

118TH FOREST SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT

Forest Notes

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S CONSERVATION MAGAZINE



**A Career Worth
Celebrating:
Jane Difley and
Her 23 Years
of Leadership**

AUTUMN 2019

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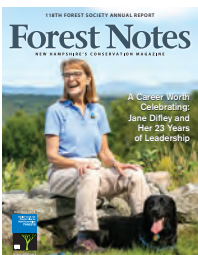
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Retiring president/forester Jane Difley and her dog Minnie take in the view from The Rocks in Bethlehem.
Photo: Ryan Smith.



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A Collective Voice

As Trustees of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, we are acutely aware of the extraordinary history of the organization. We take pride in our role in advancing the organization, and we are deeply committed to ensuring that the work of the Forest Society will continue for centuries to come. Our mission, to perpetuate the forests of New Hampshire, seems as relevant and urgent today as it was when we were founded in 1901.

Members of the Board are honored to share a sense of purpose with Forest Society members, staff, and volunteers. It has been my privilege to serve as Chair of the Board and I want to thank our donors for their generosity, the staff for their extraordinary professionalism, and my fellow Trustees for their dedication and wisdom during this moment of leadership transition.

Most of all, on behalf of the entire board, I want to thank our retiring president/forester, Jane Difley, for her work over the last 23 years. It's hard to imagine what New Hampshire might be like without the accomplishments of the Forest Society

during her tenure. Would Northern Pass be starting construction instead of fading from memory? What would have become of the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters? Would the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program exist?

None of these things came about only because of the Forest Society, of course. They came about because people who cared about our forests, our wildlife, clean water and air, and our forest products industry joined together to— in Jane's words—"keep New Hampshire New Hampshire." That we have done so again and again to conserve land, to advocate tenaciously, to care for the lands we've protected, is a testament to Jane's ability to bring people and partners together. Thanks to her, we speak for the forests with a collective voice.

Deanna Howard is the Chair of the Board of the Trustees for the Forest Society.

Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests

A nonprofit 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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54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, N.H. 03301 | Phone: 603-224-9945 | Fax: 603-228-0423
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118th Annual Report

May 1, 2018–April 30, 2019

To our members:

This is my final chance as your president/forester to report on the accomplishments of the Forest Society during the last year. By any measure, it was a big year.

First in mind is the definitive defeat of the Northern Pass project. After nine years of hearings, meetings, and strategy sessions, the New Hampshire Supreme Court dealt a death blow to the ill-conceived project by ruling that the Site Evaluation Committee had indeed followed appropriate legal protocol in denying Northern Pass a certificate of site and facility. It's a big win for New Hampshire's landscapes, forests, and communities. Once again New Hampshire citizens stood their ground for the things they hold dear: open spaces unmarred by commercial development, downtowns with scenic charm, communities with a sense of who they are and what they want to be, farms that provide livelihoods for families, and the overwhelming sense that New Hampshire citizens, not some company from away, have the right—even an obligation—to determine their future.

Another big success was the protection of 1,942 acres owned by the Manchester Water Works (MWW) under a Forest Society easement. This is not our first partnership with the city's water utility, which owns 8,000 acres surrounding water sources that 160,000 people rely on every day. There's no better way that's more economical to protect water quality than harnessing the filtering power of forests. At a time when the contamination of drinking water supplies seems to be in the news daily, this project is a practical example of the old saw, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

Manchester Mayor Joyce Craig invited Forest Society staff to her offices for the easement closing, underlining the importance of this project to the city, and MWW forester John O'Brien was instrumental in bringing this project to a successful conclusion. The protected land surrounds the northern end of Tower Hill Pond in Candia and Hooksett, and it offers an array of recreation opportunities and protects multiple natural resources, including high-quality drinking water.



Top left: The New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee listens to comments from supporters and opponents of the Northern Pass project in 2018. **Bottom left:** (left to right) John O'Neil, forester for Manchester Water Works; William R. Trombly Jr., president, board of water commissioners; Joyce Craig, mayor, City of Manchester; Jane Difley, Forest Society president/forester; and Brian Hotz, Forest Society vice president for land conservation, meet in Manchester to celebrate the closing of the Tower Hill Pond easement in Candia and Hooksett. **Middle:** The waters of Tower Hill Pond. **Right:** Senior Director of Education Dave Anderson leads a guided hike of Madame Sherri Forest in Chesterfield.

Another big event last year won't be remembered as the happiest of times. In February, the devastating fire at The Rocks in Bethlehem destroyed two historic buildings that housed our program center, office spaces, and a workshop with storage for the property's Christmas tree farm.

This turn of events has catalyzed an expanded plan and vision for The Rocks. With your help, we aim to rebuild and refurbish some structures and expand our programming in the North Country. We envision The Rocks as the center of Forest Society activity north of the notches: a place where children, adults, and families can learn more about forestry, land conservation, natural history, sugaring, and Christmas trees, and a place where space is available for community events, staff offices, public bathroom facilities, and recreational information. Programming at The Rocks will be, more closely than ever, a part of the Forest Society's expanding outreach to engage members and nonmembers alike in outdoor activities, especially on our 185 reservations.

Talking about outreach, Forest Society education staff, in partnership with WMUR television, led our popular "Five Hikes in Five Weeks" series last year for people who want to experience and learn about nature with a knowledgeable guide. More than 300 participants, many of them new to hiking and the Forest Society, enjoyed 10 of our reservations while learning and exercising along the way. Education staff also engaged 10 schools in New

Hampshire's Lakes Region as part of our Mount Major Outdoor Classroom. Our staff visits with students from participating schools prior to their hike of Mount Major to prepare them for their outing and introduce them to what they'll see on the trail and summit. To the west of the lakes, education staff and Kearsarge Regional High School students taking part in the Mount Kearsarge Outdoor Classroom researched brook trout habitat restoration on a stream right behind their school.

Programming at Creek Farm in Portsmouth also expanded. For the second year, we hosted the River Rats children's camp, a summer program of the nonprofit Gundalow Company, and we ended the season with a barbecue for parents and campers. We partnered with The Center for Wildlife out of York, Maine, to provide educational programs about wildlife. We also hosted yoga and kayak adventures on Sagamore Creek. Looking to the future, we found a foundation to invest in Creek Farm's Carey Cottage, which plans to house nonprofits from the Seacoast area.

We again held the popular Cottrell Baldwin four-part lecture series in partnership with Fox State Research and Demonstration Forest in Hillsborough. More than 400 people attended one or more of the lectures on dragonflies and damselflies, the original forests of New Hampshire, loons, and an introduction to New Hampshire geology. At other locations, staff delivered educational programs at The Fells in Newbury and The Rocks and Bretzfelder



Park in Bethlehem. The Maple Program at The Rocks attracted more than 600 people to the property's sugarhouse to learn about tapping trees and making syrup.

On the stewardship front, Forest Society foresters led harvest tours on Heald Reservation in Wilton, on Mount Monadnock Reservation in Jaffrey, on Foster Conservancy in Henniker, and on Shea Forest in Webster. As part of the tour, foresters spoke to the specific reservation's management objectives, which usually include enhancing wildlife habitat as well as improving the timber quality of the remaining forest.

Land protection is always an important part of our work and this year was no exception. In addition to Manchester Water Works, we protected another 494 acres with conservation easements in Epping, Wakefield, Hopkinton, Hillsborough, and Peterborough. We also protected 571 acres in the state through ownership. Most of these additions are to existing reservations in Bethlehem, Sharon, Gilanton, Middleton, Gilford, Canterbury, Northfield, Deering, and Henniker.

Activity on our land also included 12 timber harvests on about 620 acres. We harvested more than 2 million board feet of timber and 25,000 tons of low-grade wood. These harvests allowed us to improve habitat as well as accomplish timber stand improvement.

Over the year, Forest Society staff and our 200 volunteer land stewards ran workshops and programs across the state, including trail maintenance, bridge building, clean-up days, and in-stream fish habitat installation. Volunteers also played a critical part in creating the chestnut seed orchard at the Tom Rush Forest in Deering, a citizen science project in partnership with the American Chestnut Foundation that works to develop disease resistant American chestnuts.

Meanwhile, our policy staff was busy in the legislature and with our Congressional delegation. Last year, we backed a bill that would increase the fees that support the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program and a bill that would provide support for the state's biomass plants. As we go to press with this issue, the fate of those bills seems more than uncertain since the Governor vetoed them. On another front, the Forest Society has been working with other stakeholders, including those from the Off-Highway Recreational Vehicle (OHRV) community, to find a balance between those who love to ride OHRVs and those who are concerned with how the increase in ridership is affecting the natural resources in our state. In fact we led the efforts on the passage of a bill that would create the first master trail plan for Coos County, the epicenter for OHRV use.



Top left: A timber harvest tour visits a log landing on the Forest Society's Monadnock Reservation. Bottom left: Volunteers take part in Monadnock Trails Week in August 2018. Middle: Dave Heuss sharpens a trail tool during a tool maintenance day at the Conservation Center in Concord. Right: Workers apply a fresh coat of paint to the Forest Society's Lost River Reservation sign in Woodstock.

The Forest Society accomplished much more last year that you'll find out about in the following pages, but beyond these incredible projects, it's your ongoing participation that I can't talk about enough. It's your support and enthusiasm for the Forest Society's work that fuels and inspires us and for that we are so very thankful!

As I retire I want to thank each of you for the myriad ways you have contributed to the successes of the Forest Society over the years. You have been generous, kind, interesting, and sometimes challenging (a good challenging, that is) at every turn. New Hampshire is still New Hampshire because of you. If I could leave you with a bit of advice, it would be to "go out and enjoy our forests!" You will feel renewed and inspired. It will improve the health of your mind and body. And at the end of the day, you will be grateful to be part of this organization that has protected the Granite State since 1901.



For the forest,

Jane A. Difley
President/Forester

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(OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) COLLEEN MANZI, EMILY LORD, CARRIE DEEGAN; (THIS PAGE) EMILY LORD

Success and Succession: Celebrating 23 Years of Leadership



As more than two decades of photos attest, it's rare to ever catch Jane without a smile. And if we could play audio in a copy of *Forest Notes*, we'd certainly include the familiar sound of Jane's laugh ricocheting across the fields at The Rocks or from table to table at an annual meeting or up and down the halls of the Conservation Center in Concord.

From Jane's point of view, of course, these are not merely photos of her, but rather photos of just some of the people who have been inspired to help conserve land and perpetuate forests in New Hampshire. "Trees are always the answer," Jane likes to say, "no matter what the question."

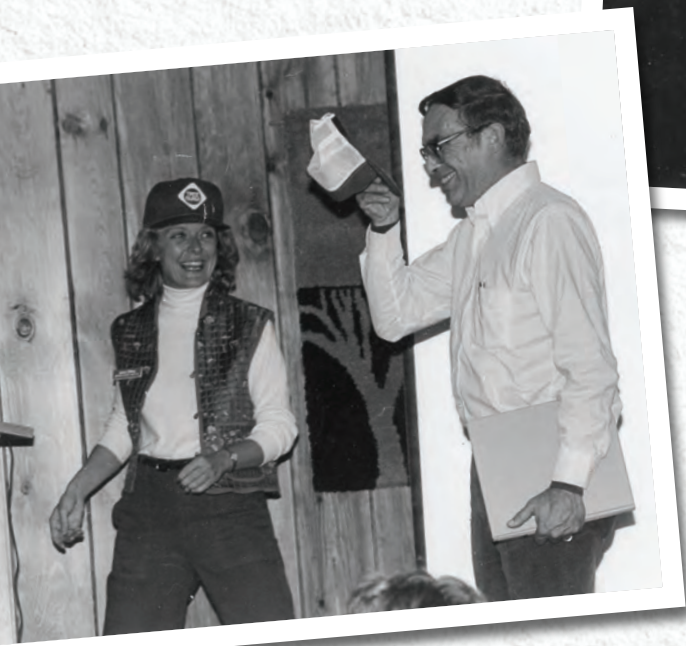


Left: From right, Jane, Trish Churchill, and Lucia Kittredge pose for a photo during a field trip in the mid-1970s around the time Jane interned for the Forest Society.



1996

Above: In August 1996, Jane is hired as the Forest Society's fourth president/forester—the first female in Forest Society history to hold the position.



Above: Jane and Paul Bofinger, Forest Society president/forester from 1965 to 1996, show their support for the New Hampshire Tree Farm Program.

Right: Jane addresses attendees of the Forest Society's annual meeting in 1996 as former Forest Society board chair Jamey French (left) and attorney Tom Masland look on.





Left: Jane at work at the Forest Society's Conservation Center.

1997

Right: Jane (middle) joins Patricia and Charlie Watts (left and right), who generously donated 1,000-plus acres in Effingham and Freedom to the Forest Society to create High Watch Preserve, the organization's 100th reservation.



1998

Above: From left, John and Jean Hoffman, who donated a conservation easement on their land in Sullivan to the Forest Society, meet with Jane and then land protection specialists Brian Hotz and Cappy Hahn.



Above: Jane and former board chair Bill Dunlap visit Monson Village in 1998 during the time the Forest Society was working together with other organizations to protect the property.

2000s

Left: Jane reflects on a century of successes during the Forest Society's annual meeting and 100th anniversary celebration in 2001 at the Mount Washington Hotel.

Below: From left, Jamey French, Jane, Farm Manager Russ Gates, Bob French, and foresters Jeff Smith and Jeremy Turner celebrate the signing of a conservation easement on the French family's Greentree Forest in Hopkinton.



Left: From left, former Forest Society board chair Bill Webb, Jane, and former United States Senator Kelly Ayotte tour The Rocks in Bethlehem.

Right: From left, United States Senator Jeanne Shaheen, Forest Society volunteer Ben Haubrich, and Jane hike along Hedgehog Ridge in Deering.





2010s

Left: Forest Society 2018 volunteer of the year Lee Baker poses with Jane at the Conservation Center in Concord.

Right: Jane talks about the Forest Society's involvement in creating the White Mountain National Forest at its 100th anniversary celebration at the Museum of the White Mountains in May 2018.



Left: Jane speaks at a Northern Pass hearing in Concord, N.H.



Right: From left, Martha Prybylo of the Lewis Family Foundation; Susanne Kibler-Hacker, Forest Society senior philanthropy advisor; Jane; and Allan Lewis, CEO and co-founder of Alnoba, celebrate Jane being honored with the Alnoba Moral Courage in Leadership Award in 2018.





Left: Dijit Taylor, executive director of the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP), and Jane celebrate the opening of the Forest Society's Powder Major's Forest in Madbury, Durham, and Lee.

Below: Jane presents Martha Chandler with the Forest Society Conservationist of the Year award in 2016.



Above: Amy Manzelli, an attorney at BCM Environmental & Land Law, worked tirelessly with Jane and other Forest Society staff to oppose the Northern Pass project.



THE JANE DIFLEY ERA

(August 1996–September 2019)

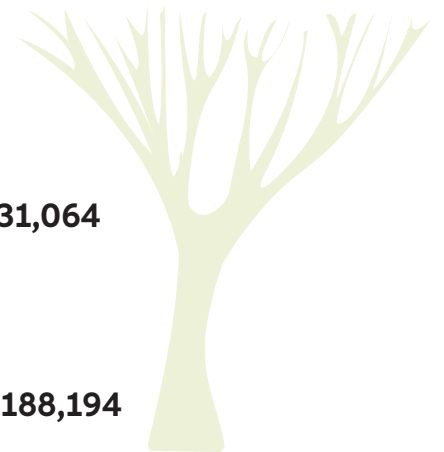
Forest Society Reservations Established: **85**

Acreage of New Land Protected by Forest Society Reservations: **31,064**

Forest Society Easements Acquired: **404**

Acreage of Forest Society Easements Acquired: **75,652**

New Hampshire Acres Protected Through Forest Society Assists: **188,194**



A Career for the Ages

Looking back on two-plus decades of protecting land in New Hampshire.

1996

The Forest Society acquires the 280-acre Quint Preserve in Richmond.

2000

The New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program is established after a multi-year advocacy effort by the Forest Society.

2005

- + The Forest Society partners with the U.S. Forest Service to adopt a 15-year forest plan to sustain the multiple uses of the White Mountain National Forest. The plan is one of only three national forest plans adopted without any legal challenge.
- + The Forest Society establishes the Dawson Memorial Forest after receiving a gift of 234 acres in Deering from Jon Dawson.
- + The Forest Society establishes the 2,189-acre Moose Mountains Reservation after a multi-year campaign in collaboration with the Moose Mountains Regional Greenways.

1996

2000

2005

1997

- + The Forest Society acquires its 100th reservation, High Watch Preserve in Effingham and Freedom.
- + The Forest Society publishes *Good Forestry in the Granite State* in collaboration with the New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development.

1998

The Forest Society acquires Monson Village in Milford and Hollis.

1999

- + The Forest Society becomes the first private landowner in New Hampshire to have its land green-certified by SmartWood.
- + The Forest Society acquires the Deering Preserve (now known as Beatrice Trum Hunter Preserve) and the Weeks Forest in Gilford.

2001

- + The Forest Society celebrates its 100th anniversary and its century of outstanding accomplishments in the conservation and reservation of New Hampshire's forests.
- + The Forest Society releases its New Hampshire Everlasting strategic vision.
- + The French Wing addition to the Conservation Center is completed, demonstrating state-of-the-art environmental building technology.
- + The Forest Society establishes the Center for Land Conservation Assistance to provide technical support on land conservation to local and regional land trusts and municipalities.

2002

- + The Forest Society establishes the 413-acre Reney Memorial Forest after a vigorous local campaign for its protection.
- + Bullfrog Films releases the documentary video *Livable Landscapes: By Chance or By Choice* developed by the Forest Society.

2003

- + The Forest Society, federal and state officials, and other partner conservation organizations celebrate the permanent protection of the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters in northern New Hampshire totaling 171,500 acres.
- + The Forest Society launches the Quabbin to Cardigan Initiative, a collaborative, landscape-scale effort to conserve the Monadnock Highlands of north-central Massachusetts and western New Hampshire.

2004

The Forest Society is gifted the Sleeping Astronomer Reservation in Bethlehem.

2006

- + The Forest Society and the New Hampshire State Parks agree to a new 15-year lease providing the state recreational access to more than 5,000 acres of Forest Society land in Jaffrey, Dublin, Marlborough, and Troy for Mount Monadnock State Park and Gap Mountain Forest Reservation. This lease continues a partnership that started in 1917.

2007

- + The Forest Society completes the Pillsbury-Sunapee Ridge Project, conserving 1,100 acres in less than 10 weeks' time with more than 400 contributors and the help of many friends and partners.
- + The Forest Society collaborates with local residents to establish the Hebron Town Forest on which the Forest Society holds a conservation easement.

2010

- + The Forest Society and the Appalachian Mountain Club collaborate with the New Hampshire Department of Transportation on an upgrade to the Franconia Notch Parkway (Interstate 93) that abides by the original agreement to preserve the two-lane parkway through the notch.
- + The Forest Society acquires the 1,056-acre Black Mountain Forest on the western slope of Mount Kearsarge in Warner.

2010

2019

The Forest Society applauds the decision of the New Hampshire Supreme Court in ruling that the state's Site Evaluation Committee had indeed followed appropriate legal protocol in denying the Northern Pass project a certificate of site and facility. Hydro-Quebec and Eversource abandon the project for good.

2015

- + The Forest Society works to assist partners in establishing the 3,000-plus-acre Cardigan Highlands Forest Legacy Project, protecting working forests and the water quality of Newfound Lake.
- + The Forest Society adds a 150-acre tract to the Moose Mountains Reservation in Middleton.

2015

2019

2008

The Forest Society acquires the 2,100-acre Washburn Family Forest protecting 5 miles of frontage on the Connecticut River in Clarksville.

2009

In collaboration with the City of Keene, the Forest Society conserves more than 1,000 acres surrounding Goose Pond.

2011

- + The Forest Society works to protect the 375-acre Wenny-Baker Forest in Hillsborough.
- + The Forest Society celebrates with partners the 100th anniversary of the Weeks Act, the federal legislation that created the establishment of all eastern national forests.

2012

The Forest Society launches its Trees Not Towers campaign to acquire conservation easements on 1,800 acres in Coos County to prevent the Northern Pass project from continuing south through New Hampshire.

2013

Thanks to a generous donor, the Forest Society establishes a new program to fund trail projects in the Quabbin to Cardigan region of western New Hampshire.

2014

Working together with the Lakes Region Conservation Trust and the Belknap Range Conservation Coalition, the Forest Society completes its Everybody Hikes Mount Major campaign, which protects key lands in New Hampshire's Lakes Region.

2017

The Forest Society works together with Seacoast residents to protect the 192-acre Powder Major's Forest in Durham, Lee, and Madbury.

2018

The Forest Society celebrates the 100th anniversary of the White Mountain National Forest with partners and other conservation organizations.

Fiscal Year 2019 (May 1, 2018–April 30, 2019)



Left: Forest Society staff and volunteers came together last summer for a workday at the Hutchins Ambeau Forest in Canterbury. Top right: Workers pause for a photo while building a bridge at Cockermonth Forest in Groton. Bottom right: Volunteers lend a hand at Monadnock Trails Week.

- Timber Harvest Tour, Foster Conservancy, Henniker
- Timber Harvest Tour, Standke, Deering (for staff only)
- Silvicultural Habitat Research Project, Heald Tract
- Gardner House Clean-Out Day
- Volunteer Tool Maintenance Workday
- Mount Kearsarge Outdoor Classroom Black Mountain Bridge Railing Project
- Black Mountain TU Instream Wood Training & Application
- Buxton Simons Forest Trail Workday
- Quarry Mountain Building Removal Workday
- Quarry Mountain Bridge Building Workday
- Andrew Brook Trail Workday
- Langenau Trail Workday
- Sagamore Creek Cleanup with Conservation Law Foundation
- Cockermonth Bridge Workday
- Hutchins Ambeau Workday
- Monadnock Trails Week
- LONZA Workday at Creek Farm
- Megafood Workday at Bockes Forest
- Gap Mountain Workday
- Morse Preserve Habitat Management Field Trip with UNH (Education And Stewardship)
- Ashuelot River Headwaters Forest Workday
- Yatsevitch Forest Workday
- Morse Preserve Habitat Bronto Work
- Gardner Forest: Rare plant management
- Management Plans: Wilkins-Campbell, Victor's Woods, Hunter Preserve
- Quarry Mountain, Alton, trail bridge
- Bockes-Ingersoll, Londonderry: Trail Workday
- Conservation Center: Fall cleanup workday
- Harmon Preserve, Freedom: Post-burn regen surveys
- Welch Family Farm and Forest: Field reclamation bronto work
- Madame Sherri Forest, Chesterfield: Vermont Youth Conservation Crew trail reroute
- Harvests: Gemmill, Hebron; High Watch, Effingham; Gap Mountain, Troy; Chippewa, Haverhill; Heald Tract, Wilton/Temple; Standke, Deering; Shea, Webster; Monadnock, Jaffrey; Foster Conservancy, Henniker; Kauffmann, Stark

Fiscal Year 2019 (May 1, 2018–April 30, 2019)



Top left: Summer session students and teachers from Broken Ground School in Concord cool off in the Merrimack River during a trip to the Forest Society’s Conservation Center. **Bottom left:** Cheshire County forester Steve Roberge leads a timber harvest tour at Monadnock Reservation. **Right:** Senior Director of Education Dave Anderson guides a “5 Hikes in 5 Weeks” outing in fall 2018.

- Mount Major Outdoor Classroom
- Kearsarge Outdoor Classroom
- The Rocks “Ag in the Classroom”
- NH Maple Museum and spring maple education programs
- NH “Ag In The Classroom” education field day at UNH Dairy, Durham
- Hay Reservation programming
- Bretzfelder Park Family Educational Series, Bethlehem
- Cottrell Baldwin Lecture Series at Fox Forest
- New Hampshire Farm & Forest Expo
- Lake hosting at Grafton Pond
- Floodplain rangers on Merrimack River Outdoor Education & Conservation Area
- Trail stewards at Mount Major
- Discover Wild New Hampshire Day at New Hampshire Fish & Game
- Earth Day event at Mount Major
- Five Hikes in Five Weeks
- Trivia Night in Concord and Portsmouth
- Merrimack County Conservation District Agriculture field day, Beech Hill Farm
- Manchester Drinking Water Festival
- Boscawen Elementary School nature trail
- Oyster River High School at Powder Major Forest
- Forest field day for Moharimet Elementary at UNH, Durham
- Chainsaw Safety Workshop
- Smartphone Navigation Workshop
- Land Steward Program 25th Anniversary Celebration
- Moose Festival booth
- Forest Society Annual Meeting
- Coverts Program: sustainable forestry, McCabe Forest hike
- Blue Trees event at Currier Museum
- NHLTC Fall Workshop: Agricultural Conservation Easements presentation
- Wantastiquet-Monadnock Trail hikes over Gap Mountain
- Colby Sawyer College class on exploring nature
- Natural Resource Stewards Program training at Creek Farm/Urban Forestry Center
- Tree ID workshop in Dunbarton
- First Day Hike at Creek Farm
- Timber Harvesting Tour: Monadnock Reservation Stowell Tract, Jaffrey
- Timber Harvesting Tour: Heald Reservation, Wilton
- Kearsarge Regional High School Career Day
- Volunteer fair at Hypertherm, Inc
- Internship fair at Antioch University of New England

(OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT) ANDY CROWLEY, EMILY LORD (X2); (THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) EMILY LORD (X2), COLLEEN MANZI

LAND CONSERVATION SUMMARY

Fiscal Year 2019 (May 1, 2018–April 30, 2019)

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
Southeast Land Trust of NH	89	Epping	Primack
<i>Nancy Spencer Smith</i>	226	Wakefield	Nancy Spencer Smith
<i>Donald and Susan Ware</i>	77	Hopkinton	Addition to D. & S. Ware
<i>Cynthia and James Thorburn</i>	17	Hillsborough	Addition to Thorburn
<i>Michael Morison</i>	85	Peterborough	Morison
<i>City of Manchester/Manchester Water Works</i>	1,942	Candia, Hooksett	Tower Hill Pond
Total: 6 projects	2,436 acres		

RESERVATIONS

Grantor	Acres	Location	Property Name
<i>George and Nan Mathey</i>	22	Bethlehem	Addition to Sleeping Astronomer
D.J. Fostberg, LLC	28	Sharon	Addition to Sharon Bog
<i>Jeffrey A. Hawkins</i>	19	Glimanton	Hawkins Family Forest
Town of Middleton	1	Middleton	Addition to Moose Mountains
Fortin & Redmond Associates	232	Canterbury, Northfield	Stillhouse Forest
Valerie Sorrels Living Trust	268	Deering, Henniker	Addition to Dudley Pond Forest (Spakoski Tract)
<i>SBA Steel LLC</i>	1	Gilford	Addition to Winsheblo Forest
Total: 7 projects	571 acres		

LAND SOLD SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION EASEMENT

<i>Richard A. Ware (devise)</i>	6	Bartlett	Sold to a private landowner
	6 acres		

Grand Total: 14 Projects, New Acres Protected: 3,013 acres

The Forest Society thanks the following businesses for their generous support.

Summit Circle (\$5,000 and up)

BCM Environmental & Land Law, PLLC
Event Builders, LLC
Meredith Village Savings Bank
Merrimack County Savings Bank
Nathan Wechsler & Company
SBA Steel, LLC
Whalen Public & Media Relations, LLC

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Harvest Capital Management, Inc.
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Urban Tree Service/A Tree Health Company, Inc.
Winnipesaukee Aquatherm Service, LLC

Colleague (\$250 to \$499)

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Birch Hill Summer Camp, Inc.
Cersosimo Lumber Co., Inc.
Frost Pond Carpentry
Fuller's Sugarhouse, LLC
Granite Investment Advisors, Inc.
Granite State Natural Foods, Inc.
Great Brook Veterinary Clinic, LLC
Kel-Log, Inc.
Klüber Lubrication NA LP
Kozikowski Properties, LLC
Limington Lumber Company
Meadowsend Timberlands Limited
Mulligan Land & Timber
New England Biolabs, Inc.
Polly's Pancake Parlor, Inc.
Sunset Park Campground
The FloorWorks, Inc.
Whole Wealth Management, LLC

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Aetna Foundation
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Autodesk Foundation Employee
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And many thanks to those businesses who give less than \$250.

For information on business memberships, please contact Susanne Kibler-Hacker at 603-224-9945 or via email at skh@forestsociety.org.

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and Business Meet**

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NEW HAMPSHIRE
FORESTS



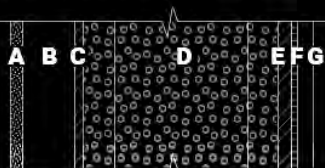
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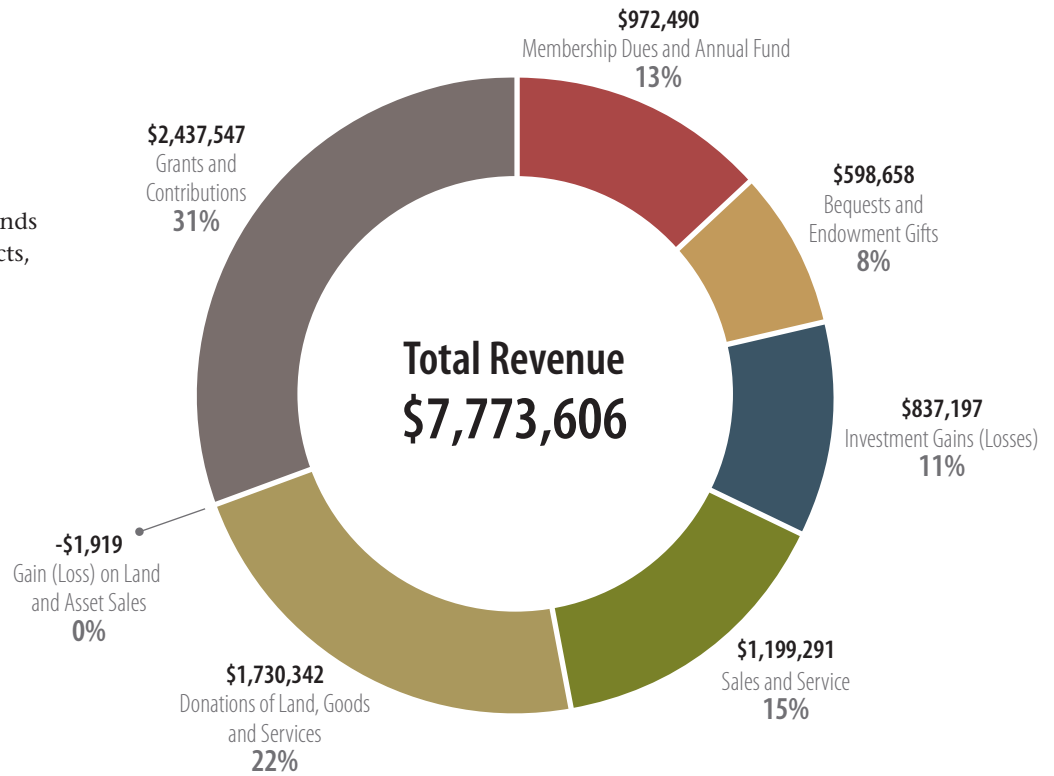
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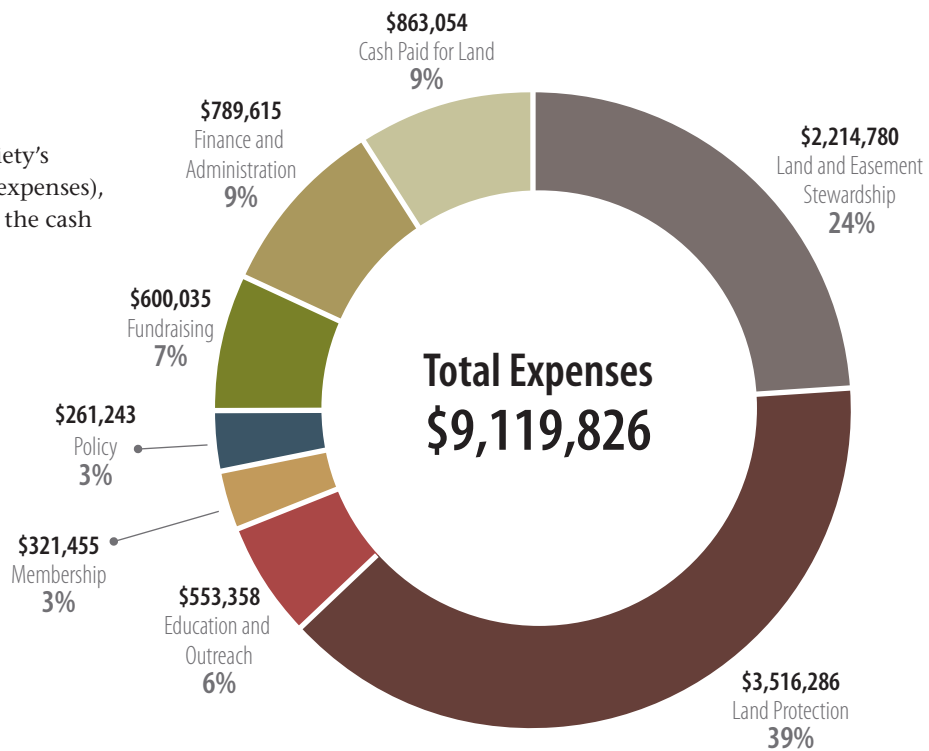
Fiscal Year 2019 Revenue

Grants and contributions include funds for operations and for specific projects, including land protection projects.



Fiscal Year 2019 Expenses

This chart includes the Forest Society's expenses by program (functional expenses), which total \$8,256,772, as well as the cash paid for land.



Questions on the financial statements should be directed to Denise Vaillancourt, Vice President, Finance (dvaillancourt@forestsociety.org) or Anne Truslow, Vice President, Development (atruslow@forestsociety.org).

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

For the year ending April 30, 2019

Revenue and Support	Without donor restrictions	With donor restrictions	Total
Annual fund	503,291	–	503,291
Contributions	159,759	926,261	1,086,020
Bequests	490,966	–	490,966
Endowment gifts	–	107,692	107,692
Grants	90,325	1,261,202	1,351,527
Contributions of land	–	487,118	487,118
Investment income	154,945	283,836	438,781
Realized and unrealized gains on investments	120,793	277,623	398,416
Loss on sale of land	(1,919)	–	(1,919)
Membership dues	469,199	–	469,199
Rental income	309,556	–	309,556
Forest operations	413,509	–	413,509
Reimbursement for services	89,707	–	89,707
Sale of materials	383,858	–	383,858
Donated conservation easements, goods and services	1,243,224	–	1,243,224
Gain on insurance proceeds for property from fire	1,757	–	1,757
Miscellaneous Income	904	–	904
Total Revenue and Support	4,429,874	3,343,732	7,773,606
Net assets released from restrictions for satisfaction of purpose	3,046,432	(3,046,432)	–
Total Revenue, Support, and Net Assets released from restriction	7,476,306	297,300	7,773,606
Program Expenses			
Land and easement stewardship	2,214,780	–	2,214,780
Land protection	3,516,286	–	3,516,286
Education and outreach	553,358	–	553,358
Membership	321,455	–	321,455
Policy	261,243	–	261,243
	6,867,122	–	6,867,122
Supporting Services and General Expenses			
Fundraising	600,035	–	600,035
Finance and administration	789,615	–	789,615
	1,389,650	–	1,389,650
Total Expenses	8,256,772	–	
Increase (decrease) in net assets	(780,466)	297,300	(483,166)
Net Assets, beginning of year	8,256,141	77,737,658	85,993,799
Net Assets, end of year	7,475,675	78,034,958	85,510,633

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets

	FY 2019	FY 2018
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,826,444	2,597,447
Receivables		
Current portion of contributions receivable	339,566	1,726,923
Other receivables, including bequests	85,904	96,830
Inventories	110,948	195,067
Prepaid expenses	68,082	34,336
Total Current Assets	3,430,944	4,650,603
Property and equipment, net	2,391,920	2,667,565
Investments and other assets		
Investments	16,365,951	16,285,221
Contributions receivable, long term, net	13,309	24,056
Inventories, long term	178,743	276,446
	16,558,003	16,585,723
Land	64,126,507	62,876,335
Total Assets	86,507,374	86,780,226

Liabilities and Net Assets

	FY 2019	FY 2018
Current Liabilities		
Line of credit	246,500	–
Current portion of notes payable	71,250	71,250
Current portion of annuities payable	41,414	31,914
Accounts payable	70,522	69,641
Accrued liabilities	107,312	93,073
Total Current Liabilities	536,998	265,878
Long-Term Liabilities		
Note payable – less current portion	292,500	363,750
Annuities payable – less current portion, net	167,243	156,799
Total Long-Term Liabilities	459,743	520,549
Total Liabilities	996,741	786,427
Net Assets		
Without donor restrictions	3,004,219	3,409,067
Without donor restrictions invested in land, property and equipment	4,471,456	4,847,074
Total net assets without donor restrictions	7,475,675	8,256,141
With donor restrictions	15,987,987	17,043,859
With donor restrictions invested in land	62,046,971	60,693,799
Total net assets with donor restrictions	78,034,958	77,737,658
Total Net Assets	85,510,633	85,993,799
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	86,507,374	86,780,226

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

Questions on the financial statements should be directed to Denise Vaillancourt, Vice President, Finance (dvaillancourt@forestsociety.org) or Anne Truslow, Vice President, Development (atruslow@forestsociety.org).

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Dear Jane -
What an honor to have
worked with you - to have witnessed
your dedication, clarity, passion &
gift of bringing people together.
Your legacy will continue as the
SPNHF continues its mission to honor
and preserve the amazing forests
of New Hampshire.
Thank you -
and ... have fun!!
Warmly,
Deb + Dave
Buxton

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What amazing things you accomplished during your tenure! To go out with a Supreme Court win is the proverbial icing on the cake. My years with the Forest Society were abundant with learning, passion, and recommitment to place. It wouldn't have happened without you spotting an invisible star—for that I thank you! Your next chapter will be awesome.

— Deanna and Emma

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Congratulations & Best Wishes!

Dear Jane (retiring President/Forester/Intern),

It was the summer of 1975. Youthful exuberance!
 We started on Gap Mountain and in Sandwich Notch and learned about partnerships and collaborative conservation at the knee of Paul O. Bofinger.

44 years have passed and you have done so much great work.
 You leave the Society well positioned for a dynamic future.

Thanks from New Hampshire and your retired Chairman/Intern,
 Jamey French



Zib Correll holding Bethany Taylor, Dijit Taylor, Jamey French (w/Jennie), Jeff Taylor and Hannah Taylor, Lucia Kittredge, Jane Difley, Roger Hawk and Cleve Kapala stop for a photo at Pine Mountain Trail circa 1987.

JANE

YOU ARE A GREAT
NEW HAMPSHIRE LEADER
AND INSPIRATION TO ALL OF
US WHO VALUE THE FORESTS
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE!
WE WILL MISS YOUR DAY
TO DAY LEADERSHIP
VERY MUCH!!
Andy

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Your impact on perpetuating the forests of New Hampshire through their wise use and their complete reservation in places of special scenic beauty will be felt for many generations to come. As I instill the importance of land conservation and stewardship to my own children, I can't help but feel appreciation for those at the Forest Society who worked tirelessly for more than a century to help shape the New Hampshire that we all hold dear. Thank you for your steady leadership all these years and best wishes in your next chapter.

— Drew Kellner

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I have so many memories of our various meetings, the great leadership you showed and, especially, your great sense of humor. Somehow you turned meetings into very enjoyable occasions—really fun. It may be hard for others who did not experience your style of leadership to think that a meeting could be fun, but you made them so and we all enjoyed working with you to move the Forest Society ever forward. Thank you for your many, many years of superb leadership. We will all miss you. Have a great retirement.
 — Jack Middleton

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I wish Jane well in her retirement, hoping that she enjoys robust health, the company of her many friends and enough time to enjoy the occasional walk in the woods!

Stephen Faulkner

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You have courage and gumption! You have been a leader and a role model for us all. Thank you for your many years of service to our beautiful state. Thank you for inspiring my dear friend Edna, who in turn took me under her wing and encouraged me to get involved in conservation so many years ago. Please let us know when your travels bring you close to Sugar Hill, for a walk, a meal, a bed, or just a visit. All the best!

— Margo Connors

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There are many wonderful things about Jane. The one I want to highlight is her clear-eyed, indefatigable confidence in a fight.

My connection to the Forest Society came about because of Northern Pass, which was a long tough slog of a fight. My dedication never flagged, but my confidence did from time to time.

One special moment was when I confessed this to Jane. She put her hand on my shoulder, made sure we were looking each other in the eye, and said firmly, "Nancy, we are going to win this." I held onto that image and revisited it many times as the fight wore on.

And of course, Jane was absolutely right!

Nancy Merland

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From the moment I met you as a fellow Forest Society intern in the summer of 1975, I admired your high energy, competence, and the sense of fun you bring to every situation. Congratulations on all you have done to advance conservation in New Hampshire. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement!

— Lucia Kittredge

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Laura Alexander and Jon Sykes
 Andrew Alger
 John Alger

Thanks to your foresight, mentoring, network building, partner development, clear insight and guidance you have moved the Forest Service organization into the twenty-first century on a solid footing. I have greatly appreciated working with the board and Forest Society staff under your leadership. I will miss you and your sense of humor, energy, and positive viewpoint. You've made such a positive difference for those around you and for all New Hampshire. Thank You! Now on to all the great new experiences waiting for you as you embark on your next life adventures. Be well and enjoy your well-earned retirement as the fruit of your successful career.

— Janet Zeller

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Hats off to Dif! Over two decades in the SPNHF driver's seat, with thousands of protected acres and many milestone policy victories accomplished along the road. Another long-time president/forester for the record books (four leaders in 118 years!) who has added so much to SPNHF's stunning record of conservation achievements. Jane's commitment to forestry and land conservation is a light that shines so brightly that others are inspired to work to keep New Hampshire, well, New Hampshire. Beyond that dedication, though, are Jane's empathy, humor, kindness, intellect, playfulness, and gravitas. May SPNHF's fifth president/forester be a worthy successor to Philip, Larry, Paul, and Jane. SPNHF steady on!

— Ellen Pope

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From that day many years ago when you and I talked about the risk to what makes New Hampshire so special as forests and pristine spaces are compromised and you said to me “you should be on the board” to the positively thrilling news from the NH Supreme Court about their decision on Northern Pass, you have been an inspiration to many and specifically to me. As I stepped into the role of board chair nine years ago and you reassured me that this was not a lot of “heavy lifting,” I was anything BUT reassured when the Northern Pass challenge surfaced a month after I chaired my first board meeting. But you and your talented team led the way on thinking, strategy, and patience as the Forest Society took deliberate steps to protect our treasured landscapes and sense of place. The words “thank you” seem inadequate, but know that they come from me, and so many others including future generations, with heartfelt gratitude and admiration. You have made your mark in this state and on many of those who have served with you. With warmest regards and many wishes for happiness in the next “stage” of your journey.

— Carolyn Benthien

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The New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association congratulates Jane Difley on her retirement from an outstanding career at the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.

It's been a pleasure to work with you, Jane.

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Jane Difley's tenure as president of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests has been at a time of unprecedented achievements and unprecedented challenges to conservation both nationally and in our state. The soaring vision of New Hampshire Everlasting has attracted numerous new supporters to the Forest Society's ranks. Tens of thousands of acres of conservation land have been committed to protection through easements or public ownership as a result of the Forest Society's effort under Jane's leadership. Jane is a professional forester with an aptitude for organizational leadership. Before she came to the Forest Society, she had been national director of the American Tree Farm System and had been elected president of the Society of American Foresters. Jane understands ecology and knows the connection between healthy forests and healthy water supplies. She has led the Society into commitments to protect valuable water resources through protection of forested watershed lands.

Jane will always be known as the person who fearlessly and strategically led the Society and its many colleagues in a nine-year battle to vanquish Northern Pass, the ugly overhead power line proposed to drape for almost two hundred miles across New Hampshire's scenic landscapes.

Jane's greatest gift is her capacity for friendship. All of us feel a welcoming bond with this conservation leader who cares about our lives and our favorite forests—not to mention our dogs. She has knit the Forest Society staff, members, and colleagues into a committed band, and I'm encouraged by how easy Jane makes it seem to accomplish worthwhile things. And then there is her infectious laugh, echoing in our hearts. . .

— Sharon Francis

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Thank you for your years of leadership, friendship, and wise guidance not just with SPNHF, but the entire conservation landscape in New Hampshire. And congratulations on Northern Pass—it was a bold move, a huge lift, and a tremendous win for all of the people of the state. Janet and I wish you the very best in the future!

— Peter Bergh

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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.





The Forest Society's vision for the Carriage Barn at The Rocks includes adding a welcome center, two classrooms, staff offices, and public restrooms.

Renewal at The Rocks

On February 13, 2019, a fire at The Rocks, the Forest Society's North Country Education and Conservation Center in Bethlehem, destroyed two historic buildings that were used for office space, programming, an apartment, a gift shop, and storage. This devastating loss presents the Forest Society with an opportunity to rethink the vision of this iconic North Country destination. It's an exciting opportunity to craft a new and different future for The Rocks, one that offers world-class educational programming, recreation, and community events. After working together with staff, the Forest Society board, and outside consultants, The Rocks' planning committee has

identified three specific ways to turn this vision into a reality.

The first way is to renovate The Rocks' historic Carriage Barn, currently being used for storage, into a facility that features a welcoming lobby, two classrooms, staff offices, and public restrooms. The barn will offer ample space for staff to deliver adult and youth educational programming on forestry, conservation, natural history, maple sugaring, and the property's Christmas tree farm. It will also include a space where visitors can learn about The Rocks' history and find out more about recreational activities offered in the region. The renovation will be designed to attain LEED (Leadership in Energy and

Environmental Design) certification and to turn the century-old structure into one that generates the energy it consumes.

The second way is to create a new building for The Rocks' Christmas tree farm operation, which currently manages 39,000 trees. For more than 35 years, families from all over New England have come to The Rocks to buy Christmas trees and other decorations as part of their annual holiday tradition. To continue offering high-quality trees and holiday experiences, this new barn will provide space for tractors and other equipment, a workshop to service this equipment, and facilities to accommodate the needs of farm staff.

Top: The Rocks' Christmas tree farm operation hand prunes more than 39,000 trees.

Bottom: The New Hampshire Maple Experience at The Rocks attracts hundreds of visitors to the property every spring to learn more about the sugaring process.

The third way is to rethink how we use the The Rocks' breathtaking landscape for the benefit of our visitors. The complete loss of the Tool Building and the Electric Plant opened a view of the White Mountain National Forest's Presidential Range and surrounding ridge lines that had not been visible from the developed core of the property for more than a century. By keeping this space open and available for multiples uses, our goal is to share the landscape and its extraordinary views with all visitors to The Rocks for generations to come.

This summer, we hired an architect to help design the buildings and a landscape designer to help us transform the new green space. They are working with an Ad Hoc Committee of the Board of Trustees and Forest Society staff to create a destination that will attract visitors from around New England and beyond.

To make this renewal of The Rocks possible, please consider a gift to The Rocks 2020 Campaign today. ♻️



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for your help!**

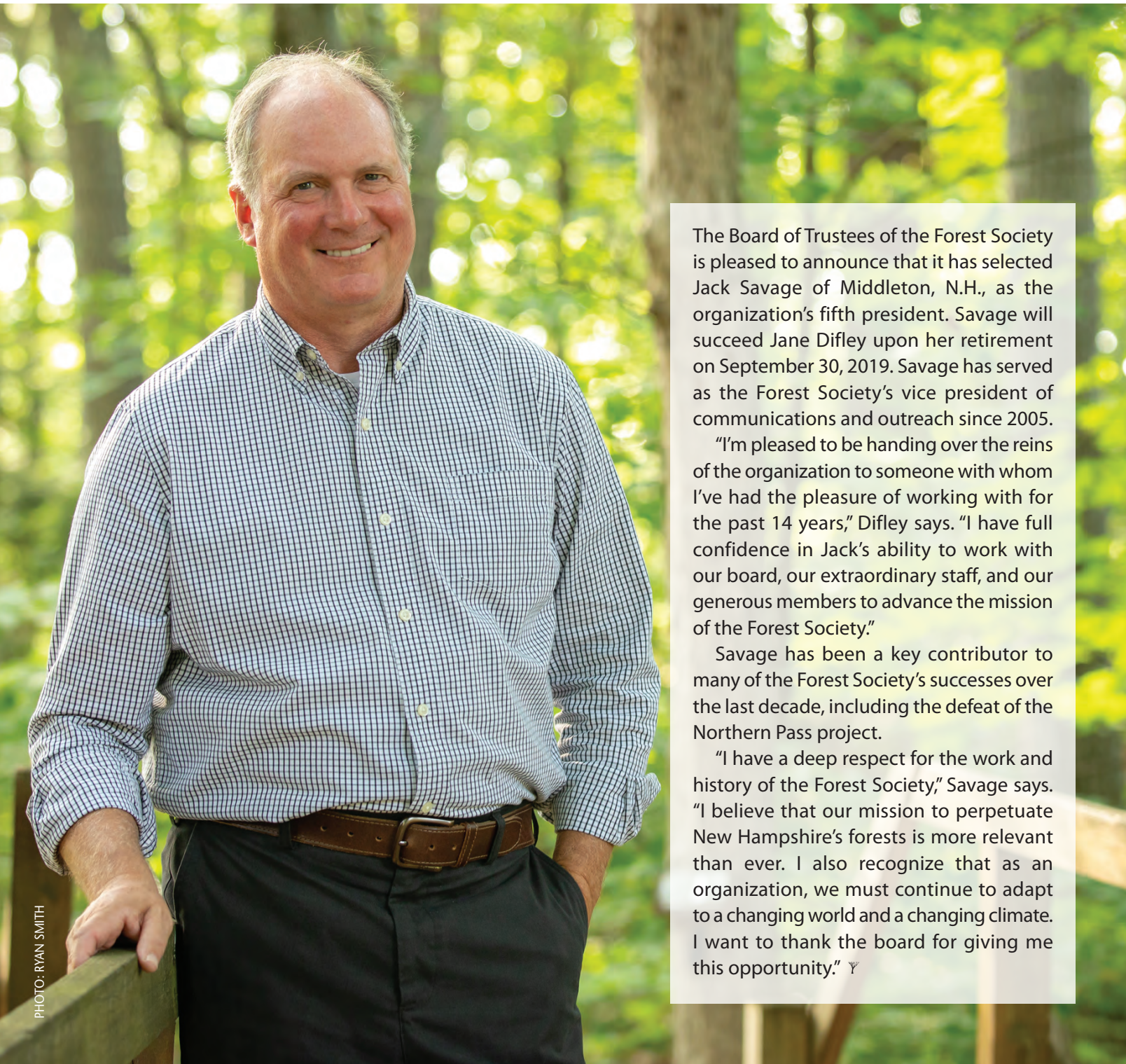


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The Board of Trustees of the Forest Society is pleased to announce that it has selected Jack Savage of Middleton, N.H., as the organization's fifth president. Savage will succeed Jane Difley upon her retirement on September 30, 2019. Savage has served as the Forest Society's vice president of communications and outreach since 2005.

"I'm pleased to be handing over the reins of the organization to someone with whom I've had the pleasure of working with for the past 14 years," Difley says. "I have full confidence in Jack's ability to work with our board, our extraordinary staff, and our generous members to advance the mission of the Forest Society."

Savage has been a key contributor to many of the Forest Society's successes over the last decade, including the defeat of the Northern Pass project.

"I have a deep respect for the work and history of the Forest Society," Savage says. "I believe that our mission to perpetuate New Hampshire's forests is more relevant than ever. I also recognize that as an organization, we must continue to adapt to a changing world and a changing climate. I want to thank the board for giving me this opportunity." ♪