

SUMMER HIKE: BLUEBERRIES AND VIEWS

Forest Notes

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S CONSERVATION MAGAZINE

our
114th
annual meeting
details on p.18

*The Art
of Forestry*

SUMMER 2015

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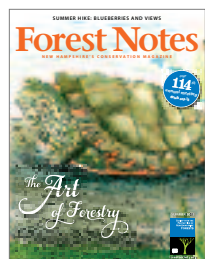
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A National Conversation

At the latest meeting of the Land Trust Alliance's National Leadership Council we visited two properties owned by our host, the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County. One was a second growth redwood forest, cut over 100 years ago to re-build San Francisco after the great earthquake and fire. Redwoods sprout from the roots in a crown around the original stump, but unlike similar (coppice) regrowth here in the Northeast, these trees are very tall (taller than the towers proposed by Northern Pass) and of great girth. There is something spiritual about walking among them.

When among my land trust colleagues, I am often asked to share our experience with the successful combination of conservation and sustainable forest management. The Santa Cruz Land Trust has devoted considerable effort to engage their constituents before harvesting in a county where forestry is not universally accepted.

On another Santa Cruz Land Trust property, leased to the Driscoll's berry company, we saw acres of strawberries and learned of the challenges faced by farmers in the California drought. The Land Trust is working with other farmers to find ways to make their water use more efficient and to stave off the encroaching salt water that

is gradually seeping further inland. Fortunately, these are not stewardship issues that the Forest Society shares with our western counterparts.

We have our own stewardship challenges in the East but, like our western counterparts, we recognize that our ability to steward our conserved lands depends on our ability to engage the communities in which we work. Just as each Forest Reservation is different, each community has different expectations.

Gathering to share our experience is as valuable as it is interesting. Nationally, we are all working to engage stakeholders, often making our lands more meaningful to the communities around them as a way to ensure support for stewardship excellence and our overall conservation mission.



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*.

Executive Editor: Jack Savage

Editor: Brenda Charpentier

Design & Production: The Secret Agency

Printing: TDS Printing

Forest Notes is published four times a year and printed on elemental chlorine-free Sappi Flo paper with 10 percent post-consumer recycled content. Sappi Flo is made from pulp purchased from suppliers who document sound environmental practices and sustainable forest management.

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Field Trip Hikers Get to Know Proposed Addition to Moose Mountains Reservation

On a beautiful day in late May, members and friends enjoyed exploring the 150-acre property the Forest Society is working to acquire and add to the Moose Mountains Forest Reservation in Middleton. The group hiked the woods road on the property, stopping to learn about vernal pools, the upland wildlife that live here, forest ecology and the significance of conserving large, unfragmented blocks of land.

The Forest Society is working with the Moose Mountains Regional Greenways to raise funds to buy the property. Grants from the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) and the Adelard A. and Valeda Lea Roy Foundation got the project rolling, and now we are working to raise the additional \$174,000 needed to secure the property. You can find out more about this project at www.forestsociety.org.



Photo by Kate Wilcox.

Hikers enjoy a view from the Forest Society's Moose Mountains Forest Reservation.


Volunteers Caring for the Land



Left: Jake Bronnenberg talks about safe felling at a Chainsaw Safety & Maintenance Workshop.

Middle: Land Steward Len Martin paints trail blazes at Bockes Memorial Forest in Londonderry.


Right: A volunteer from Hypertherm, Inc removes dumped tires from the woods at Grafton Pond. ♪



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The Art of Forestry

Forester Inge Seaboyer's Artistry
Can be Seen in the Woods and on Paper

By Nancy Bean Foster

On a quiet Sunday morning, Ingeborg Seaboyer sits at a small table, head down, glasses perched on her nose, as she sketches the images of her workday life. On the walls around her temporary workspace at one of the many art shows where she exhibits, are scenes familiar to those who live in New Hampshire. A flow of watercolors releases the ethereal glow of a stand of beech trees intersected by a stoic stone wall. Lines of black ink carve the cedar shingles of an old grange hall or a deer standing startled in a deer yard blanketed with snow.

But there are details of life in New Hampshire that people often miss as they scuttle about their busy lives. The delicate petals of trillium, a cluster of wood sorrel, the claw marks of a bear scratched into the bark of a beech tree. Seaboyer captures these details in her artwork because they are part of the scramble of her everyday life.

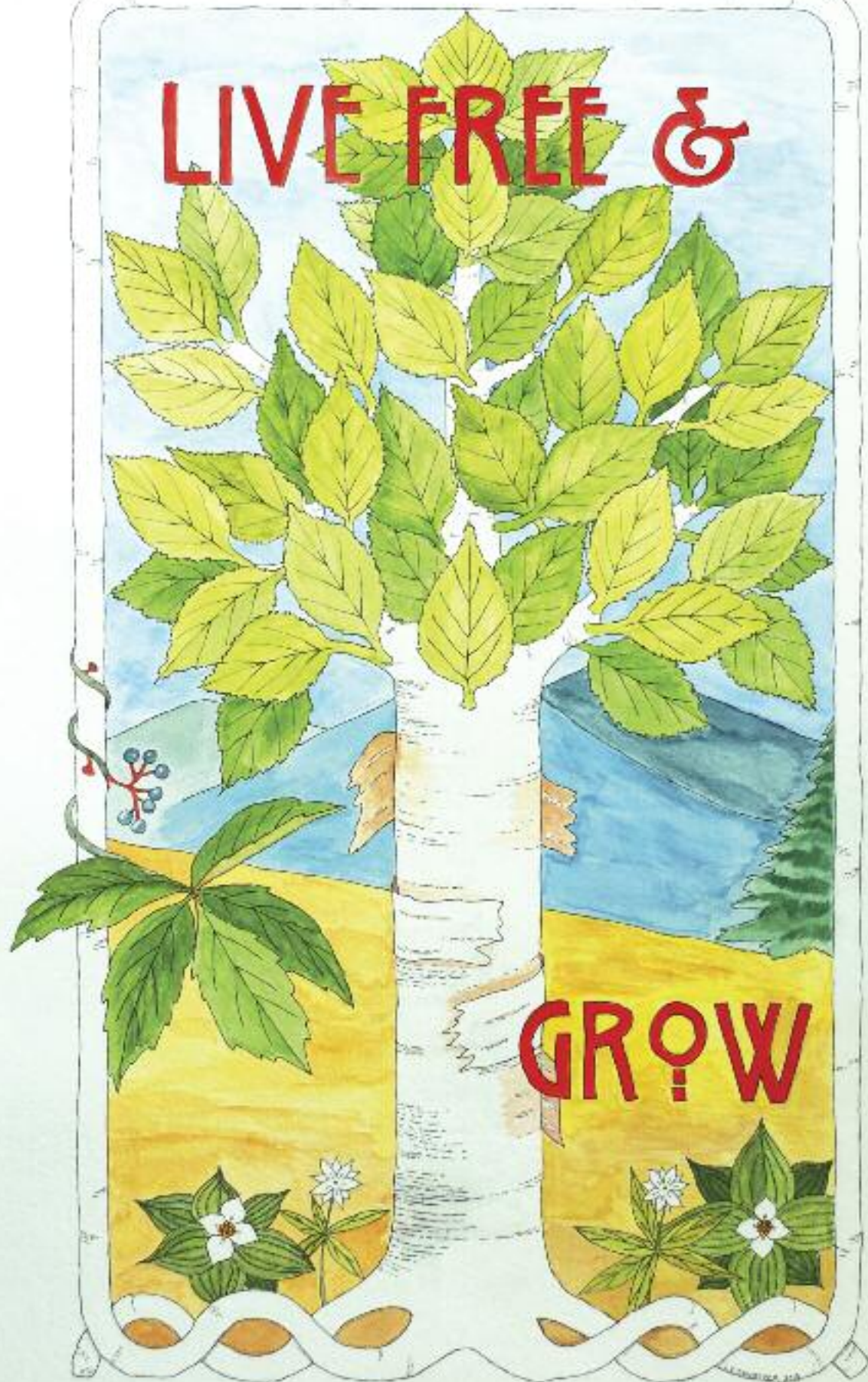
As a forester she has spent the better part of the last 30 years alone among the flora and fauna that make their homes in labyrinths of hemlock and pine, oak and maple, beech and birch. In the woods there is no table, no clean sheets of paper, no brushes stained with watercolor, but Seaboyer is still creating works of art. The landscape is her canvas, and on it she illustrates the habitats that will emerge after years of thoughtful forestry planning.

Above: Artist-Forester Inge Seaboyer at work. Photo by Nancy Bean Foster.

Opposite page: "Live Free & Grow" (watercolor with pen and ink), finalist in a 2013 Currier Museum poster competition, Inge Seaboyer.

LIVE FREE &

GROW





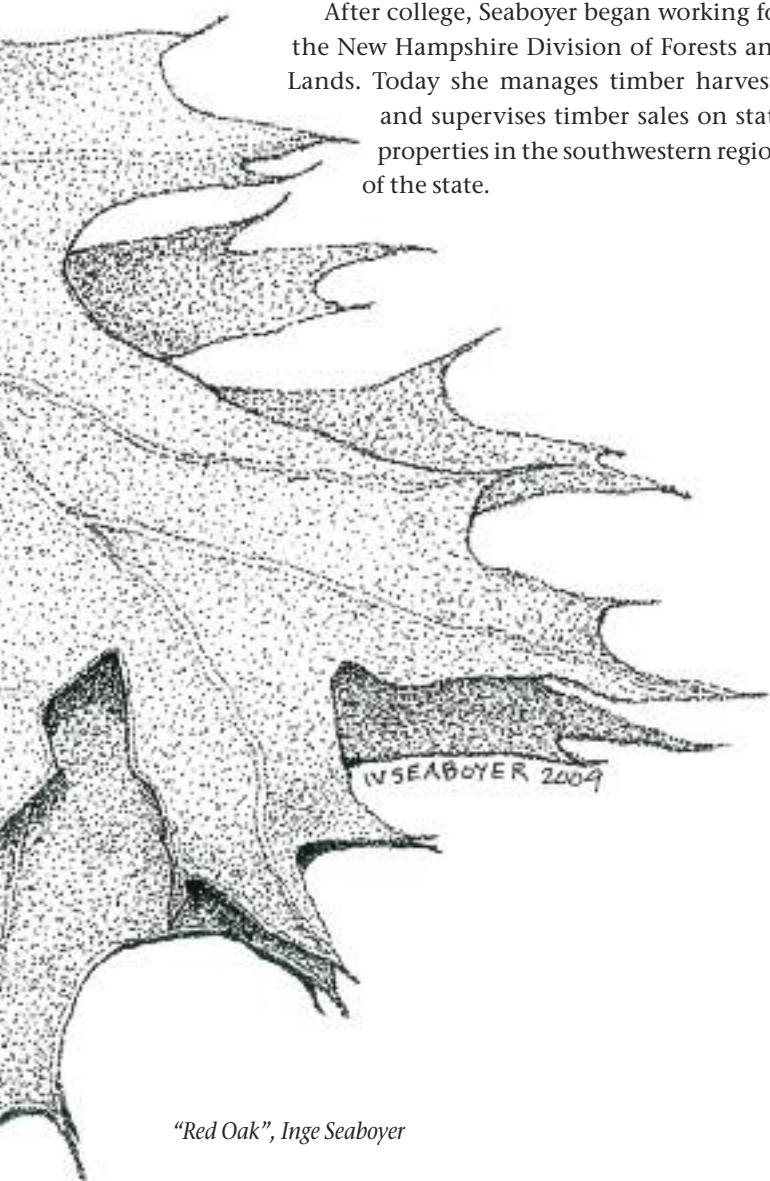
Seaboyer, 54, grew up in a New Hampshire many current residents never had the pleasure of experiencing. Her home town of Derry, where she was born and raised, was not the sprawling bedroom community it has become in recent decades. It was woodlands and farms and fields, an ideal backdrop for a girl who loved to be outdoors.

"I grew up in the woods," she said, "hunting and fishing and just scrambling around. Derry was that rural in the 60s."

Seaboyer attended Pinkerton Academy where she followed her brother into the forestry program, then headed to the University of New Hampshire to continue her forestry education.

"It didn't feel like I was learning something new," she said. "It felt like I was being reminded of something I already knew."

After college, Seaboyer began working for the New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands. Today she manages timber harvests and supervises timber sales on state properties in the southwestern region of the state.



"Red Oak", Inge Seaboyer



Photo by Nancy Bean Foster.

When she's not behind a desk working on bids and contracts for timber sales, Seaboyer is in the woods, often by herself, creating a plan for harvesting timber. She lays out the roads and skid trails that will be used by the loggers and locates the staging areas where the equipment and wood rest temporarily.

"Inge's a real expert in timber sale layout," said Karen Bennett, professor and forestry specialist at the UNH Cooperative Extension. "Even the loggers say that."

Using her artistic eye, Seaboyer takes an inventory of the forest that's going to be logged, looking for species of flora and fauna that need specific habitats to survive. She then marks the trees so the loggers know what to take, and what to leave behind, in order to promote the young forest Seaboyer foresees.

"Forestry is an art," she said. "It's a creative process. I can look at a forest and imagine what it will be like once a timber harvest is done."

Though there was a time when New Hampshire's open fields and pastures comprised much of New Hampshire's countryside, today nearly 92 percent of the Granite State is covered by forest, and there hasn't been a large-scale natural disturbance since the Hurricane of 1938, said Seaboyer.

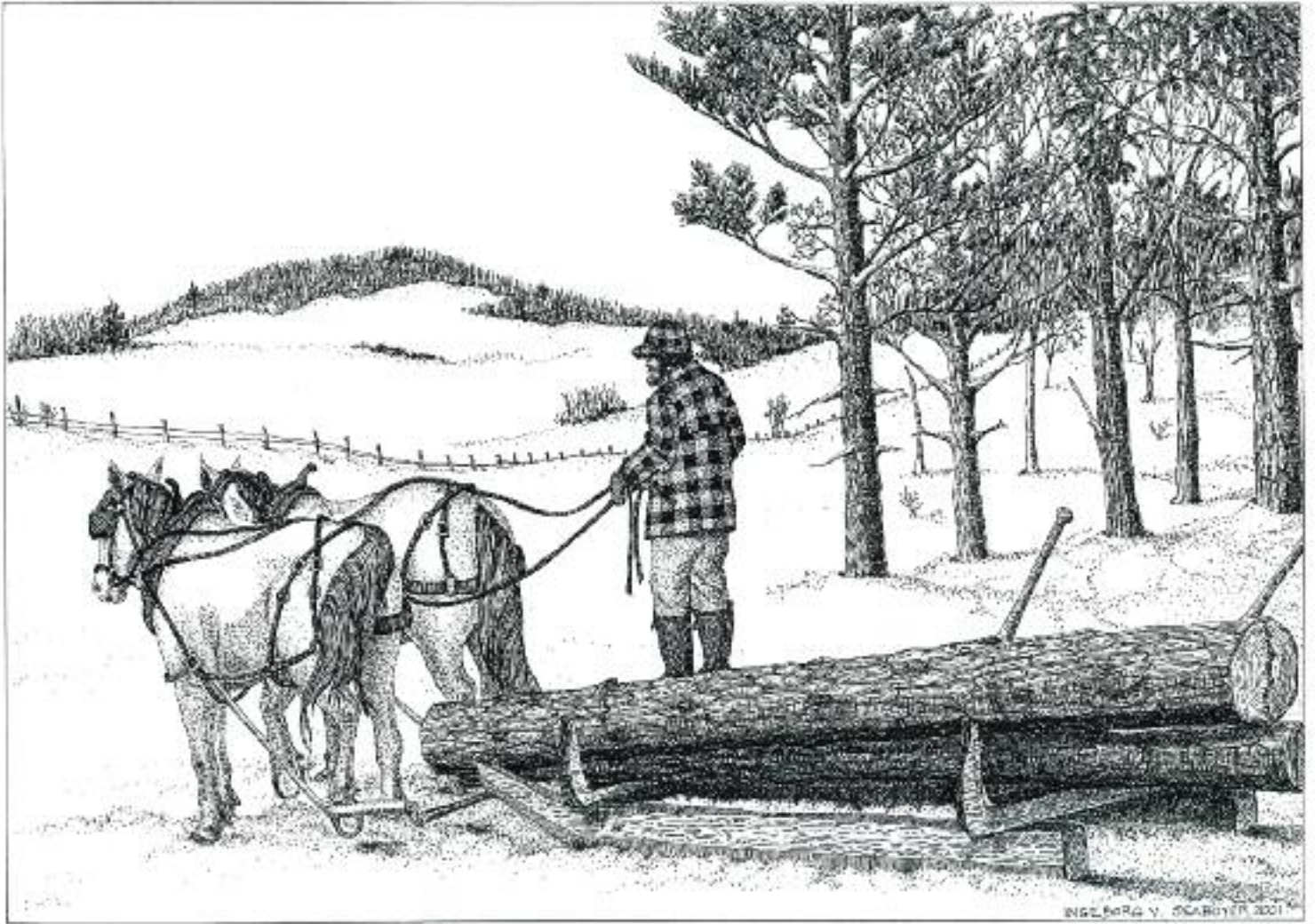
"There are many species of plant and animals that need young forests," said Seaboyer. "Many of our forests are 80 years old. They need to be disturbed in order for new growth to happen."

But simply clear-cutting trees in order to promote new growth doesn't produce the diversity of habitats required by different species, and it can be visually jarring to the public. The logging has to be orchestrated carefully, and this is where Seaboyer's artistic vision comes into play.

"Aesthetics are really important in forestry," said Bennett. "Cutting trees has a pretty heavy visual impact. You need to be able to think about the immediate impact of timber harvesting, while creating a vision of what the forest will look like."

When it comes to establishing a balance between the present and the future of the landscape, Bennett said, "Inge's one of the best."





"Northbound Skid", Inge Seaboyer



*"Rhododendron Maxium"
(pen and ink with colored pencil),
Inge Seaboyer*

From Forest to Page

Though Seaboyer may leave the forest at the end of the day, the forest never leaves her. It provides her with an infinite cache of images upon which to base her drawings and paintings.

"I've been doing art forever," she said.

When she wasn't gallivanting through the woods as a kid, she was lost in concentration drawing the world around her. In the 1990s she began taking classes and has honed her skills by providing illustrations for a variety of publications for organizations in the timber and agriculture industry. She has also provided illustrations for three books including *Selecting Trees for Urban Landscape Ecosystems*, and *Good Forestry in the Granite State 1st and 2nd Editions*.

"We like Inge as an illustrator because she knows the equipment, she knows the trees," Bennet said, "so she understands the subjects she's drawing."

Seaboyer also spends time exhibiting at art shows, where she sets up her table and sketches, allowing the folks who stop by her booth to see her works in progress. Once, while participating in an art show, Seaboyer suddenly found herself at a loss for what to draw, but all she needed to open that creative door was to step outside for a moment and grab a few leaves.

"If I need inspiration," she said, "I just go back to the woods."

Interpreting Frost

Seaboyer's passion for the New England landscape was shared by poet laureate Robert Frost, who lived in Derry nearly 100 years ago. In 2011, Seaboyer collaborated with two other Derry artists, Corinne Dodge and Judy Krassowski, to pay homage to Frost in an exhibit called *The Road Not Taken: Artistic Interpretations of the Poetry of Robert Frost*.

"Inge exemplifies what I would think is the best side of the stereotypical New Englander - pragmatic, conservation and preservation-minded, with a keen eye for detail," said Krassowski, the teaching artist at Trinity High School in Manchester.

"Her interpretation of Robert Frost's poetry has its origins in her New Hampshire education, and supports both the literal and nature connections to a stoic Yankee life," Krassowski said.

For the show, each of the artists chose poems both ubiquitous and obscure for her interpretations of Frost's work, and brought them to life through various mediums including pen and ink, watercolor, acrylics, and oils.

The exhibit was first shown at the grand-reopening of the Derry Public Library in September of 2011, and has been touring the state since. Each of the nearly 30 original works of art is accompanied by the poetry that inspired the piece.

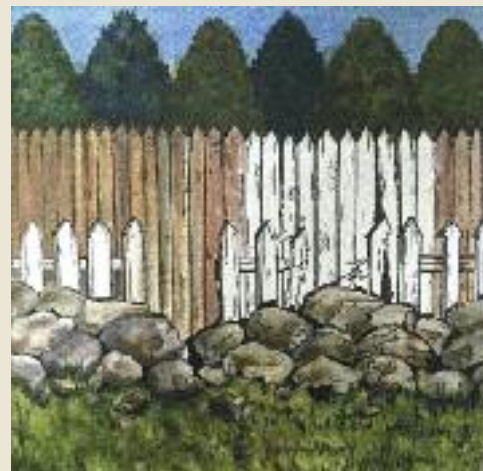
In July and August, the exhibit will be on display at the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forest's Conservation Center in Concord. ♪

FROSTS' POETRY ILLUSTRATED IN EXHIBIT

The Road Not Taken: Artistic Interpretations of the Poetry of Robert Frost, featuring the artwork of Derry artists Corinne Dodge, Judy Krassowski and Ingeborg Seaboyer, will be on display weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the months of July and August at the Conservation Center, 54 Portsmouth St. in Concord. The conference room display area is used for meetings, so please call ahead at 224-9945 to make sure the room is open.



"Stopping by Woods", Corinne Dodge



"Mending Wall", Judy Krassowski





OUR FORESTS:

Open-Air Museums of N.H. History

Our Woods are Full of Hidden Stories,
Written in Stone and Steel

By Dave Anderson

“There’s a place called Faraway Meadow
We never shall mow in again,
Or such is the talk at the farmhouse:
The meadow is finished with men.”

— from “The Last Mowing” by Robert Frost



Left: A belt-driven corn silage chopper, once drawn alongside a tractor to reap and chop corn stalks and blow the silage to a following wagon. Once parked at the edge of a corn field, it’s now found in a forest. Photo by Dave Anderson.

Inset: Artifacts of contemporary culture left behind in the forest for future students of land use history to ponder. Photo by Jon Charpentier.



The steel-wheeled hay elevator, once used for loading loose hay into a wagon, now seems out of place in the shade of a mature forest, but it is preserved in place exactly where the last farmhand parked it at the edge of a field at the end of summer, after the last rack of second-cut hay was hauled to a barn. The relic reminds us that many of today's forests were once farms where people lived and worked.

Time passes slowly in a forest. Trees die and decay, stumps rot away leaving no trace. Not so with the everyday materials left behind by our predecessors. These cultural artifacts, man-made fragments of history, are testaments to long-ago work written in weathered stone and rusty steel.

Our forests are open air museums of New Hampshire history where we find unexpected stories safely hidden from passing traffic and the passage of time.

At the end of the French and Indian War in 1760, inland Colonial settlement boomed. All of the present towns in central New Hampshire were established in 30 years prior to 1790. By 1840, an estimated 600,000 sheep grazed on open hillsides that had been a howling forested wilderness just a few generations earlier. By the dawn of the Industrial Revolution in post-Civil War New England, farmers burned their houses to rake nails from the ashes for reuse and headed west, trading the rocky, thin soiled, upland landscape for the more fertile soils of the Midwest. By 1900 most cleared farms had begun to grow back to forest.

Imagine the shock and disappointment of the 19th-century farmers if they could see their endless ranks of hard-won hayfields and hillside pastures covered by trees. But trees gently conceal the contours of the underlying landscape as well as the cultural artifacts remaining in the woods.

What they left behind

I'm fascinated by artifacts I've come across at abandoned farm sites. Telltale tokens of rural toil shed light on how our predecessors lived in our shared landscape of familiar valleys, mountain ranges, rivers and lakes. Local histories are evocative, sometimes romantic and often grim. The woods contain hundreds of miles of rough stone walls, deep wells and shallow cellars, surface granite quarries and old lime kilns. I've seen the shrapnel of an exploded iron boiler from a steam-powered sawmill. I've found wagon wheels, cart springs and the remains of picking ladders beneath skeletons of shade-choked, dead apple trees. I've found (and left there out of respect for the site) galvanized sap buckets, steel door hinges, sugaring pans and bricks from the collapsed arches of tumble-down sugarhouses. In the rubble of abandoned farms are discarded rum bottles, patented medicine bottles, harness buckles and horse-shoes. Once, I found a delicate hand-painted porcelain china doll face, blue eyes blackened with soot from a fire. On the same forgotten farm deep in the forest, there's a child's grave in the family cemetery.

It's estimated there are 250,000 miles of stone walls remaining in New England. Single thickness walls of fieldstone indicate that adjacent land was pasture or possibly a hay meadow. Parallel outer walls with small stones filled in the center indicate that adjacent land was once tilled to cultivate field crops such as potatoes or grains. Wire ribbon and barbed wire fences replaced stone beginning around 1870.



Above: Forest Society land agent Tom Howe examines a woods-rigged "crawler" with faded red paint. This steel-tracked bulldozer is equipped with a heavy steel rear arch and cable drum for winching and skidding logs.
Photo Anne McBride.

Left: Former U.S. Marine Mark Dutton returns to the controls of a ground-driven clattering hay rake and elevator that once conveyed loose hay up onto a horse-drawn wagon. Dutton remembers operating this rake while haying in Gilmanston as a boy. Oak slats have rotted away over the decades.
Photo Frank Allen.



"One man's junk..."

Among more contemporary artifacts in the woods are the rusting steel hulks of cars or farm implements including wagon frames, sickle bar mowers, hay rakes and tine harrows. I know where one 1920's era Chevy is reduced to a rusted engine block, frame, fenders, hood cowl and windowless cab with bullet holes in its doors. Springs poke through upholstered mohair seats and the ash tray contains bottle caps and pull tops matching rusted steel beer cans on the floor. While generations of skunks prowl inside the trunk and the leaves accumulate against once shiny hubcaps. Rust never sleeps.

As each artifact becomes part of its local landscape, it serves as habitat, like the living coral reefs for marine life created from sunken ships. In the twisted ruins of that exploded steam-powered sawmill boiler, there's a porcupine den. Abandoned apple orchards continue to attract deer, bears and coyotes. Washed-out granite blocks of a collapsed mill dam below a former gristmill offer shadowy pools for wary brook trout. Local bobcats favor ledges and talus rocks surrounding the site of an early graphite mine. Abandoned houses have bats in the attic.

The interplay of nature and culture weaves a tapestry of repeating patterns in landscapes that stay rural. Where early settlers first read signs in the landscape to help lay out their woodlot, sugarbush, pasture, fields and tillage, their land use choices tell us something about the original landscape.

Old village cemeteries, for instance, are often located where the digging proved easiest, often on glacial sand deposits along



Left: The square chisel mark in this granite post boundary marker date the stone as being quarried before 1840, when round plug drills came into use. Photo by Dave Anderson..

Right: An old agricultural wagon wheel features a combination of a heavy steel rim with rot-resistant wooden spokes—likely of elmwood. The ancient tire and rusty rim appear to be fading faster than the wooden spokes! Photo Amanda Nickerson.

Bottom: A remarkably ornate heavy iron snow roller with oaken slats features a sunburst spoke pattern. Resting in the shade deep in the forest, this feature could be vulnerable to scrap metal or antique dealers with an eye for repurposing or profiting at the expense of local history. Photo Tom Howe.

Continued on page 15.

Odds and Ends:

Cultural Finds on Forest Society Reservations

Forest Society reservations harbor a “what’s what” of abandoned sites and fragments of daily life of long ago. If you’re looking for a walk that includes some interesting and sometimes head-scratching cultural history, check out these Forest Society conserved properties. This short list could easily be much longer; many Forest Society properties feature stone walls, cellar holes and other interesting features. You’ll find directions and stories about how these properties came to be owned and stewarded by the Forest Society on the Forest Reservations Guide at www.forestsociety.org.

Please note: remember to protect the integrity of these sites by looking and taking pictures but leaving everything just as you found it. Once something is dug up or moved or taken away from its site, it loses its story and its cultural relevance. Thank you.



An ornate arched stone staircase once connected to the upper terrace of Madame Antoinette Sherri’s French Chateau style “castle” at the Forest Society Madame Sherri Forest in Chesterfield.

Madame Sherri Forest, Chesterfield

Just 100 feet from the trailhead, you’ll find the oddly scenic staircase to nowhere, part of the remnants of the French-inspired chateau summer house once owned by Antoinette Sherri, a Paris-born theatrical costume designer who worked in New York City during the early 1900s. She and her husband built the chateau as a summer house and hosted lavish parties there until hard times hit and the chateau was abandoned and later succumbed to a fire.

Monson Center, Hollis and Milford

If you enjoy American colonial history, Monson Center is the perfect spot. Monson was an early colonial settlement that existed only from 1737 to 1770. Many of the original foundations of the homes that were built here are preserved. You can still see the center of town and main roads, as well as the beautiful stone walls of this short-lived, early community.

Mt. Major, Alton

Just off the trail near the bottom of the Boulder Loop Trail, also known as the Orange Trail, look for some large slabs of granite, evidence of former quarrying at the site. Look closely, and you will find the markings where the stones were split.

Welch Family Forest, Hancock

Near a stone wall along the edge of a former haying meadow is a vintage hay rake. A pine forest has grown up around it in the years since it was parked for the last time.

Kingsbury Timber – Chippewa Trail, Haverhill

At the foot of Black Mountain are the remains of old-time limestone quarries and kilns. The first kiln here was built in 1838; the second was built in 1842 with the help of John Page, governor of New Hampshire and a Haverhill resident.



Top photo by Charlie Eiseman; bottom photo by Frank Allen.

One of the earliest inland Colonial settlements in New Hampshire, Monson Center in Milford and Hollis lasted but a few decades prior to the Revolutionary War. The British Union Jack colors are flown at the restored Gould Clockmaker’s Shoppe.

Continued from page 13.



riverbanks and terraces. Each May, snapping turtles and painted turtles dig their nests and lay eggs on the same sandy hillsides overlooking the rivers and swamps their ancient turtle ancestors used. Outside the granite-walled graveyards beyond the village center is where I often find turtles digging their nests.

The pace of rapid landscape change transforming our rural areas makes the preservation of hidden historical treasures, preserved in place in our forests, even more important with each passing decade.

What will our own cultural legacy be? What artifacts will contemporary culture will leave behind in the forest for future students of land use history to ponder? While it's unlikely that asphalt, houses, shopping malls, restaurants, car dealerships and stores will be reclaimed by forests or plowed back to pastures, the cement, steel, plastics, brass, glass and porcelain in our daily lives will outlive all of us. ♪

Dave Anderson is Director of Education and Volunteers for the Forest Society. This story first appeared in the Summer 2008 issue of Northern Woodlands magazine, and a modified version ran as a Forest Journal newspaper column in the N.H. Sunday News. We reprint it here to remind readers of the interesting finds waiting to be appreciated anew on many Forest Society forest reservations.



Top: This heavy slab of granite along an ancient stone wall features iron gate pins that once hung a gate confining cattle and sheep in an era when 80 percent of southern New Hampshire had been cleared to create relatively short-lived open pastures. Photo Brenda Charpentier.

Middle: This early WWII-era, four-door Chevy sedan, slowly rusting in peace, was once black and had mohair upholstery. Now it's a porcupine den, based on evidence in the trunk. Photo by Dave Anderson.

Bottom: Historic preservation interests express concerns when amateur collectors disturb cellar holes trash dumps, breaking and scattering glass or ceramics in search of intact antique bottles. Collectors who use metal detectors to find and remove cultural artifacts pose another threat. Prospectors disturb the historic record of cultural sites. Collecting is not allowed on Forest Society Reservations. Finds are best left in place, but often small items are displayed on a cellar hole sill or stonewall for other visitors to enjoy. Photo by Dave Anderson.

WILD BLUES

Yonder

Hiking and blueberry picking
combine for a perfect summer outing

By Brenda Charpentier

I would cheerfully walk for 10 miles

if sun-warmed, wild blueberries were at the end of the trail. Fortunately, in New Hampshire we don't have to walk that far, but it helps if we walk in an upwards direction. If we're willing to wander up a mountain this time of year, we're likely to find handfuls of juicy blue wonders, what our neighbors to the northeast like to claim as "the caviar of Maine" but what we like to just call "yummy."

Old fields, island edges and roadsides are all good places to forage for wild blueberries, but mountaintops offer summer's best two-fer: a great view and a healthful snack you don't have to carry in your pack. Summits, the ones mostly barren of shade trees, offer just the kind of rotten conditions the wild blueberry covets.

You've got to admire this tough little plant.

It loves acidic, gravelly soil few other plants can take. It revels in relentless sun, all day long. Burn it to the ground and it comes back even stronger than before. Mow it to an inch high and it will thank you by sending out ever more abundant stems from its roots.

"Do your worst," it would say if it could. "I'll thrive anyway."

It's just like the first Yankee farmers. How rugged they must have been! First they had to handsaw the forest to make fields. Then they had to heave rock after rock after rock to the side until they formed walls. Long walls that sometimes went up hillsides!

At least they had the kindred wild blueberry plants to give them something wonderful amidst all that work. As a native plant that also sustained Native Americans long before Yankee farmers, it's been around a long time.

"The blueberry is a survivor," summed up Bill Lord, a fruit specialist with the UNH Cooperative Extension. Lord has helped countless New Hampshire growers manage fields of wild blueberries for commercial harvest. Burning or mowing is a necessity to get strong yields, he says, because starting over stimulates more stems to sprout from underground rhizomes.

The rhizome actually holds 70 percent of the plant while only 30 percent grows above-ground. So actions that mimic natural forest fires or wildlife browsing also get rid of topside diseases and bushiness that might shade lower branches and squelch berry production.

About the only abuse that would stop wild blueberries is being paved over for a parking lot.

Toughness and deliciousness aren't the only reasons to appreciate our wild blueberries. Their much-hyped "Wonder Fruit of the World" status couldn't make them taste any better, but it's another good reason to eat them whenever you can. Research shows the high antioxidant quality of blueberries that puts them at the top of the list of foods that may prevent cancer and other illnesses, and they contain resveratrol, the substance also found in red grape skins that may prevent heart disease.

Wild blueberry season in New Hampshire is typically around the end of July, sometimes starting mid-month and sometimes carrying over well into August, depending on conditions.

Last blueberry season, my husband and I went in search of wild blueberries at the 431-acre Evelyn H. and Albert D. Morse Preserve in Alton. The property used to be managed as a commercial wild blueberry farm before the Morse family donated it to the Forest Society to be managed as a community treasure. Nowadays, our land management department arranges for a machine called a brontosaurus to mow the fields, located at the top of Pine Mountain, in order to keep the blueberries in production for wildlife and for visitors.



Wild Blueberry Hikes

If you're looking for a hike with a blueberry bonus, try one of these. It's always helpful to go online and seek out current conditions for the destination you have in mind, since many updates will include whether the blueberries are ripe.

Gap Mountain (*Jaffrey, Troy*)

High Watch Preserve
(*Effingham and Freedom*)

The Morse Preserve
on Pine Mountain (*Alton*)

Mt. Major and other
Belknap Range mountains
(*Lakes Region*)

Blue Job Mountain (*Strafford*)

Percy Peaks (*Stark*)

Foss Mountain (*Eaton*)

Pitcher Mountain (*Stoddard*)

The first four listed above are Forest Society properties that you can find directions and information about on our website's Forest Reservation Guide at www.forestsociety.org.

Looking out over Lake Winnepesaukee from the top and listening to two hermit thrushes sing their love song to each other was enough of a reward; adding blueberries seemed like an embarrassment of riches. That didn't stop us from making a great outing even better! ♪

Brenda Charpentier is the communications manager at the Forest Society.

Opposite page: Blueberry picking at the Evelyn H. and Albert D. Morse Sr. Preserve in Alton comes with a view of Lake Winnepesaukee.

Above: Blueberry picking is an annual, not-to-be-missed event for visitors to Mt. Major in Alton.

THE FOREST SOCIETY'S ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2015
The Rocks Estate, Bethlehem, N.H.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: MEL ALLEN

Yankee Magazine editor, writer, teacher

Here in New England



Mel Allen is the fifth editor of *Yankee Magazine* since its beginning in 1935. His career at *Yankee* spans more than three decades, during which he has edited and written for every section of the magazine, including home, food, and travel. In his pursuit of stories, he has raced a sled dog team, crawled into the dens of black bears, fished with the legendary Ted Williams, picked potatoes in Aroostook County, and stood beneath a battleship before it was launched. Mel taught magazine writing for 14 years at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and is now a member of the adjunct faculty for the MFA in creative nonfiction program at Baypath College in West Springfield, Mass. He is the author of *A Coach's Letter to His Son*. His column, "Here in New England," has twice been a National City and Regional Magazine Awards Finalist.

Photo by Jarrod McCabe.

FIELD TRIPS: Before the meeting, Forest Society members are invited to join us on one of these field trips designed to explore forestry, recreation, local history and recent land conservation in the Bethlehem area. **Each trip starts at a separate location, so please get directions when you register.** All trips are scheduled to end by 3:30 p.m. or earlier to allow participants time to return to the Rocks Estate by 4 p.m. to check in for the meeting. Our annual meeting and dinner starts at 4:30 p.m.

1 **A Year at the Rocks** Bethlehem, 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The Rocks Estate is the Forest Society's premiere North Country Education Center and has grown into a sustainable Christmas Tree Farm and attractive tourism venue. The initial indoor presentation: "A Year at the Rocks," led by North Country Property Director Nigel Manley will detail how the Forest Society integrates the working farm, education center, wildlife habitats, forestry and tourism to help sustain operations at the estate. Participants will then enjoy a guided tour of features at this historic property.

Experience spectacular scenery and learn about innovative ways the Forest Society's Rocks Estate is creating new tourism opportunities and capitalizing on new farming trends. Learn how the 1906 Sawmill/Pigpen was renovated to house the New Hampshire Maple Experience, an autumn event that revolutionized the idea of maple tours in the state by catering to fall guests.

Manley will share Rocks history and anecdotes during this guided tour of the property he compares to Downton Abbey, the popular British TV series.

Difficulty: Easy walking; Approximately one mile.

Note: Registration is limited to 50 guests.

2 **The Johnson Clark** **Nature Reserve Tour** Bethlehem, 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

A naturalist-guided tour of the forestland, agricultural fields and key wildlife habitat on one of the Forest Society's latest conservation success stories! The Johnson-Clark Nature Reserve was created by three dedicated friends and neighbors who agreed to purchase and conserve a 227-acre tract including Lewis Hill in Bethlehem. The landowners conveyed three conservation easements to protect their tracts in perpetuity and have agreed to steward this nature reserve as a unit. Several new hiking trails cross the property.

The scenic property, located in close proximity to the Rocks Estate, provides important wildlife habitat for a variety of native species.

This tour will traverse from agricultural fields through woodlands, pass interesting rock outcroppings and reach the summit of Lewis Hill before returning. The total distance is approximately two miles of moderate hiking to reach the summit for partial views.

Join us to meet some of the landowners and hear their inspiring story!

Difficulty: Moderate hiking; approx. 2 miles round trip.

3 **NH's Scenic Natural Landscapes:** **Bury The Northern Pass!** Lancaster, Sugar Hill, Bethlehem 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Why is the opportunity to bury the proposed Northern Pass so important?

This workshop includes an indoor briefing on the most current status of the proposed Northern Pass project. A subsequent outdoor field trip will visit sites including historically significant landscapes and regional scenic resources that would be adversely affected by the Northern Pass's insistence on utilizing unsightly overhead power lines.

Learn more from The Forest Society's policy staff about alternatives to the proposal, opportunities to bury the lines and rival, competitive projects in neighboring states that have moved ahead in the queue of approved energy transmission projects.

Note: Bring a bag lunch. Water and soft drinks will be provided. Meet at Weeks State Park in Lancaster, NH at 11 a.m.

See back cover for registration options.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events.

See more or register for events at www.forestsociety.org.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11

9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Hedgehog Mountain Workday

Hedgehog Mountain Forest, Deering

The Forest Society is working on a new long-distance trail that will eventually connect our Hedgehog Mountain Forest with High Five Reservation (Wilson Hill) to the south. On this workday, we will construct a footbridge and some stepping stones on this trail, clearing some blow-down, and cleaning up some trash in what will eventually be a new parking area for the trailhead. Everyone will get an opportunity to climb up to the hedgehog ridge after the work is done to enjoy the expansive views from there.

Bring a bag lunch, water, work gloves, and clothes you don't mind getting dirty. Register online at www.forestsociety.org/events.

For questions, contact Carrie Deegan at cdeegan@forestsociety.org or 603-224-9945.

SATURDAY AUGUST 22 / RAINDATE: SUNDAY AUGUST 23

High Watch Preserve

Green Mountain, Effingham

9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. — Easy morning hike

Join us for a hiking tour of the proposed Marks tracts additions to Forest Society's adjacent High Watch Reservation. Forest Society education and land conservation staff will offer a guided tour of a 261-acre tract of scenic forest in Effingham that includes dry red-pine and pitch-pine and a unique forested wetland along scenic Leavitt brook. We'll search for wildlife tracks and signs including bear, coyote and moose. We'll detail our current effort to protect these tracts as additions to the adjacent High Watch Preserve.

Meet at High Watch Road. Register to receive directions and details.

Noon to 3:30 pm — Afternoon hike via "Green Mountain Trail" to summit of Green Mountain

The popular Green Mountain Trail is a 2.6-mile round-trip with 1,200 feet of elevation gain to the summit elevation of 1,883. The wooded trail on the mountain's north side is a great family hike, combining soft pine-needle covered trail with short steep, rocky sections for variety. Great trail leads to the picnic table and fire tower at the top. Along the way, we'll point out beech, hemlock, maple, oak and spruce forest types. We'll discuss the wildlife habitat features and water quality of the Ossipee River watershed.

It's a moderately-easy, forested, hike lacking views before reaching the summit. The trail begins on the Forest Society's High Preserve. The hike from trailhead to top is a 3 hour round trip. The observation deck and fire tower may remain closed this summer for renovations.

Co-sponsored by Green Mountain Conservation Group.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL SERIES OFFERS MUSIC, ANIMALS, WILDLIFE TALKS

The annual Bretzfelder Park Family Educational Series is a free series of entertaining programs held at Bretzfelder Park in Bethlehem each August and February. Owned by the Forest Society and managed in cooperation with the town of Bethlehem, the park was bequeathed to the Forest Society in 1984 by Helen Bretzfelder in memory of her father, Charles, and includes a classroom, educational trails, a pond and several picnic sites.

For more information about any of the programs listed below, visit www.therocks.org, email us at info@therocks.org, or call 444-6228.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 7-8 p.m.

The Strawberry Farm Band

The Strawberry Farm Band, from Bath, N.H., has been entertaining audiences in the Northeast for 30 years with its blend of many genres including progressive bluegrass, blues, rock and original music.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 7-8 p.m.

Creatures of the Night

A naturalist from the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center will share myths and facts about how animals adapt to nocturnal living and will bring three live animals along to illustrate the discussion.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

The "Big Three" Forest Pests

Kyle Lombard of the N.H. Div. of Forests and Lands will present "The "Big Three," the Emerald Ash Borer, the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and the Asian Horned. Lombard is a graduate of the UNH Forestry School and has been working in the forest health program for 20 years. A forest entomologist and coordinator of the State Forest Health program, Lombard will explain why he calls these three pests the Dutch Elm disease of our generation.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 7-8 p.m.

Family Map and Compass Workshop

The Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) will lead an interactive map and compass program for the whole family. Come learn how to find your way in the woods!

Better than a Block Party

Neighbors Collaborate to Create Nature Reserve in Bethlehem

By Meghan McCarthy McPhaul



Marilyn Johnson's long career in the Foreign Service brought her to far-flung places around the world. But it was in her family's home on Lewis Hill Road in Bethlehem that she chose to settle

upon her retirement in 1987, drawn back by family ties and the natural beauty of the place. It was, likewise, the mountain vistas and pastoral landscape of Lewis Hill Road that drew Chris Rogers to purchase a second home nearby in 2009 and Jim Schwartz and his wife Ann Hochschild to do the same in 2012.

And it was the natural beauty and a deep love of place that inspired the neighbors to band together to purchase and protect 241 acres stretching between Lewis Hill Road and state Route 142, creating the Johnson-Clark Nature Reserve. While each neighbor owns a portion of the property, they have all donated conservation easements to the Forest Society, creating a continuous block of protected land.

"Marilyn wanted the area across from her house, and Jim wanted the part he could see from his house, so I was happy to take the part that had the ridge and views," said Rogers. "I have always considered it one piece of conservation property."

The ridge with views of mounts Agassiz, Cleveland, Garfield, and Lafayette is fitting for Rogers. A mechanical engineering professor at Tufts University, he has been coming north with his family to hike the White Mountains for many years. Schwartz, a science writer, and Hochschild, a geneticist who teaches at Harvard Medical School, likewise came to love the area for its dramatic hikes and spectacular scenery.

In 2012 Schwartz and Hochschild purchased the Gowdy house—a former



Neighbors Marilyn Johnson, James Schwartz and Ann Hochschild celebrate their easement donations to the Forest Society. Not pictured are fellow neighbors and easement donors Chris and Cathy Rogers.

residence of famed sports commentator Curt Gowdy and his family—and the surrounding 150 acres, across the road from what would become the Johnson-Clark Nature Reserve (on property that had also been owned by the Gowdys).

"We were looking for a place to buy and just happened upon Lewis Hill Road, which is remarkably beautiful," Schwartz said. "We became fast friends with Marilyn. She's sort of the mayor of Lewis Hill Road. Everybody knows her."

Johnson's ties to Lewis Hill Road run deep—all the way back to 1857, when her great-grandparents (one a Johnson, one a Clark) purchased the home where she now lives. Her great-grandfather ran a coach line between two grand hotels: the Profile House in Franconia Notch and the Crawford House in Crawford Notch. The coaches would change horses along the way at the Bethlehem property.

Although she grew up on the South Shore of Boston, Johnson and her family spent summers in the old house, making repairs and enjoying the beauty of Bethlehem. After graduating from Radcliff College in 1944, in the midst of World War II, Marilyn went through Midshipmen's School at Smith College, then worked in Naval security in Washington, D.C. Following the war, she earned a master's degree in French from Middlebury College, secured Fulbright and Smith-Mundt grants to teach abroad, and eventually embarked on a Foreign Service career during which she lived in Russia and French West Africa, including three years as U.S. Ambassador to Togo.

But it was Bethlehem that drew her home. She has long been a steward of the land in her neighborhood, the town, and beyond. She lobbied to have Lewis Hill designated as a town Scenic Road several years ago, and she has served on the Beth-

Forest Society photo.



Photo by Ryan Young.

Wild lupine grow on the beautiful Johnson-Clark Nature Reserve in Bethlehem.

lehem Conservation Commission and the Ammonoosuc River Local Advisory Committee for many years. She is also a long-standing member of the town's Bretzfelder Park Committee, which works with the Forest Society to manage the park.

"My roots were here. I had family here," said Johnson, now 92 years old. "It was just coming back to where my origins were, the house where my father had been born, and trying to improve the house and the land. That's what I'm still trying to do."

As part of that effort, she has purchased nearby land as it has become available. Much of the surrounding property was once in her family, but had been sold over the years. In 2007, she donated a 103-acre conservation easement to the Forest Society. That property is across Lewis Hill Road from the new easement and stretches to adjacent South Road.

Her motivation in the neighborly effort to create the Johnson-Clark Nature Reserve is two-fold: "It's mainly to keep open space here for people to enjoy skiing and hiking, and it's a continuation of the wildlife corridor from The Rocks Estate."

The Johnson-Clark Nature Reserve is close to the Forest Society's Rocks Estate on the western border and the White Mountain National Forest on the eastern side.

"The fields, edges, rock outcrops and wetlands all contribute to the forests that



predominate the property. There is a good mix of hardwood and softwood stands, providing both forage and shelter," said Ryan Young, strategic projects manager for the Forest Society. "I've seen tracks of turkey, moose, and bobcat on the property, and it supports a variety of other wildlife species, including whitetail deer and bear."

The Johnson-Clark Nature Reserve also includes about three miles of trails for hiking and cross-country skiing. The neighbors have had a forest stewardship plan

completed, with an eye toward further trail development and preserving wildlife habitat. They'd also love to see the Johnson-Clark Nature Reserve become part of a wider conservation block, one that could stretch from The Rocks to Lewis Hill Road and across Route 142 to the White Mountain National Forest.

"It's a beautiful piece of land," says Rogers. "Connecting The Rocks to the White Mountain National Forest someday would be awesome." ♪

State Completes 5,100-Acre Conservation Project

Cardigan Highlands Forest Legacy Project Conserves Working Forests North of Newfound Lake



The N.H. Department of Resources and Economic Development—Division of Forests and Lands has acquired a conservation easement on 3,200 acres of working forests owned by Green Acre Woodlands, Inc. The easement culminates the Cardigan Highlands Forest Legacy Project, a nine-year, federally funded effort that has conserved three tracts of land in Hebron, Groton, Plymouth, Rumney and Dorchester totaling 5,100 acres north of Newfound Lake. These lands will remain open to the public for hiking, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling and other traditional recreational uses.

The Cardigan Highlands Forest Legacy Project utilized a grant from the Forest Legacy Program, a federal program implemented by the U.S. Forest Service to help protect environmentally important private forestlands threatened with conversion to non-forest uses. With assistance from the Society for the Protection of NH Forests (Forest Society), which secured the \$3.8 million Forest Legacy Program grant, the NH Division of Forests and Lands completed the last phase of the project in April by purchasing a conservation easement on land in Hebron, Groton and Plymouth. The first phase of the project was completed in February of 2012.

The easement protects the land from commercial development while allowing the landowner, Green Acre Woodlands, to continue to own and manage the forests for sustainable timber production. The easement also permanently conserves two State snowmobile trail corridors that cross the properties. Green Acre Woodlands has previously conveyed conservation easements on other lands in Plymouth and Stewartstown.

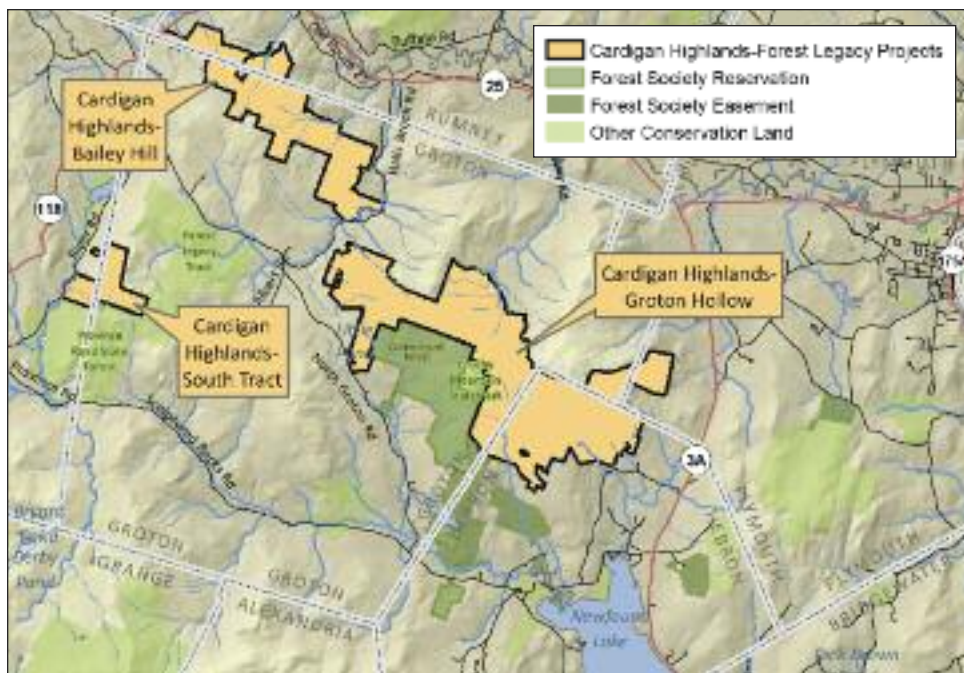
The N.H. Division of Forests and Lands has administered about \$31 million in



Top: The Cardigan Highlands Forest Legacy Project uses conservation easements to keep 5,100 acres north of Newfound Lake out of commercial development and open to the public for recreational uses.

Bottom: The Forest Legacy Program is a federally-funded grant program that conserves private land in order to perpetuate working forests. Green Acre Woodlands, Inc., owns the land, which is managed for timber production by FORECO, LLC.

Top photo by Forest Society; bottom photo by Jack Savage.



Forest Legacy grant funds since the program's creation in 1990, using the grants to protect more than 215,000 forested acres from conversion to other uses.

"As with all Forest Legacy projects, the Cardigan Highlands Project is focused on maintaining working forests so we can maintain the economic benefit of our forest products industry while also ensuring recreational access to these large tracts of land," said Susan Francher, the N.H. Div. of Forests and Lands forester who coordinates the Forest Legacy program in New Hampshire.

The Cardigan Highlands Project lands are located within one of the state's largest relatively unfragmented blocks of forestland south of the White Mountain National Forest, said Brian Hotz, vice president of land protection for the Forest Society. "This project will protect important habitat for wildlife species that require large interior forest areas. It will also conserve thousands of feet of stream frontage and important riparian habitat in the Newfound Lake and Baker River watersheds," Hotz said.

Francher said that the Forest Legacy Program requires that a forest stewardship plan be developed and maintained over time. "That plan will be reviewed by this agency (Division of Forests and Lands), in partner-

ship with the owners. We take a proactive approach to make sure the purposes of the easement are upheld over time, and that the economic and noneconomic benefits we've come to appreciate and require as part of our forested landscape will continue," she said.

Tom Hahn, a forester with FORECO LLC, the company that manages the land for owners Green Acre Woodlands, said the Forest Legacy project ensures the ability of Green Acre Woodlands to own and manage the forests for the long-term.

"The income derived from the sale of the easements allows landowners to not be 100 percent dependent on timber harvest revenue to generate income from the land," Hahn said.

Green Acre Woodlands has also chosen to use the easement funds to purchase more land, thus increasing the amount of land that will be maintained as traditional working forests, Hahn said.

Bob Berti, a forester and the owner of FORECO LLC, said that this easement continues the long tradition of support and practice of responsible forest management by the Green Acre Woodlands family that began with their first land acquisitions in 1946. ♪

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.

Lawmakers Close to Ensuring a Statewide Conservation Plan: SB38 matters to us all

The New Hampshire Legislature has approved SB 38, which would establish a commission to develop a land conservation plan for New Hampshire. The bill is an outgrowth of one of the key recommendations the Joint Legislation Study Committee on Land Conservation issued last year in its report. The commission will identify specific natural resource protection priorities requiring further state investment over the next five years, a process for reviewing and revising priorities on a periodic basis, and a strategy for collaboration and funding among federal, state, regional, municipal and non-governmental partners to achieve the commission's stated conservation goals.

Of immediate interest to the Forest Society, the commission will include representatives from three statewide conservation organizations. We joined with our partners at the Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land and Appalachian Mountain Club in testifying in support of the bill. Now that the Senate has passed the bill and the House has passed a slightly amended form of it, we expect lawmakers will approve a final version before they adjourn for the year.

Why should those people who care about the long-term protection of our state's cherished landscape be concerned with the passage of this bill? After all, as the Study Committee's report noted, since 1990 no fewer than 11 legislative committees and commissions have documented in detail the need to protect New Hampshire's lands and natural resources. While it is true that reports and studies can often gather dust on the proverbial shelf, we also know that safeguarding our special natural places is essential to protecting the quality of life here. As evidence, note these statistics:



Photo by Brian Holz.

Two thirds of N.H. land critical to maintaining clean drinking water remains unprotected. We need a statewide conservation plan to make sure these lands are conserved.

- Two-thirds of the land critical to maintaining clean drinking water remains unprotected.
- Outdoor recreation generates \$4.2 billion in annual consumer spending, \$293 million in taxes and 49,000 jobs in New Hampshire.
- Of the 4,000 documented occurrences of rare plants and animals in the state, less than one-third are found on public or permanently protected land.
- 60% of the forested blocks of land 500 acres or larger, which account for two-thirds of New Hampshire's forested land base, are not permanently protected as forest lands. In addition to the benefits these areas bring to the wood products, forestry and logging

industries, they also provide vital benefits by removing air pollutants and enhancing water quality.

Those figures raise an important question about SB 38: What happens to the vitality of our economy, the quality of life we have long enjoyed and the health of our citizens if we do not take the necessary steps to conserve the priority natural areas in New Hampshire? The answer to that question is why the SB 38 Commission matters and why we must act now to strengthen the State's ability to address this fundamental issue. ♯

Matt Leahy is a public policy manager at the Forest Society.

Assessing the Kinder Morgan Pipeline Proposal

Forest Society focus is on how the gas line would affect conservation lands

By Will Abbott

The Forest Society is one of more than 740 landowners who are directly impacted by the preliminary route proposed by Kinder Morgan (KM) to build a new natural gas pipeline. KM's "New England Direct Project" as proposed last December will bring natural gas from the Marcellus Shale reserve in Pennsylvania to a natural gas distribution hub in Dracut, Massachusetts. KM's latest proposed route, released last December, traverses 71 miles of New Hampshire land, located in 17 municipalities, and over parcels of Forest Society forest reservations in Greenville, Mason and Hudson.

If ever built on the preliminary corridor proposed, KM would place a 30- or 36-inch pipeline in a trench three to four feet below the surface of the ground. In some locations, like major river and stream crossings, KM suggests they would use a technology called horizontal direct drilling to locate the pipeline well below the rivers and streams being crossed. Few details are presently available about where precisely on the ground the facility would actually

be built. A formal final proposal must be made to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for review and action. The project must also be reviewed by the NH Site Evaluation Committee. KM says it expects to submit its FERC proposal by the end of 2015 or early in 2016.

There is significant (and appropriate) debate as to whether this pipeline is necessary or desirable to meet future energy needs in New Hampshire and New England, and whether the public benefits are worth the costs and disruption to private landowners, communities and natural resources along the 71 mile NH route. These are issues which should be a primary focus of the FERC review of the project.

Between now and the time KM settles on a final proposal to present to FERC, the Forest Society is focused on assuring that we understand how the proposal will impact the three Forest Society properties, at least 36 other conservation parcels along the proposed route (over 6 linear miles of the 71) and the natural resources and com-

munities that exist along the entire 71 mile route in NH. We will be asking our Congressional delegation to press FERC to give the same degree of robust and transparent review to impacts on natural resources for the NED project as they traditionally provide for assessment of energy issues. FERC should be well informed on both sets of issues. In fact, FERC should be open to making a decision to deny this project a green light if it concludes that significantly adverse natural resource impacts should trump a determination that the natural gas is needed to meet future energy needs.

Please go to www.forestsociety.org/advocacy-issue/kinder-morgan-gas-pipeline for a map of the 71 mile route and the conservation lands it impacts, for more detailed information on what is known about the project to date and for a more detailed discussion of the Forest Society's work on this proposed project. ♧

Will Abbott is vice president of policy and reservation stewardship at the Forest Society.

KM Pipeline Intersections with Conserved Lands in Southern New Hampshire



The southern New Hampshire route of Kinder Morgan's proposed gas pipeline. Map courtesy Emily Hague, Monadnock Conservancy.

Vermont Transmission Project Jumps Ahead: Northern Pass Acknowledges “Back up Plan”

By Jack Savage

As Eversource and Hydro-Quebec’s controversial Northern Pass transmission line proposal slides further behind schedule, a project with similar goals—importing more power from Quebec into the New England market—has leapfrogged Northern Pass in the effort to get permitted. This despite the fact that the project was proposed three years after Northern Pass went public in 2010. Both projects are now targeting 2019 as “in-service” dates.

New England Clean Power Link (NECPL) is a 1,000 megawatt project proposed by TDI New England that, unlike Northern Pass, would use underground and underwater transmission cables through 154 miles of Vermont using newer HVDC Light cable technology. The 57 miles of underground cable would be along roads, with the balance of the line trenched along the bottom of Lake Champlain, with an estimated project cost of \$1.2 billion. (Northern Pass, as proposed, would be a 1,200 megawatt line across 187-miles at cost of at least \$1.4 billion.)

The U.S. Dept. of Energy (DOE) released the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the NECPL in early June. Northern Pass had been telling its shareholders that its own draft EIS would be published earlier this year, but its release apparently has been delayed until later this summer.

NECPL is likely moving faster than Northern Pass in part because, as the draft EIS documents, there is comparatively little public opposition to the project as proposed. Burial of the line has made scenic impacts a non-issue, and the project developers seem to have avoided the private property rights concerns that have tripped up Northern Pass. Also, NECPL is a sister project of the Champlain Hudson Express, yet another 1,000 megawatt transmission line from TDI

that will also be under Lake Champlain, the Hudson River, and underground along transportation corridors in New York.

The draft EIS for NECPL can be read online at <http://necplinkeis.com/>. Of particular interest to New Hampshire are some of the technical details of HVDC burial along roads (four feet down in a 12-foot ROW alongside roads where feasible, or underneath the road itself where necessary.) Northern Pass has argued its own limitations by suggesting they can’t bury a line for long distances along roads.

Northern Pass Back Up Plan

That said, the speed with which a competitive project like NECPL is progressing along the permitting trail may have Northern Pass recognizing they will need to bury the New Hampshire line after all. In February, Northern Pass quietly submitted to ISO-NE a request for a 1,090 megawatt transmission line that mirrors the Northern Pass project. In response to inquiries at Eversource’s first-quarter earnings call in late April, executive Leon Olivier acknowledged the lower-capacity proposal, saying that it gives them “an option.”

“In the EIS they are studying a number of ranges around modifications to the project, different routes, and potentially some additional under-grounding,” Olivier said. “Basically this option to go with 1,090 would suggest using a different technology.”

Without more detail it’s hard to know exactly what this means. It appears that Eversource has done research into this new burial technology for possible application as an alternative in New Hampshire that it has chosen not to share publicly. Given that underground transmission proposals using new HVDC Light technology appear to be moving ahead, and given that an overhead Northern Pass faces significant permitting challenges at the state Site Evaluation Committee as well as potential other legal challenges, it should be no surprise that Eversource is looking more closely at a back-up plan. Nor should it be a surprise that Eversource would choose to avoid any public discussion of such an alternative, as such discussion might provide legitimacy to the idea that a completely buried line in New Hampshire is actually technically and financially viable. ¶

TREES NOT TOWERS DEFENSE FUND OFF TO A FAST START

To ensure that the legal process does not ignore those who care deeply about New Hampshire’s natural beauty and conserved lands, the Forest Society has launched a campaign to raise \$475,000 for the Trees Not Towers Defense Fund. By early June we had already raised more than \$220,000. Thank you the more than 2,000 donors who have so generously supported this effort so far.

The Trees Not Towers Defense Fund will help pay for the attorneys, expert testimony and other associated costs involved in a serious engagement in the formal permitting process and the legal defense of conserved lands, including those that block the Northern Pass route.

Donations to the fund are still welcome. For the latest on Northern Pass, or to make a donation online, visit www.forestsociety.org/np.

How Does a Forester Get Patience? Slowly

By George F. Frame, CF

When my wife and I arrived in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan as a young couple, we wanted to explore the Ottawa National Forest, where I was working. So we studied the forest map and made our plans. We would head north from Iron River along the Paint River, stopping for a coffee or sandwich in Gibbs City as we made our way to the village of White Pine. I thought it was a fortuitous route as I had lived in Gibbs Hall while at UNH and white pine was certainly a favorite tree species of mine.

Years back the Upper Peninsula was a heavy-cutting logger's paradise. Supplying wood to the railways and cities around the Great Lakes, billions of board feet of pine, spruce, and hardwoods made their way to the mills over the railroads and rivers. As the so-called 'first growth' was removed, it was replaced by quick growing aspen and birch. Not finding those species desirable, the loggers and lumbermen pulled up stakes and chased the white pine and spruce west through Wisconsin, Minnesota and then beyond the prairies. They had no plan for the land when the white pine ran out except to move. and they didn't know how to make any provision for the pine and spruce to return. They couldn't just wait for it, after all.

We're an anxious lot, we humans. We can't wait for very long for anything. As an experiment, set a timer, put your head down on your desk or table and close your eyes. Visualize that you have just ordered from a drive-through restaurant and are waiting for your food. When you think you should be getting your food, open your eyes and stop the timer. How long did you "wait?" I'll bet that you weren't close to the average wait time for fast food drive-up service, which is just a shade over three minutes.

We expect speed. Ah, but good forestry is not a fast science. It takes time to learn where



A quality stand of white pine can take a lifetime to nurture to harvest.

Photo by George Frame.

you are. It takes expertise to plot the course, and there are pitfalls and unexpected turns throughout. If you are at year one and see before you bare land, with a plan and guidance you can have white pine in perhaps 80 years. If you want to head towards a sugar bush, you'll wait at least 50 years, and if you want to grow red oak veneer, you may need to wait longer than 100 years.

So being impatient by nature, my wife and I headed out on our voyage into the Upper Peninsula. We didn't ask for advice, we didn't read any literature about the area, and with only road numbers and general directions we headed off. Hours of driving later, we hadn't seen a place to stop that sold anything, much less coffee or sandwiches. In fact, we hadn't seen another car, just gravel roads, aspen and birch, one lone

pickup truck, and a very large, black king snake that stretched across the road in front of us and slithered into the brush off the far shoulder.

We returned to Iron River thirsty and hungry and a little upset with the results of our "plan." You see, Gibbs City wasn't really a city, just a name on a remote crossroads. And the village of White Pine was now just one tumble-down shack. It's likely that if we'd asked, there would've been experts around who could have provided us with some very useful information, but I guess we just didn't have time to wait for it. ♪

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Photo by Frank Allen.

At the Monson Center Forest Reservation, cellar holes remain from one of the earliest European settlements in the region.

Reading the Past at a Wooded Cellar Hole

By Dave Anderson

When hiking, you find the cellar of a former dwelling. Respect the site and take a few minutes to absorb lessons these special places can impart. Ask yourself a few questions as you imagine what life was like on a 19th century New Hampshire hill farm...

Which way did the house face? Often a center-chimney cape-style farm house was built with its front façade facing south. Are there bricks of a collapsed chimney? Cellars often appear with a “U-shaped” footprint where a central pier had supported a center chimney.

Was the barn located behind the house and connected via an “ell?” Or did a barn oppose the house across a stonewall-lined lane or what was once a busy road?

Was there once a view of some local mountain or lake now obscured by an upstart forest returned to claim the dooryard?

Where is the stone-lined well? It’s likely uphill, where there’s a natural gravity feed toward the house. Is it covered with rotted boards or open to the sky? How deep is the well? Does it hold water still or did it run dry by late summer? Can you see your face framed by trees reflected in the water? Did someone once peer into this same well, their reflection framed by blue sky?

Household dump sites

Look for rusty pieces of iron or steel, or a household bottle dump or trash heap with bits of broken glass, ceramic or porcelain. In addition to stone walls, stone-lined

cellars and hand-dug wells at the sites of old farms, you may find small fragments of ceramic china patterns, colored glass, galvanized tin, kerosene cans, lantern chimneys and mica “isinglass” windows in rusty woodstove doors. Who once slept on the rusty springs of an ancient mattress or rode the bouncing buggy seat behind a plodding farm mare? Preserved in place, the fragments keep the story of farm families intact at sites that offer a kind of attic window view of life on forgotten farms.

Plants at abandoned farm sites

What trees grow near cellar holes? Enriched soil at former farm houses was enclosed by stone fences and used for growing kitchen herbs or vegetables. Now sugar



On left, a thick steel wedge lies between the two thin “feathers” on a block of granite split after 1840 as evidenced by round bore holes drilled with a star bit on a plug drill. On right, the rectangular signature of a square chisel from a stone quarried and split prior to 1840.

maple, white ash and black cherry trees grow on the rich loam of dooryard gardens or barnyard manure pits. Are there surviving ornamental plants? Can you find ancient overgrown lilacs, day lilies, lilly-of-the-valley, native honeysuckle, barberry or persistent periwinkle flowers of creeping Vinca minor, a ground cover? Food plants smoldering at the edges of young forests on former farms include hops vines, grapes and gnarled apple or pear trees now pock-marked by sapsuckers.

Granite

It's easy to determine when the granite of a cellar hole or a stone fence post was quarried and cut. The key is to note how quarried stone was split, because a widespread change in the tools and techniques used to split granite offers us a rough means to date when stone was quarried and cut.

Prior to 1840, granite was split using a hammer and chisel to create thin, flat grooves, which appear faintly triangular in cross-section. Thus, a split-stone with flat, triangular marks along cut edges can be dated as late 18th or early 19th-century. Perhaps even some early homes from the New England Colonial period had cut

stone where landowners were wealthy and prominent.

Most people are more familiar with the round “star bit” plug drill holes along the split edge, which indicates the granite was split in decades following the 1840 adoption of the “feather and wedge” method. A round, star-shaped drill bit with a V-point is rotated slightly between each blow of a heavy hammer, slowly drilling a round hole two inches deep, typically with holes the diameter of your small pinkie finger.

Rather than flat metal shims and chisels used in the pre-1840 method, stone-cutters inserted half-round steel “feathers” to plug the drill holes and wedged these apart with a steel wedge driven between the feathers. Later, pneumatic drills at commercial quarries continued to use round, star bits but these holes tend to be cut deeper into the granite.

Early stone cellars underlying a partial portion of a classic Cape farmhouse were dug and lined with round field stones found nearby. As family farm fortunes prospered, houses were raised and cellars enlarged. Often, larger federal style or Colonial style homes belonging to wealthier merchants or Revolutionary War soldiers

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Photos this page and previous by Dave Anderson.

The two feathers fit inside the bore hole on the left. The advent of the star bit drill and feather and wedges replaced the earlier, slower and more labor-intensive square chisel method used to split granite.

and officers were built upon cellars of quarried and split granite. Even some barns and outbuildings of more prosperous farms featured cut-granite sills.

However, the mass emigration of rural New England farmers to cities and mid-western and Great Lakes states more suitable for farming destroyed New Hampshire's rural hill farm culture. Population decline plagued rural New Hampshire for decades following the Civil War through the latter half of the 19th century and nearly through the Great Depression.

The countless cellar holes of fallen farms were robbed of granite sills salvaged and re-purposed using winches and wagons and eventually tow-trucks for re-sale to builders and landscapers in more prosperous locales, including the estates of burgeoning summer home colonies in the Lakes Region.

Stone walls

Stone walls were not the first fences. The earliest enclosures were constructed of readily available materials: Stump fences were first, and when they eventually rotted, they were replaced by zigzag split rail wooden fencing. Once land was cleared and surplus wood became scarce, stone fences began to be constructed and enlarged with stone removed from fields during tillage and planting of crops. The peak era of agricultural clearing occurred between 1835 and 1840 in much of central New England.



Pre-1840 chisel-cuts appear faintly triangular or rectangular along an irregular, almost scalloped edge of old cut granite. When both stone-splitting methods are present, it can help date later construction or foundation upgrades. Removing cut granite confuses the site chronology and degrades the integrity of historic cellar holes for appreciation by future generations.

Simple single thickness walls constructed of large, rough fieldstone indicate land was once pasture or possibly a hay meadow. Parallel outer walls with smaller stones filling in the center suggest adjacent land had been picked of stone to facilitate tilling to cultivate field crops such as potatoes, squash, corn or grains—wheat, barley or millet. Piles of smaller stones—the size of your head and smaller and walls of double thickness with small, fist-sized stones

in-filled are a virtual guarantee that adjacent land was tilled.

Still farther afield, long low single thickness walls had enclosed hay meadows or sheep and cattle pastures. Barbed wire and then wire ribbon fences began to be added to walls beginning in the 1870s.

Barbed Wire

In 1868, inventor Michael Kelly developed a flat wire with points that was widely used, until in 1874, Joseph Glidden in Dekalb, Ill., invented the now-familiar two-strand barbed wire fencing. Glidden's invention of barbed wire launched more than 570 different barbed wire patents, an ensuing three-year legal battle over patent rights, and the now infamous range wars in the American West.

In New England, a prominent American manufacturer of barbed wire, the Washburn and Moen Company of Worcester, Mass., purchased patent rights to manufacture barbed wire in the 1870s and quickly became a prolific manufacturer. By the 1880s, use of barbed wire in the Northeast was widespread, and there are approximately 2,000 variations of barbed wire. Cheap steel emerged in the United States with the adoption of the Bessemer process in the 1890s. Newer flat steel ribbon fabricated from cheap steel instead of earlier wrought iron used in wire fencing soon proved unreliable for confining livestock.

Tacked to a line of trees, barbed wire fence eventually replaced the venerable stone wall as the fence material of choice.

Today, barbed wire is found running through large trees that have completely engulfed the wires tacked to them a century ago. Surveyors locate property boundary evidence limited to rusty strands of old wire fence running beneath leaves in a line linking large old trees along a former pasture edge. I've seen old white oaks where a linear constellation of rusty dimples reveals where three stands of barbed wire rusted and broke off. Re-painting old blazes along the line perpetuates scant evidence of the woodland boundaries and clues to former land use.

Barbed wire may not effectively contain livestock. Where sheep, goats or pigs were fenced in pens or fenced out of tilled fields and cultivated gardens, woven wire "sheep netting" replaced barbed wire by the early 20th century. More prosperous farmland that remained in agricultural use into the 1920s and 30s before reverting back to forest may be ringed with sagging woven wire fence. Woven wire is often found along edges of pastures adjacent to now tumbling, frost-heaved stone walls. On which side of the fence were livestock kept? The side where the wire was stapled indicates the pastured side.

Leave Sleeping Ghosts Lie

Leave cultural and historical artifacts in place—just where you found them. It's unethical to prospect with metal detectors or to disturb historical sites. Forest Society lands harbor the spirits of our predecessors and tell the stories of their labors at the sites of early farms.

Cellar holes are essentially open-air museums of land use history. These trees, plants, walls and cultural artifacts are a legacy of early farms now perfectly preserved in place on Forest Society-owned Forest Reservations. ♯

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

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It's High Time to Grow the High Watch Preserve

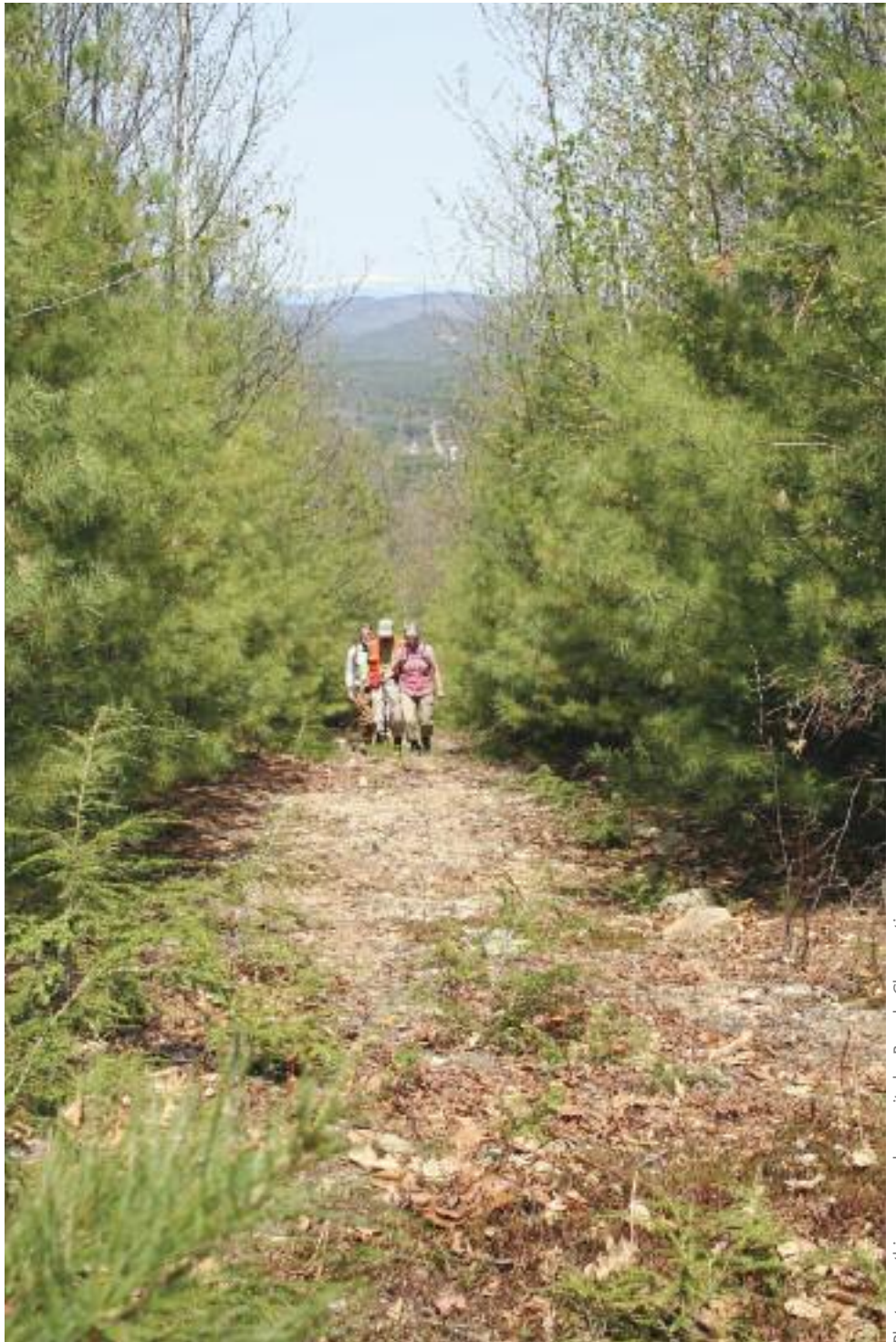


When a morning's walk reveals bear-claw scratches on a pine tree, deer and moose teeth marks on striped maples, a flushed grouse, songs of warblers and towhees, tracks from foxes and bobcats and scat from those species and several more, you know you're in rich wildlife habitat—habitat worth protecting. The Forest Society has a wonderful opportunity to protect just such a place, right next to the Forest Society's High Watch Preserve in Effingham.

Patrick Marks has generously offered to sell three tracts of land abutting the High Watch Preserve to the Forest Society at a price far below market value. High Watch consists of 2,170 acres in Effingham and Freedom that provide great hiking trails up to the summit of Green Mountain, where you can see spectacular views of the surrounding mountain ranges in New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont.

The three properties would add a total of 261 acres to the High Watch Preserve. These lower elevation parcels would enrich High Watch by adding a variety of habitats to the uplands we already conserve on Green Mountain. So the moose and bear that come down from the uplands to browse in the wetlands complex on the proposed addition would be able to make this journey across land that will never be developed. Once the addition is conserved, it will be part of a single block of contiguously conserved land totaling 11,283 acres that includes a large conservation easement in Maine held by The Nature Conservancy.

Stands of pitch pine, younger hardwoods and white pine, boggy wetlands and the streamside habitat along two brooks that cross this property are among the wildlife amenities of these three parcels. Hodgdon Brook and Leavitt Brook run



An old woods road makes the addition to the High Watch Preserve accessible for hunters, hikers and wildlife watchers.

Photos on this page and opposite by Brenda Charpentier.

through the property, both eventually feeding into the Ossipee River.

Your gift to this conservation project will help us grow the High Watch Preserve for wildlife species and for the people who appreciate them and appreciate wildlife watching, hunting, and hiking opportunities. To acquire this land, we need to raise \$240,000 by Sept. 15. Thank you for your support! ♪

Right: A pitch pine bears the claw marks of a black bear on the proposed addition.

Below: Hodgdon Brook forms one of the property's boundaries.



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HIGHLIGHTS:

**11 am
to 3:30 pm**

FIELD TRIPS AND WORKSHOPS

- *A Year at the Rocks walking tour (Bethlehem)*
- *The Johnson Clark Nature Reserve Tour (Bethlehem)*
- *NH's Scenic Natural Landscapes: Bury The Northern Pass! (Lancaster, Sugar Hill, Bethlehem)*

**4 pm
to 8 pm**

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

- *Reception*
- *Business Meeting and Recognitions*
- *Dinner*
- *Awards and keynote address by Yankee Magazine editor, writer and teacher Mel Allen*

COST: Early Bird price is \$45 per person prior to August 31.

Regular price is \$50 per person. **Final registration deadline is September 18.**

Pre-registration is required. There will be no on-site registration. Please register early as space is limited. For more information and to register, please visit www.forestsociety.org or call Heidi DeWitt at (603) 224-9945 or email hdewitt@forestsociety.org.

See page 18 for field trip options!

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