fundamental question is how to maintain this balance of activities without risking long-term or even permanent damage. In short, how can all the stakeholders who cherish this area avoid loving it to death? The possible expansion of ATV use in the forest illustrates the complexity of finding an answer to this issue. The original management plan prohibited ATV use there, but the 2002 plan update created a nine-mile ATV trail known as the West Side Connector. Today, a technical planning team made up of state and federal natural resource agencies, working under the oversight of the Nash Stream Forest Citizens Committee, is in the process of updating the forest management plan. The question of whether to expand ATV use will be part of this discussion.

There are two key issues relative to consideration of new ATV trails in Nash Stream Forest. First is whether there are or should be limits to the expansion of ATV use of Nash Stream beyond the existing West Side Loop Trail. The State acquired Nash Stream Forest to protect the ecological integrity of the working forest in one of the state's largest self-contained, largely undeveloped watersheds. Second, should DRED decide that more ATV trails are desirable (and not precluded by the terms of the original acquisition), NH RSA 215-A:43 will play a central role in determining what can actually happen on the ground. This law requires DRED to conduct a two-step process, referred as a "coarse filter" and "fine filter" review, to evaluate any new ATV or trail bike trail proposal on state-owned property.

Any new ATV trail in Nash Stream Forest must first be proposed, and then must clear this statutory review process successfully

before it can be considered to become a permanent recreational feature. The results of the course filter and fine filter review will help DRED craft the draft management plan. DRED plans to propose a new draft management plan addressing these issues later this fall. The new draft plan will then be the subject of public hearings, which will inform DRED's final management plan.

As the State moves forward with finalizing the plan, we hope it will also look for guidance to NH RSA 162-C:6, which governs the management of lands like Nash Stream Forest acquired by the N.H. Land Conservation Investment Program. This statute states that the N.H. Council on Resources and Development (CORD) "shall manage the lands acquired under the former RSA 221-A so as to preserve the natural beauty, landscape, rural character, natural resources, and high quality of life in New Hampshire. The council shall maintain and protect benefits derived from such lands and maintain public access to such lands, where appropriate." By following this direction, we can protect this exceptional place.

Matt Leahy is the Forest Society's public policy manager.

Draft EIS continued from page 27.

themselves are headed for markets in Massachusetts, considering a buried HVDC line through New Hampshire to a termination point in Massachusetts should be one alternative studied in the final EIS.

There are many other specific deficiencies of the DEIS that can be improved in the final EIS. The Forest Society will be commenting on these issues before the DOE comment period ends. We encourage our members and supporters to comment, and we encourage you to consider advancing one or more of these three core issues for making the final EIS an improvement over the draft.

Will Abbott is the Forest Society's vice president of Policy and Reservation Stewardship.

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North Woodlands, Inc.
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Winnipesaukee Chocolates
Wolf Creek Investments, LLC
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Sunset Park Campground
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American Biltrite Charitable Trust
American Express
American International Group, Inc.
Ames Planning Associates
Amica Companies Foundation
Autodesk, Inc.
Bank of America
CA, Inc Matching Gifts Program
ExxonMobil Foundation
f5 Networks
Fairpoint Communications
FM Global Foundation
Gartner
GE Foundation
Global Impact
Green Mountain Coffee
Hewlett Packard Company Foundation
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For information on business memberships, please contact Susanne Kibler-Hacker at (603) 224-9945 or via email at skh@forestsociety.org.

Left photo by Larry Keller/Dreamstime.com; right photo by Lauren Kras.

Left: *Black-throated green warblers migrate mostly at night. Before they leave New Hampshire, they'll fatten up by eating berries of poison ivy and other plants.*

Right: *Shorebirds like this semi-palmated sandpiper are among the first migrating birds to leave New Hampshire in the fall.*

Journey to the Coast… and Back

With Labor Day now past, who hasn't felt a pulse of restlessness and the tug of turning tides? There's time to grab a last beach day before the sands at Hampton Beach are cold and deserted.

By Dave Anderson

By September, the dawn chorus of bird song has diminished to silence. Birds have finished breeding, so there's no need for singing. They've molted into drab autumn plumage and are busy feeding heavily alongside fledglings fattening for their first fall migration.

Early red "fall foliar fruit flags" are a clever adaptation of poison ivy, sumac and blueberry plants to signal the locations of ripe fruit containing seeds waiting to hitch a ride powered by bird wings. High quality, waxy autumn fruits of wetland shrubs are high in lipids, providing fat calories to fuel the long distance flight out of New England.

Along the coast, the shorebird migration provided the earliest harbinger of autumn. Shorebirds completed communal nesting and rearing of chicks by July. By August, they flocked to beaches and marshes to find plentiful plankton and tiny fish in the inter-tidal shallows. By September, most shorebirds have left pre-migratory staging areas and are winging south.

We migrate this time of year, too—back to the coast to enjoy the lingering warmth of early autumn. Human migration peaks when high pressure, fair weather, warm water and hot sand lure folks to the coast at the close of another idyllic summer.

An ebb tide drains from forested foothills as cars flow southeast toward the flat horizon of the coastal plain. The tide of traffic recedes along rivers of asphalt clogging Rte. 4 east from Concord or Rte. 101 east from Manchester. People migrate to the beaches to congregate at the razor's edge where land meets sea; where cumulous clouds billow like the sails of tall ships.

Even in September, weekend throngs still pack Hampton Beach. For people-watchers, it's a human kaleidoscope. I can't resist analogies to shorebird rookeries or marine seal colonies. I spy territorial, dominance postures by muscular males scanning the sand. You can't miss the eye-catching multicolored, plumage of females. The sounds of shrieking children and herring gulls accompany pounding surf and beach radios. It's the soundtrack of fading summer, a human milieu where miles of mammals mingle on the sand.

Forest architecture also reveals regional climate and weather. Forests near the ocean are short, scrubby and *tough*. The coastal mix of tree species favors conifers, wetland red maples and sun-loving poplar and pin cherry. Shallow-rooted conifers dominate the forest near the open ocean. Wind-

Coastal forests are dominated by conifers that have a waxy covering on their needles that helps them retain moisture.

pruned pines, hemlock, balsam fir and spruce feature waxy needles on pliable limbs, so they are better-adapted to resist salt spray and heavy wind.

The dry forest floor beneath red oak and white pine is awash with poison ivy. The relative frequency of strong coastal storms constitutes a disturbance interval of decades rather than centuries. Winter blizzards and autumn hurricanes erase tall trees to favor tenacious trees able to grow from sand or clay and tolerate salt spray and occasional extreme winds.

Familiar inland trees—tall, deeply-rooted yellow birch, white ash, basswood, sugar maple and beech—seem conspicuously absent at the immediate coast where the thin veneer of acidic soil overlies white granite or sharp, black basalt.

By late afternoon, I sigh and turn inland; my back to the sea to face another approaching winter. A long, black ribbon of hot asphalt leads inexorably uphill and west toward the sinking sun. Toll plazas resemble reversing falls of tidal rivers. I return inland to the dusty, dry interior on a rising evening tide of commuter traffic.

The route home ascends the foothills into the beckoning shade of dense forest. A winding stretch of Roby Road parallels Lane Brook, where temperatures tumble back to the 60s. I roll down the car windows to experience that first rush of cool air. I smell balsam and pine. The forest is nature's air conditioner and freshener. For me, that scent of the forest after a day in the salt air represents home.

Uplands spill invisible rivers of heavier, cool air flowing downslope to pool in the shade of hemlocks and pines, a cool, damp microclimate. The Appalachian foothills are cloaked in slow-growing spruce, hemlock, beech, yellow birch and sugar maple. This mix of trees distinguishes the classic "transitional northern hardwoods" forest of central New Hampshire from more low-lying coastal forest communities.

When I arrive home, sunburned and salt-crusted, the familiar backyard woods seem oddly taller, the trees larger. Now far from the sea and sleepy from my journey, I fall asleep to the sound of crickets while imagining the relentless wash of winds and waves against the coast of New Hampshire over countless centuries.

Naturalist Dave Anderson is director of education and volunteers for The Forest Society. He can be reached via e-mail at danderson@forestsociety.org.

Help Us Save the Powder Major's Farm and Forest

The Forest Society has an exciting opportunity to create a new forest reservation near the Seacoast and save a beautiful historic property along the Oyster River from getting divided into house lots.

We are working to buy a 195-acre parcel in Madbury, Lee and Durham as well as a conservation easement on an abutting 32-acre parcel from the Goss family. The Goss family would prefer a conservation outcome and has offered the property to the Forest Society first before putting it on the open market. This land was once the farm and woodlot of Major John Demeritt, a local Revolutionary War figure known as the Powder Major. This is a high priority conservation project, supported by the Great Bay Partnership. Here's why:

Public recreational resources

This property hosts a popular trail system for horse-back riding, hiking, wildlife watching and hunting, snowmobiling and fishing. It provides the wooded backdrop to Madbury's playing fields and for the Madbury Elementary School, offering many educational possibilities. It also provides the forested viewscape for the "scenic"-designated Cherry Lane and for NH Route 155. Located in a focus area of the Coastal Watershed Conservation Plan, the property is central to the efforts of Madbury, Lee and Durham to connect nearby conservation lands into a regional greenbelt.

Water quality

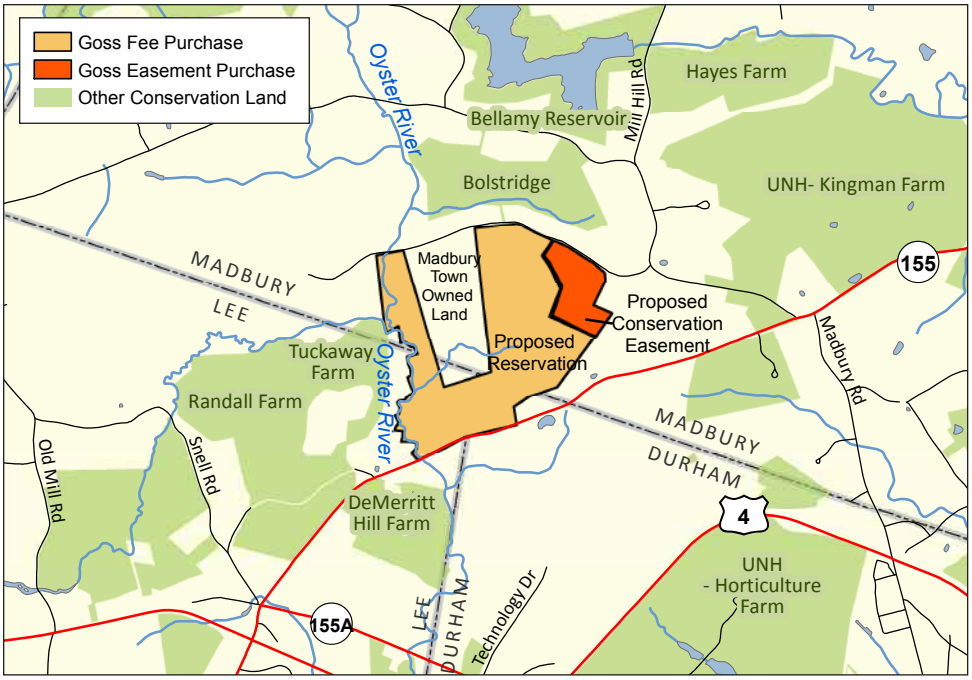
The Oyster River travels a half-mile through the property, which is located within a Source Water Protection Area and overlies an aquifer. The Oyster River is the drinking water source for the town of Durham and for UNH. Part of the Great Bay Estuary watershed, it feeds into the

Top photo by Brian Hotz; Middle and bottom photos by Jerry and Marcy Monkman/EcoPhotography.

Top: *The Oyster River, the source of drinking water for Durham and UNH, travels for half a mile through the land proposed to become a new Forest Society reservation.*

Middle: *Actively farmed hayfields and forests provide a beautiful scenic backdrop in parts of three towns: Madbury, Durham and Lee, that are working to connect conservation lands into a regional greenway.*

Bottom: *An extensive trail system provides recreation for hikers, horse-back riders, snowmobilers, skiers, hunters and anglers.*



Piscataqua River, which leads to the Atlantic. Protecting the wetlands and uplands near the river is critical to keeping this important water source clean.

Historic relevance

Both Native American and Revolutionary War history are represented on this land. It was once used as the "planting ground" for Chief Moharimet, who controlled much of the land in the area in the late 1600s. "Council Rock," a large boulder, still marks the gathering spot for various tribes and the spot where Chief Moharimet met with early European settlers. During the Revolutionary War, the land belonged to Maj. John Demeritt, who became known as the Powder Major after he stored gunpowder in his barn to keep it from the British and brought it by oxcart to the Continental Army for use in the Battle of Bunker Hill. The Demeritt homestead, now home to members of the Goss family, is on land abutting the proposed easement.

Wildlife habitat

The N.H. Natural Heritage Bureau has documented two state-listed species on the property. And the Oyster River corridor is home to 12 more rare, threatened or endangered plants and animals and needs our protection.

Working forests and fields

About 30 acres of the property are farmed as hayfields, and most of the rest of it consists of forests of oak, pine and hemlock managed for timber.

Threat of development

The Forest Society must raise $2.25 million by Oct. 31, 2016, in order to pay the assessed value of the property and easement. We must be successful in our efforts, since the property will be sold on the open market if no conservation outcome can be reached. A plan already exists for the land to be divided into 81 housing lots accessed by new roads. The Forest Society is seeking grants through public and private funding sources and asking members and supporters to help provide matching funds. Please consider providing a gift that will result in a new forest reservation protecting this important natural and historical resource for future generations!

☐ **YES, I WANT TO HELP THE FOREST SOCIETY CONSERVE THE POWDER MAJOR'S FARM AND FOREST**

Name: _____

Address: _____ Town/City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

☐ Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution for $_____

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard Number: _____ Exp. date: _____ Security code: _____

Please mail the completed form to: Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301. Or donate online at www.forestsociety.org.

For more information, contact Susanne Kibler-Hacker at 603-224-9945 or via e-mail at skh@forestsociety.org.

Thank you for your help!

SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE FORESTS
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THE MANY FACES OF CONSERVATION

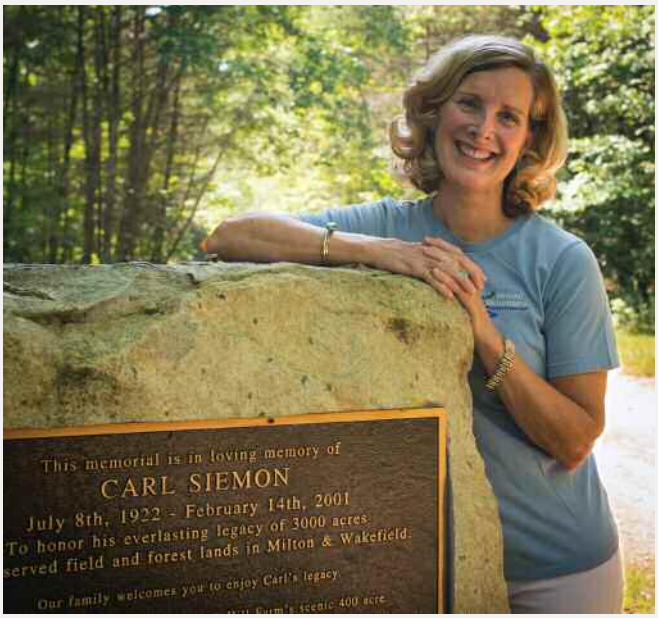

Photo by Al Karevy.

Cynthia S. Wyatt
Milton Mills, N.H.
Member since 1988

MEMBERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!

Cynthia Wyatt is among the 10,000 members who helped the Forest Society protect more than one million acres in New Hampshire. To join her, use the envelope in this issue or contact Margaret Liszka at 603-224-9945.

"I moved to New Hampshire in 1991 with my husband and 8-year-old twins to help my father, Carl Siemon, manage his hay and tree farm business in Milton Mills. This is the same year that my father made the decision to donate a conservation easement on nearly 1,300 acres of managed forest and working hay fields to the Forest Society. My brothers and I supported Dad's gift, knowing that the last 30 years of his life were spent restoring the original 100 acres to his grandparents' 1786 farmstead and growing the Tree Farm to its current 3,000 acres. Dad's transaction with the Forest Society was my first introduction to land conservation and the beginning of my transformation to ardent conservationist.

As a founding member of Moose Mountains Regional Greenways, I have had the privilege of working with the Forest Society on highly prioritized land conservation projects. The most notable successes are the 2,300-acre Moose Mountains Reservation in Middleton and Brookfield and the 340-acre Salmon Falls Forest Reservation in Milton Mills. Both properties are within a few miles of our farm's 3,000 acres. Part of our visionary plan is to connect these greenway properties.

For me, it is the vision that inspires this meaningful work. We all know that development and change to our scenic landscape is inevitable. It is critically important to have state, regional, and local plans in place to conserve the most significant natural resource areas to not only ensure clean air and water, healthy wildlife, and recreation, but also to support the local forest and agricultural economies. The Forest Society has, for well over a century, provided invaluable leadership in forming and implementing meaningful conservation plans. I am honored to be an active participant in the Forest Society's visionary plans."