Forest Notes

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S CONSERVATION MAGAZINE

100 Years of Lost River

Broadening Monadnock's Shoulders

SUMMER 2012

SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE FORESTS

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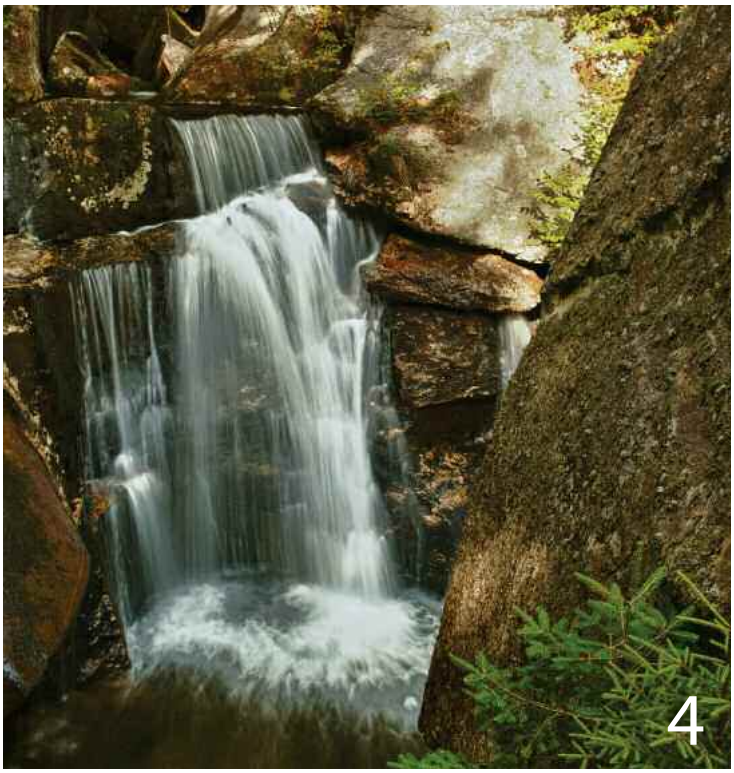

FEATURES

On our cover:
Descending into the magical Lost River Gorge.
Photo by Jerry and Marcy Monkman, Ecophotography.

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Paradise Protected

It wasn't long after the Forest Society helped pass the Weeks Act in 1911 enabling the establishment of the White Mountain National Forest that we turned to protecting other fabled special places in New Hampshire. In fact, by late 1911 we were conducting one of our early fundraising campaigns in order to acquire and protect Lost River Gorge—even then an increasingly popular natural tourist attraction—and in 1912 we took ownership. We still own it today.

For many years we operated Lost River ourselves, welcoming thousands of people into the Gorge to experience the beauty of Paradise Falls and mystery of caverns like *Devil's Kitchen* and *The Center of the Earth* for themselves. The gift shop stands in the original Rollins picnic shelter, donated a century ago by Forest Society founder Gov. Frank West Rollins' family. Today we partner with White Mountains Attractions to manage the tourism aspect of the popular site, with a percentage of the proceeds supporting our conservation mission.

More important, Lost River is a place where thousands of people—especially children—are introduced to New Hampshire's outdoors as a place to learn and have fun. It's a place that can instill appreciation for the wonders of nature and foster a conservation ethic in the next generation. It's a place where adults can feel like a kid again, slithering through the murky confines of the *Lemon Squeezer*.

The work we do today depends on the ongoing support of those who love New Hampshire's outdoors. Your membership includes two passes to Lost River—we encourage you to use them. Take a friend or relative. Use our history and one of New Hampshire's special places to build a foundation for conservation in the future.

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 $35 and includes a subscription to *Forest Notes*.

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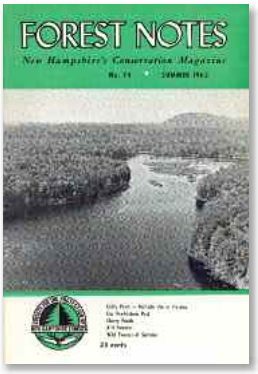
By Jack Savage

50 years ago in Forest Notes



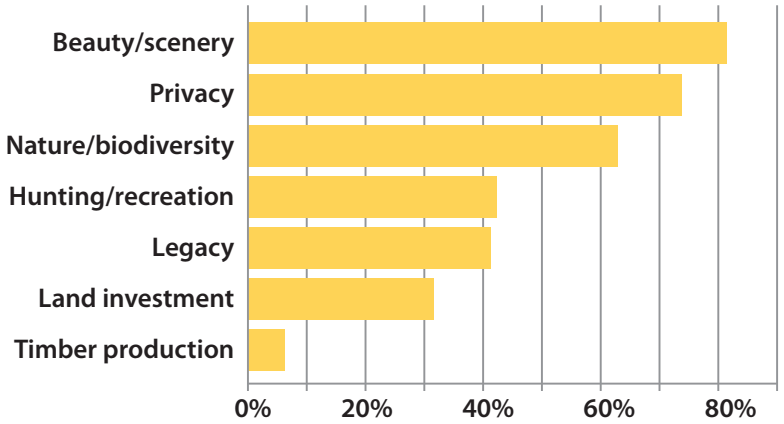
"Education in outdoor manners is of prime importance if much real pleasure and the true re-creation of the spirit which so many earnestly seek as essential relief from our noisy and wearing urban life are to be preserved." So wrote Forest Society Forester Lawrance W. Rathbun in the Summer 1962 issue of *Forest Notes*. It was a time when more and more people were looking to find such "essential relief", and Rathbun opined that while landowners should be generous in allowing public recreation, "...use respectful of others' rights is even more important."

The Summer 1962 cover photo featured Pawtuckaway Lake, then described as a 'proposed state park.'

Zankel Honored

The Forest Society recently honored Contoocook resident Mark Zankel with the Sarah Thorne Conservation Award. The award is presented annually to a conservation professional or volunteer who has made a major contribution to the protection of the New Hampshire landscape at a local, regional, or statewide level.

Zankel has served in both a professional and volunteer capacity in New Hampshire's conservation community for nearly 18 years. He guided and inspired a staff of 15 people within the NH Field Office of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and lent his expertise to numerous collaborative projects and conservation planning efforts. He contributed to the scientific underpinnings of the largest land protection project in modern New Hampshire history, the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters, and he was a leader in the creation of the State's Coastal Conservation Plan and the Ashuelot River Conservation Plan.

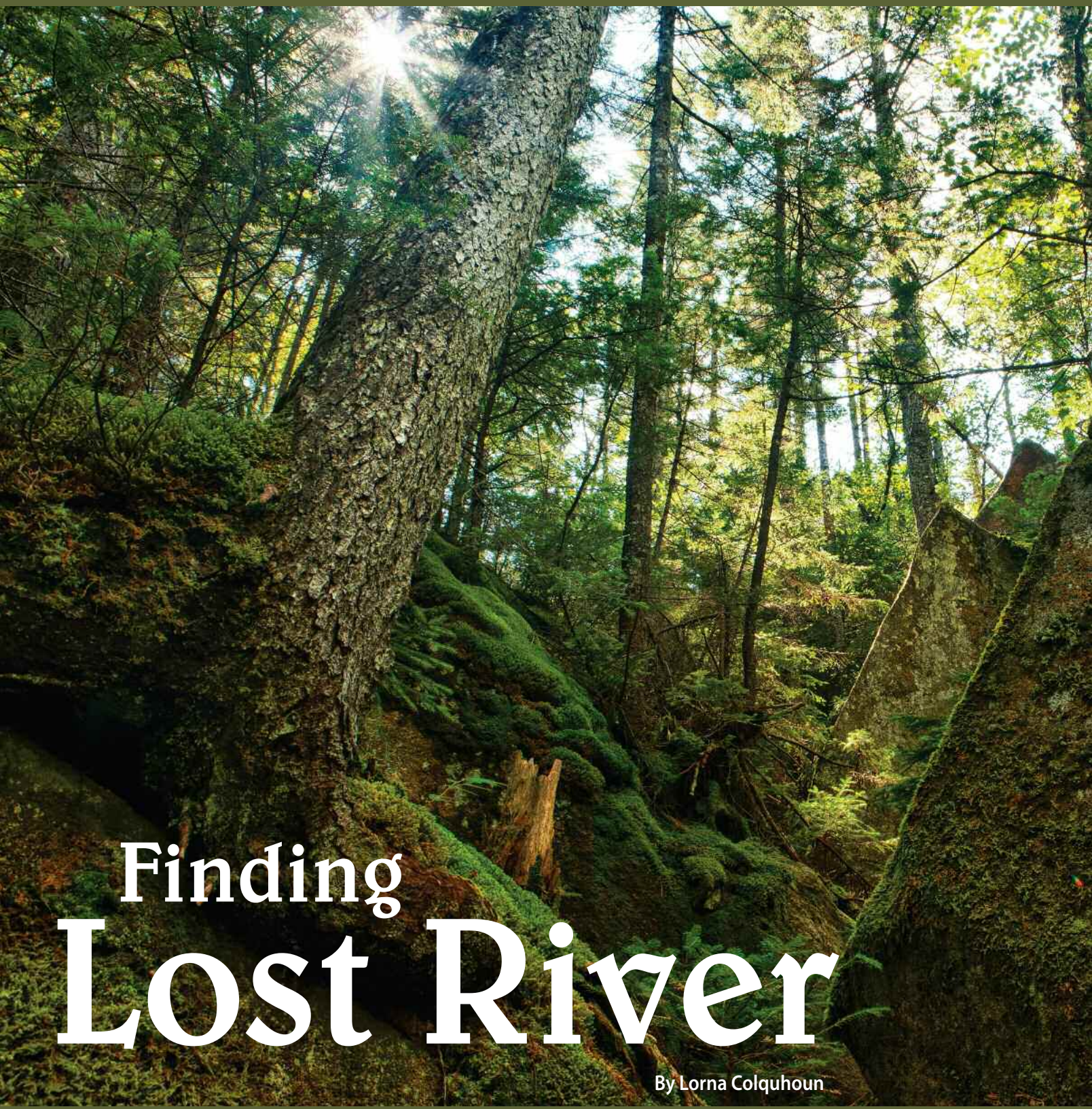


Why do New Hampshire landowners own their land? Beauty/Scenery lead the reasons. Although few landowners say that timber production is a reason for owning land, 53 percent of landowners report having conducted a harvest on their land for one reason or another. (Courtesy Karen Bennett and Tim Fleury, UNH Cooperative Extension)

The US Dept. of Agriculture is hoping NOT to catch any of the invasive beetle from China known as the emerald ash borer in traps such as these. The traps are part of the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey Program coordinated by the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) in collaboration with the NH Dept. of Agriculture, Markets and Food. The emerald ash borer is a small metallic-green beetle that kills ash trees (Fraxinus) by tunneling through the cambium layer of the tree trunk or stem. The emerald ash borer has no known natural enemies, and it has not yet been detected in New Hampshire.

Policy Update

An article on page 32 of the Spring 2012 issue of *Forest Notes* contained two errors. First, legislation proposed by Senator Jeanie Forrester to study the feasibility of burying high voltage power lines under existing state-owned transportation corridors (SB 361) was not then enacted; a separate amendment to HB 648—an amendment introduced by Senator Sylvia Larsen—was enacted. SB 361 has since been passed by both the House and Senate. The second error was the report that a second bill introduced by Senator Forrester—SB 215 to amend the existing statute governing the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee—had been enacted. The bill was, and remains at this writing, under consideration by the Legislature.



Finding Lost River

By Lorna Colquhoun

After hundreds of millions of years of being shaped by the forces of nature, the grinding stopped, the earth warmed, the Ice Age evaporated, and the last boulders in a rugged corner of New Hampshire slipped into place.

And then water began to flow, splashing over and tumbling under those enormous rocks on its way to a larger river, to be carried down to the sea.

About 25,000 years later, two curious boys would stumble upon this maze of rocks and water, proclaiming they had found Lost River, a wonder that would be rivaled only by a neighboring rock formation on the other side of the ridge.

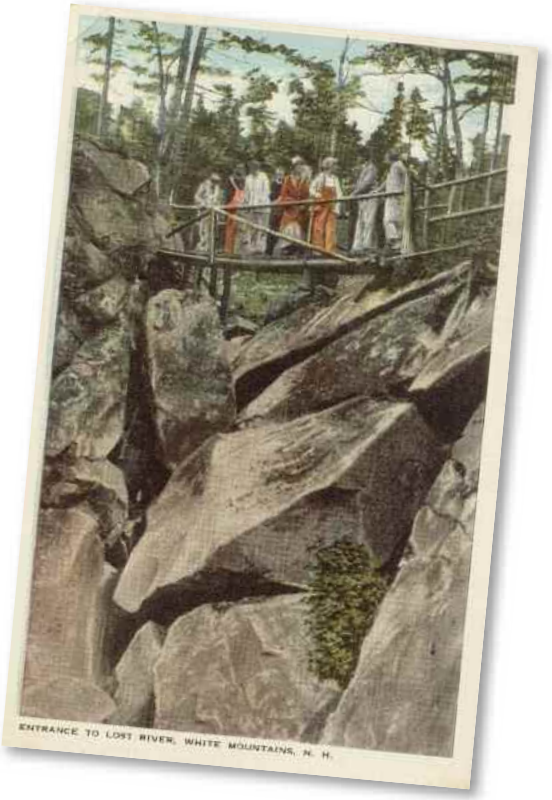
"A careful examination of this hidden wonder of nature's mysterious and prehistoric convulsion reveals wonders second to none in our state of its nature and no other natural wonder, unless it is the Old Man of the Mountain."
– *The Granite Monthly*, August 1912

Adventurous visitors and timber barons would soon follow, and the interests of the two would prompt a preservation effort that today, 100 years later, keeps open a geological portal into the distant past. This year marks the centennial anniversary of the summer that the Forest Society succeeded in acquiring Lost River and securing Kinsman Notch from being ravaged by unsustainable logging.

The maze of rocks and water that are Lost River was formed 150,000 years ago during an Ice Age that brought with it swaths of glaciers. A mile or more thick, the glaciers spent 125,000 years moving southeastward over the White Mountains grinding, lifting, and depositing the rocks that carved and slashed the landscape. Photo by Jerry and Marcy Monkman, EcoPhotography.

Opposite page: *Although the forces that have carved and shaped Lost River Gorge continue to write its history, Lost River is largely the same now as it was the day Lyman Jackman dropped into Shadow Cave in 1852. Shown here, Paradise Falls.* Photo by Jerry and Marcy Monkman, EcoPhotography.

Right: *By the early 1900s, the Jackman brothers were guiding visitors to the gorge on organized tours.* Early postcard from Forest Society archives.



In the Beginning

The history of Lost River is literally written in stone. Born 300 million years ago under the sea that covered the earth, the primordial ooze was heated and folded and cooled, heaved and folded into mountains.

The Ice Age brought with it swaths of glaciers 150,000 years ago. A mile or more thick, the glaciers spent 125,000 years moving southeastward over the White Mountains, grinding, lifting, and depositing rocks that carved and slashed the landscape.

When the ice finally melted, the water carried debris, eroding the rocks and forming the Lost River Gorge. It cut through and smoothed the rocks, carving out basins and potholes, leaving behind waterfalls and wonder.

Legend picks up Lost River's story in 1852, when brothers Lyman and Royal Jackman headed up into Kinsman Notch in search of a fishing hole, most likely what we know today as the Beaver Pond, at the height of land. Poking their way upstream, Lyman suddenly dropped from sight, landing 15 feet lower in an underground pool now called Shadow Cave.

A Natural Attraction

Over the years, the boys would return to the gorge, exploring the caves and spreading stories that began drawing visitors from beyond Woodstock.

The first organized excursion was an 1874 trek by guests of the House of the Seven Gables in North Woodstock comprised of four men and three women. The group, according to local history, spent two days in subterranean discovery, and the collective accounts soon captivated newspaper audiences in distant cities.

"For one-half mile, the stream plays hide-and-seek in the dusky chambers and under piled-up boulders before it leaps out, laughing into the air. Into that one-half mile is crowded more beauty, more grandeur and desolation and wild loveliness than brushes could paint or words could describe if they worked for 20 lifetimes," according to a 1874 newspaper account. But it wasn't until 1893, when Royal Jackman guided visitors to the gorge more than 40 years after his first exploration, that the name was proclaimed.

"This," Royal Jackman said, "is where my brother found the lost river."

Three years later, Frank Carpenter and local historian Elmer Woodbury, who would later become a devoted public servant, went through each and every cave, naming them all and painting those names, largely inspired by Greek mythology, on the rocks. Those names, like Elysian Land, the Judgment Hall of Pluto, the Cave of Odin, and the Falls of Proserpine, remain today.

Other names, like the Cave of the Lost Souls, Journey to the Center of the Earth, Devil's Kitchen, and the Hall of Ships, evoke the spirit of Jules Vern and even Indiana Jones.

Threatened by Private Interests

By the turn of the 20th century, townspeople in Woodstock and Easton decided it was time to establish a road through the notch. In 1903 the state put some money toward it, but by 1905, timber companies, with an eye on the thick, untouched forest, moved in to harvest, and the roadwork came to a halt.

Visitors to Lost River during the logging operations were as devastated as the land. "On arrival at the point in the road where we must leave for the gorge, we found ourselves in the midst of a wilderness of devastation, dead treetops, felled logs, and a network of abandoned log roads. Our cup of indignation was full when irresponsible parties built a shack, wherein to exploit the travelers' hunger, thirst, ignorance, or other weaknesses," according to *Walks and Climbs in the White Mountains*, 1926.

The Forest Society to the Rescue

In 1908, concerned with the rapacious logging, the Forest Society began negotiating with the timber contractors and raising money to buy 147 acres that included Lost River. The organization took its plea to the public.

> "The Kinsman Notch is one of great dignity and beauty, equaling the other famous notches in the state. The Publisher's Paper Co. will donate the river and 150 acres ... provided the Society will buy the standing timber on the tract, which amounts to $7,000." — Forest Society flyer, 1911

When the glacial ice finally melted, water carried debris, eroding and smoothing the rocks to carve out basins and potholes like this one. Photo by Jerry and Marcy Monkman, EcoPhotography.

Through the leadership of Forest Society forester Philip Ayres, combined with $5,000 bequeathed from the estate of Dora Martin of Dover and the remainder raised by local hotels, there was enough money to buy the land.

In July 1912, the governors of the New England states attended the annual forestry meeting at the Mount Washington Hotel in Bretton Woods. They would visit Kinsman Notch and "the famous Lost River region," according to an account in the *New York Times*, and at the meeting, "It will be determined to purchase and conserve these most remarkable of the scenic glories of the White Mountains.

> "It is the purpose of the Publishers' Paper Company to give in fee ... the 148 acres of land through which Lost River runs to the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, provided that the Society succeeds in raising sufficient funds with which to purchase from them the standing timber. More money is needed to cover the expenses of clearing up the slash and waste timber left lying by the lumbermen."
>
> — *The New York Times*, July 14, 1912

Later that week, the influential leaders of the day, including Mrs. Grover Cleveland, Gov. Robert P. Bass, two ex-governors, and now-Capt. Lyman Jackson attended a gala at the Deer Park Hotel in North Woodstock to toast the success of the Forest Society on the acquisition of the Lost River Reservation and to look to the future.

"The one important link now needing welding in order to make the chain of development complete is for the state to aid in completing the road begun a few years ago," reported The Granite Monthly in August 1912. "When this is done, the beautiful but neglected Kinsman Notch will come into what has rightfully belonged to it for years."

Development of the notch would be largely confined to creating a state road through it, connecting Woodstock with the western side of New Hampshire.

(Read more about the details of the Forest Society's efforts to protect Lost River in "Nature's View" on page 30.)

New Life for an Old Gorge

Now under the ownership of the Forest Society, Edward Rollins, the brother of former Gov. Frank Rollins, gave money to build a shelter, restaurant, and gift shop. This sturdy structure, with a massive stone fireplace, remains today. Funds were also provided so that trail crews from the Appalachian Mountain Club, including future governor Sherman Adams, could improve access to the gorge. (See the story on p. 9 about the early Lost River guides.)

Visitors continued to come and be inspired by what many considered the second wonder of New Hampshire. In his 1913 address, lamenting the end of school days no one will forget, Nashua's Mount Pleasant School valedictorian David Eaton began his speech, "I have taken as my subject, 'A Trip to One of the Greatest Natural Wonders of New Hampshire'" and told of the adventure and beauty of the wild place, analogous to the succeeding chapters of their lives.

> "Let us place for ourselves a trail broad and straight through the great world of opportunity ... the great prizes of the world are reserved for the enterprising, for those who have the courage to dare and the will to do. Let our principles be as our granite, our aspirations like our mountains, and our sympathy swift and far reaching as our rivers."
>
> — *The Nashua Telegraph,* June 21, 1913.

Lorna Colquhoun has been writing and reporting about New Hampshire's North Country for many years. A former editor of the Coos County Democrat*, she reported extensively as a correspondent for the* New Hampshire Union Leader *newspaper. She lives in Franconia.*

LOST RIVER GUIDES REVELED IN OUTDOORS, CAMERADERIE

By Lorna Colquhoun

"The guides are usually students representing the leading universities of New England. They are uniformly young men of good character and courteous in every way."
— Lost River and Going Through It, 1925

With a road in place winding through Kinsman Notch, visitors began following it to Lost River to see what was touted as one of New Hampshire's natural wonders.

They followed a boardwalk laid out through the gorge and climbed ladders placed for the hardy to crawl into and out of the caves. For those early travelers, the experience was not as it is now, for they had to gear up in coveralls and be prepared to get dirty.

To assist them, guides were employed, typically college boys with a love of adventure and the outdoors. They lived in a bunkhouse, and their duties ranged from taking tickets and dispatching parties of explorers to washing coveralls and overseeing the grounds.

"One of the great charms of Lost River in the early 1960s, both for the tourists and for us guides, was the lack of commercialism," said David Nelson of Reading, Mass., a guide from 1959 to 1962, the 50th anniversary year. "Tourists appreciated the fact that we ran organized, one-hour tours for small groups, that we used candles instead of electric lights, and that there were few signs. We encountered many interesting people."

The social center of activity for the guides, Nelson said, was the guide shack, where the young men read and chatted. Off duty they hiked, often up to the top of Mount Moosilauke to the Dartmouth Outing Club hut.

"It was not uncommon for the guides to hike to after the evening meal, stay the night and come down before breakfast," according to a remembrance of a 1937 guide.

Among the strapping lads arose their competitive natures, with a record of 50 minutes one year hiking from Lost River to the Moosilauke summit.

After hours, they would also spend time crawling through rocks "to which the public was not invited," according to archival remembrances.

"The friends, particularly the girlfriends, were treated at night by candlelight to crawls with such names as 'Fat Man's Misery,' 'the Nutcracker' and the 'Bobby Buster,'" according to a guide's account of life in the notch. "Softball was played on the highway in the evening; into the woods was out. Outs were frequent."

Early Lost River guides followed a boardwalk laid out through the gorge and climbed ladders placed for the hardy to crawl into and out of caves. Forest Society archive photo.

In the late 1930s, a musical group was formed, the Micro-cephalic Musical Melodramatic Mummers. It was part bottle band and part ensemble, with typical band instruments supplemented by the odd washboard.

"Often we would just take advantage of an evening's peace and quiet to read or just to contemplate life and our unknown futures," Nelson said.

Friendships made each summer at Lost River often spanned lifetimes. In a 1987 remembrance, H.E. Laurence, a guide for two summers in the late 1930s as he studied to be a doctor, told of a party from Michigan that included the physician-in-chief at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

"That's how I got my internship," Laurence wrote.

Fifty years later, he wrote six pages describing all that Lost River meant to him; "two of the best summers I ever had," a knowledge and appreciation of birds, and a love of mountains and hiking.

"Last, but by no means least, the friendship in Gil Knowles," he wrote, referring to the man who founded the Nature Garden at Lost River and who spent many summers working there. "Gil eventually left Lost River and returned to the family home in Epsom to help run the family business. He became my patient and I monitored his health for the rest of his life."

Remembrances of the early guides at Lost River are full of affection and even longing for days that were carefree and fun.

"I never get tired of the place," the late Dwight Taylor of Franconia said in a 1987 newspaper article. "I can't explain it, but it's such a special place."

A 1952 newspaper article concluded, "The boys tell of Lost River with a reverence that enhances its awe-inspiring beauty."

Left: *The nostalgia of caves still lit by lanterns remains.*

Right: *Sturdy boardwalks meander through the gorge, set in a way that allows those who prefer to bypass the caves to do so.*

100 Years Later — Enjoying Lost River Gorge Today

By Lorna Colquhoun Photos by Jerry and Marcy Monkman, EcoPhotography.

Although the forces that have carved and shaped the gorge continue to write its history, geologically, Lost River is largely the same now as it was the day Lyman Jackman dropped into Shadow Cave in 1852. Its ongoing preservation as one of the wonders of the Granite State has evolved over the past 100 years, since the Forest Society stepped in to save it and Kinsman Notch from wide-scale logging that would have made this special place very different.

More than just an experience, a visit to Lost River today is a peek into a timeless wonder for the visitors who pause along the way. It offers a bridge between the generations in this ever-changing world, where parents and grandparents bring children and grandchildren to share the fond memories of a place that has remained virtually unchanged by man over the last century.

Visitors no longer have to change into coveralls before going through the gorge and caves, thanks to the installation of a boardwalk; now comfortable shoes and a sense of adventure are the only accompaniments required to experience the beauty of Paradise Falls or take on the challenge of wiggling through the Lemon Squeezer or the Dungeon.

The sturdy boardwalks meander through the gorge, set in a way that allows those who prefer to bypass the caves to do so. One can only imagine the hands that have passed over the handrails, leaving them smooth and taking from them a story or a photograph.

Below: *The caves of Lost River have names, such as the Cave of the Lost Souls, Journey to the Center of the Earth, Devil's Kitchen, and the Hall of Ships (shown here) that evoke the spirit of Jules Vern and Indiana Jones.*

Throughout the season, school groups and summer camp kids enjoy Lost River as an outdoor classroom, where they not only find it, but also learn about the history, the geology, the plant and wildlife, all of which enhances their understanding of how the world came to be.

The success and popularity of Lost River as one of the draws to the region comes from the Forest Society's partnership with White Mountains Attractions. Since 1967, the association, headquartered down the road in North Woodstock, has managed the daily operations of Lost River Gorge and Boulder Caves.

Together the Forest Society and White Mountains Attractions complement each other, tying together seamlessly the interests of preservation and education and introducing a beautiful place to visitors from around the world.

"In today's fast paced technological world, a walk through Lost River offers a bridge between ages," said Deb Williams, manager of Lost River Gorge. "While the boardwalks have been improved to protect the fragile environment, the nostalgia of caves still lit by lanterns remains."

On this centennial anniversary year of Forest Society ownership of Lost River, visitors can explore a new trail that takes them above the gorge, passing an old-growth tree, a giant pothole, and a vernal pool. New signs that include cave maps, photos, and a timeline offer visitors a window on Lost River's geological history, from its formation to the present day.

If you close their eyes and simply listen, you hear the elemental sounds of the ages, the rushing water and wind whispering through the trees—two things that have not, nor will ever, change.

Lost River Gorge and Boulder Caves Events

In celebration of 100 years of conservation by the Forest Society.
All events take place at Lost River Gorge & Boulder Caves
1712 Lost River Road, Route 112W, North Woodstock. For more information
or to register, contact (603) 745-8031 or info@lostrivergorge.com.

SATURDAYS | 7:30 – 9 pm

June, July, August: Saturday Evening Lantern Tours

Lost River is astonishing during the day and becomes a whole new adventure at night when the caves are lit by lanterns and boardwalks by headlamps. This guided lantern tour takes about 1.5 hours and begins between 7:30-8:00 pm on Saturdays only. When we are finished exploring, we'll gather around the campfire for s'mores. By reservation only; space is limited. $27 per person.

THURSDAYS | 7 – 8 pm

July & August: Evening Program Series

Join White Mountains New Hampshire for an educational evening series. Topics will concentrate on Kinsman Notch and the Lost River area, with guest speakers focusing on history, ecology, forestry, and wildlife. For more information, visit www.findlostriver.com.

July 5: Geology (speaker TBD)

July 12: Mike Dickerman on Kinsman Notch

July 19: Dave Anderson from the Forest Society on Old Growth Forests (See detailed description above.)

July 26: Ben Kilham on Black Bear Behavior

August 2: Rick and Carolyn Hunt, the Laughing Couple, on Abenaki Storytelling

August 9: Squam Lakes Natural Science Center staff on NH Wildlife

August 16: Dick Fortin from Tin Mountain on Logging in NH's White Mountains

August 23: Lost River guides from the past tell stories around the campfire

August 30: Historical Musician Bob Kilham recreates the sights and sounds of mid 19th-century America

THURSDAY JULY 19 | 6 to 8 pm

The Protection of Lost River in 1912 and the Role of Primeval (Old Growth) Forest

Join Forest Society Director of Education and Volunteer Services Dave Anderson on a strenuous, fast-paced, off-trail hike to see some of the oldest trees at Lost River. Explore relict stands and small fragments of old-growth forest that are exceedingly rare in New Hampshire and learn about the important historical role that such primeval trees played in early Forest Society land conservation campaigns. You'll also hear the story about how the Forest Society protected Lost River Gorge and Boulder Caves. Hike begins at 6 pm sharp and will be followed by an indoor lecture from 7-8 pm.

Explore fragments of old-growth forest that are exceedingly rare in New Hampshire and learn about the important historical role that these primeval trees played in early Forest Society land conservation campaigns. Photo by Laura Alexander.

TUESDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS | 2 – 4 pm

September and October: Special Guided Tours

Join us for a guided tour through Lost River Gorge. In addition to climbing, crawling, and squeezing in and out of the 11 boulder caves, the guides will share the natural and cultural history of the gorge. This tour is included in the cost of general admission, but space is limited to the first 25 people.

SUNDAY | All Day

October 14: End of Season Celebration

Lost River Gorge has been protected by the Forest Society for 100 years. Join us in celebrating the end of our special centennial season. FREE admission for those dressed in costume, including overalls and flat caps. Live entertainment, plus end-of-season sales in the gift shop.

Farming through the Ages at Musterfield

Thanks to a visionary landowner, a dedicated community, and a conservation easement, this historic Sutton farm remains productive today.

By Dave Anderson

Like much of central New Hampshire, if you were to survey rural Sutton from above, a rare emerald patch of open fields would catch your eye. Compared to the rich alluvial floodplains along the Contoocook, Merrimack, and Connecticut Rivers, the upland hill country is not well-endowed with pasture, hay fields, and tillage. Rolling, shady foothills and narrow, flashy river valleys are all now re-cloaked by forests long after the peak of the Agrarian Age.

It's rare to discover open hill farm landscape surrounding the site of an early settler's original homestead not only intact, but also under continuous cultivation and management. The earliest New Hampshire farmers had the "pick of the litter" and typically sought out the flattest sites with the most productive agricultural soils and a southern aspect with fewer boulders, ledges, ravines, swamps, and frost-pockets. That's asking a lot of terrain of which it's oft said, "If it ain't swamp, its ledge."

Precious few of New Hampshire's early hill farm landscapes remain essentially unchanged. Sutton's most notable exception is Muster Field Farm. This working landscape comprises 265 acres that include more than 50 acres of open fields—flower, herb, and vegetable gardens, hay fields, and livestock pastures—surrounding the historic Matthew Harvey Homestead.

A Historic Family Homestead

The very first commodities the Harvey Family homestead produced were statesmen, soldiers, and writers. The family patriarch, Matthew Harvey, was 22 when he came to Sutton in 1772. By 1774 he had established his farm. At the time of his death in 1799, he had

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Opposite page: *Precious few of New Hampshire's early hill farm landscapes remain essentially unchanged. Sutton's most notable exception is Muster Field Farm, shown here with Mount Kearsarge in the background.* Photo by Dave Anderson.

This page, top: *The farm produces cordwood, livestock, fruits, and vegetables, including the corn shown here.* Photo by Marlie Morris.

This page, middle: *Muster Field owes much of its business success today to Manager Steve Paquin, shown here, who took a job chopping wood for Bob Bristol in 1988.* Photo by Joyce El Kouarti.

This page, bottom: *Robert "Bob" Bristol collected and restored barns and farm outbuildings, like the Hardy-Pillsbury Barn shown here. Prior to his death in 1993, Bob Bristol placed more than 200 acres of the farm into a permanent conservation easement held by the Forest Society with the expectation that the farm would be* "maintained and operated for educational purposes as an historic working farm." Photo by Dave Anderson.

Left: *Muster Field Farm has remained in active agricultural production for nearly 240 years. A palpable sense of history in the buildings and on the land itself is apparent to visitors. Some of the farm buildings that Bob Bristol collected are visible here just beyond the neat rows of flowers and vegetables.* Photo by Joyce El Kouarti.

raised five sons and two daughters and become Sutton's largest landowner. His eldest sons, Jonathan and Matthew, had distinguished careers in the NH House of Representatives, State Senate, and US Congress. Matthew served as governor of New Hampshire and was appointed a US district court judge, serving until his death in 1866.

Two other sons, Phillip and John, were high-ranking military officers. The farm's large, open fields are where Colonial-era militias assembled during the 18th and early 19th centuries until 1854. Granddaughter Augusta Harvey Worthen wrote the definitive history of Sutton, and granddaughter Theresa chronicled the military musters at the farm.

The industrial revolution changed the face of rural New Hampshire as rail and road transportation corridors expanded along the major rivers, providing waterpower for industrial mill sites—THE economic engine of the 20th Century Merrimack watershed. As commerce migrated to larger cities and towns during the post-Civil War era, quaint upland hill farms and the unique rural farm culture faded. By the 1920s, decades of farm abandonment and better economic opportunities elsewhere conspired against remaining hill farms, the original rustic cradle of Yankee culture.

Bob Bristol's Legacy

Enter long-time Sutton selectman and founder of the Muster Field Farm Museum, Robert "Bob" Bristol. Bristol's family purchased Muster Field Farm in 1941 from Harvey family descendants who had continued to reside on the family farm in unbroken succession for more than 150 years. Bristol operated a dairy and chicken farm into the 1960s. He also collected barns and farm outbuildings the way others collect antique cars, relocating many buildings to Muster Field Farm and restoring them. The main Matthew Harvey Homestead is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Muster Field Farm is now a nonprofit organization. Bristol exhibited foresight and generosity in protecting his land by creating an endowment to cover future expenses. Just prior to his death in 1993, he placed more than 200 acres of the farm into a permanent conservation easement held by the Forest Society. In his will, he wrote that Muster Field Farm would be "maintained and operated

PROTECTED PRODUCE

Summer is the perfect time to seek out farm-fresh fruits, vegetables, and dairy products. Why not do your shopping at a local farm stand on conservation land? Here's a short list of protected farms throughout New Hampshire, below. Many are open seasonally, so be sure to check days and hours of operation ahead of time.

Warren Farm
Barrington
868-2001
www.warrenfarmnh.com

Brookford Farm
Canterbury
742-4084
www.brookfordfarm.com

Carter Hill Orchard
Concord
225-2625
www.carterhillapples.com

Dimond Hill Farm
Concord
224-0602
www.dimondhillfarm.com

Emery Farm
Durham
742-8495
www.emeryfarm.com

Tracie's Farm
Fitzwilliam
209-1851
www.traciesfarm.com

Beans and Greens
Gilford
293-2853
www.beansandgreensfarm.com

Applecrest Farm Orchards
Hampton Falls
926-3721
www.applecrest.com

Brookdale Fruit Farm
Hollis
465-2240
www.brookdalefarms.com

Stonewall Farm
Keene
357-7278
www.stonewallfarm.org

Mack's Apples
Londonderry
434-7619
www.macksapples.com

Sunnycrest Farm
Londonderry
432-9652
www.sunnycrestfarmnh.com

Spring Ledge
New London
526-6253
www.springledgefarm.com

Muster Field Farm
North Sutton
927-4276
www.musterfieldfarm.com

Rosaly's Garden and Farmstand
Peterborough
924-7774
www.rosalysgarden.com

Boggy Meadow Farm
Walpole
756-3300
www.boggymeadowfarm.com

Kearsarge-Gore Farm
Warner
456-2319

Eccardt Farm
Washington
495-3157
eccardtfarm@gsinet.net

Left: *Muster Field Farm is a valuable local asset, one of Sutton's official community cornerstones. The farmland quietly continues its work providing food, wood, and an education to those in the community who visit to buy flowers, vegetables, or to volunteer.* Photo by Amanda Borozinski.

for educational purposes as an historic working farm," and that the museum would "promote and encourage the education of the public on the history of agriculture in New Hampshire."

The Business of Farming

The farm's production of fruits, vegetables, and livestock has diversified to include sale of cordwood. Its maple sugar operation ceased production with a fire that claimed the sugarhouse a decade ago. This past winter, the annual January ice harvest demonstration faced a new challenge: mild weather and thin ice. Yet weather has always been a central challenge in all farming. The ice cut from Kezar Lake is used to make old-fashioned hand-cranked ice cream during the annual "Farm Days" weekend, to be held this year on August 25 and 26.

The business of farming at Muster Field today owes its success to Manager Steve Paquin, who took a job chopping wood for Bob Bristol in 1988. Muster Field now employs seasonal staff, and volunteers help with gardening and maintaining the multiple buildings. Farm produce is sold on-site at the farm stand and at the New London farmer's market, which Steve calls "the main social event of the week." The farm also sells produce to the La Meridiana Italian restaurant in Wilmot. Surplus produce is donated to the local food pantry and the food bank in Concord. "The community gives us so much," Paquin said. "We try to give back as much as we can."

Paquin is as much philosopher as farm manager. "It used to be that *everybody* farmed, they HAD to farm," he said. "But today's society is fractured—we are so far removed from the land. Muster Field helps repair that connection."

Paquin is equally passionate about the emerging opportunities and hurdles that small farms now face. "Everything is changing," he said. "The 'local thing' isn't as strange as it used to be. Suddenly, people are starting to understand it." On the downside, "Now there are all these new regulations that make it hard to do business." Federal food certification programs can be both burdensome and expensive, he said—"you can't have the cows sitting next to the broccoli patch."

"Every supermarket has its own certifying agency, so it's a cumbersome system," he said. "It's not a big deal for the big guy, but for the small farmer, it's a real problem... farms need security. When food supply stops, everything else stops."

A Community Cornerstone

Muster Field Farm is a valuable local asset, one of Sutton's official community cornerstones. The farmland quietly continues its work providing food, wood, and an education to those in the community who visit to buy flowers, vegetables, or to volunteer. Paquin is quick to point out that compared to most small farms, they are very lucky. "Every year we keep growing a little bit," he said."This place is run on a shoestring, and there's an endowment that helps to pay the bills."

When asked about the future, Paquin paused and said, "Well, for me, the decision-making is pretty easy: 'what would Bob do?'" In that way, Bristol's legacy still guides Muster Field Farm's core priorities today.

The farm has remained in active agricultural production for nearly 240 years. The land has witnessed economic boom and bust. Its hard-won open fields have survived against long odds. A palpable sense of history in the buildings and on the land itself is apparent to visitors. Beyond neat rows of decorative flowers, vegetables, sweet corn, and potatoes, fields stretch to the distant edge of the woodlot. It's easy to imagine an echo of bugles or the report of musket fire. You might even detect the faintest sulfur scent of burnt black powder.

Tours of the historic Harvey homestead are conducted during Open House Sundays from July 1 to October 7 from 1 to 4 pm. Visit the Muster Field Farm website at www.musterfieldfarm.com to learn more about this year's calendar of events.

A resident of Sutton, Dave Anderson is the director of education and volunteer services for the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.

Recalling a Memorable Compromise

The history of Franconia Notch reminds us to resist the temptation of a 'mess of pottage'.

By Jack Savage

A historical look south at the heart of Franconia Notch at its narrowest point with Echo Lake and US Route 3 in the foreground. The Interstate would have been cut into the ledges at the left. NH Economic Development Division photo by Trask's Studio.

The battle that has been enjoined over the proposed Northern Pass project is reminiscent of another long-term struggle to protect the state's closely held scenic values. Northern Pass, if allowed to go forward, would cause more than 1,100 towers draping high voltage power lines across 180 miles of New Hampshire's landscape with no real benefit to the state.

Franconia Notch, that "huge museum of curiosities" (according to a tourist brochure from a century ago) or "cornucopia of natural and scenic wonders" (as the *Union Leader* newspaper described it earlier this year) includes the waterfalls and The Basin (a giant natural stone bowl), the gorge known as The Flume, Echo and Profile Lakes, towering cliffs and the dramatic prospect of the great mountain pass that some called "little Yosemite". The famous Old Man may have tumbled, but his family of natural wonders remains.

The Notch has been the target of two major campaigns to protect it. In the 1920s, after the grand hotel Profile House burned, the 6,000-acre parcel was threatened by a potential short-sighted liquidation cut. The Forest Society, aided by many including the New Hampshire Federation of Women's Clubs, led a campaign to conserve the land instead.

"What man or woman is there who would not gladly purchase one but many trees, to save the Notch from the woodman's axe, the hawker's raucous call, the hot dog vendor's station, and the curio vendor's stand," asked the *Bulletin*, the magazine of the women's clubs. "We of New Hampshire will not sell our birthright for a mess of pottage."

If you aren't entirely familiar with the phrase 'mess of pottage', it's a biblical reference to Esau selling his birthright for a bowl of lentil stew. It's used to describe when something immediately attractive but ultimately of little value is exchanged for something less tangible but infinitely more valuable.

In the end, the money was raised thanks to a national campaign and the Notch was conserved. Since 1928 Franconia Notch has been dedicated to the men and women of New Hampshire who served the nation in times of war.

But three decades later a four-lane divided superhighway was proposed to be blasted through the heart of the Notch as part of the new interstate highway system. In order to maintain consistent highway speeds for motorists, the section would need to be as straight and level as possible—which would involve blasting, filling and grading in the State Park, including some filling in of Echo and Profile Lakes. Goodbye, birthright.

In 1960, *Forest Notes* magazine editor Leslie Clark suggested that the then-proposed

highway from Concord to White River Junction (I-89, leading to I-91 and points north) was more than adequate, noting that "two roads as access from Massachusetts to Montreal are grossly extravagant." Citizens were rightfully upset that the federal government was proposing the 'widen, blast-and-level' option because it was the cheapest way to go since the state already owned the land.

The Forest Society and the Appalachian Mountain Club, among others, would go on to point out that there were other options, such as a two-lane parkway that followed the natural contours of the landscape.

Ultimately, the debate was settled through a compromise inked in 1983 by the State,

the Forest Society, and the Appalachian Mountain Club. The "Peace Treaty," as it was

called, led to the only section of the nation's 47,000 miles of the Interstate Highway System that was modified due to an exceptional natural landscape. The birthright was saved from the cheap-and-easy proposal.

Beware the mess of pottage.

Jack Savage is the editor of Forest Notes *magazine. He can be reached at jsavage@forestsociety.org.*

THE FOREST SOCIETY'S

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH

Annual Meeting

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2012

Stonewall Farm, Keene

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: PHIL BRYCE

State of NH Director of Parks and Recreation

Capturing The Moment: Conservation In Our Daily Lives

Phil Bryce is currently the State of NH Director of Parks and Recreation. He previously served as the director of Forests and Lands for the State of New Hampshire for 11 years and has also worked as the president of Fountains America. He holds forestry licenses in New Hampshire and Maine and currently lives in Deering.

Left: *The mission of Stonewall Farm, where the Forest Society's 111th Annual Meeting will be held, is to connect people to the land and to the role of local agriculture in their daily lives.* Courtesy Photo.

FIELD TRIPS: *Join us on one of these FREE field trips to experience the scenic landscapes that convey the flavor of land conservation and forest stewardship in the Monadnock Region. Field trips will be held in Jaffrey, Keene, Walpole, Stoddard, and surrounding communities.*

For updated information visit www.forestsociety.org or call (603) 224-9945.

1 Farm and Forest History at Mount Monadnock, Jaffrey

10 AM to 3:30 PM

The Forest Society recently expanded its largest forest reservation, the 4,500-acre Monadnock Reservation, with the conservation of another 400 acres. Join us on a tour of this recently acquired tract and learn about the rich history of farming, forestry, and land conservation as we visit the sites of Shaker farms from 1810-1873.

Difficulty: *Moderate hike with off-trail exploration*

2 Hurricane Hill Hike, Keene

10 AM to 3:30 PM

Join us on a guided bushwack through the extensive network of conservation easements donated by Susan Doyle and her late husband, Peter Doyle, along Hurricane Mountain Road at the Doyle Tree Farm on Keene's west side. We'll also visit land owned by the City of Keene on Hurricane Hill under conservation with the Monadnock Conservancy.

Difficulty: *Strenuous*

Co-sponsored by the Monadnock Conservancy

3 Exploring Goose Pond, Keene

10 AM to 3:30 PM

In 2009, a conservation easement was donated to the Forest Society by the City of Keene on its scenic 1,044-acre Goose Pond Reservation. We'll explore the trails that cross the rugged hills surrounding the pond, stopping along the way to share details about the area's natural history. Weather permitting, we'll end the trip with a refreshing dip in Goose Pond.

Difficulty: *Moderate*

Co-sponsored by by the Keene Conservation Commission and Friends of Keene Open Space

4 Tour High Blue Forest Reservation, Walpole

Noon to 3:30 PM

Join us on an easy ramble along the trail system of this beautiful upland property donated by Stephen Warner featuring open fields, mixed hardwood forest and beautiful views of the Connecticut River Valley. You'll also learn about the Forest Society's recent acquisition of a 60-plus-acre addition to High Blue that expands the trail system.

Difficulty: *Easy*

Cosponsored by Walpole Conservation Commission

5 Forestry and Forest Health at Dickenson Memorial Forest, Swanzey

Noon to 3:30 PM

The Dickenson Memorial Forest is a managed, white pine woodlot where concern for Caliciopsis canker (Pine Canker) factored into a recent timber salvage to prevent the spread of the disease. This tour will visit the site of the harvest and explore the larger issue of new forest health concerns.

Difficulty: *Easy*

Cosponsored by Swift Corwin, Corwin and Calhoun Forestry, and the NH Division of Forests and Lands

6 Pitcher Mountain Hike — Past, Present, and Future of Trails in the Q2C, Stoddard

1:30 – 3:30 pm

Hike to the summit of Pitcher Mountain on this short loop hike offering panoramic views of the Quabbin-to-Cardigan (Q2C) region of southwestern New Hampshire. We'll hear about a new effort by the Forest Society and its partners to work with landowners and trail enthusiasts to expand hiking opportunities in the region and look for hawks during the peak of their fall migration.

Difficulty: *Moderate*

Cosponsored by Monadnock-Sunapee-Greenway Trail Club

7 Tour of Stonewall Farm, Keene

3 to 4:30 PM

This special late afternoon tour will include Stonewall Farm's small animal barn, paddocks, hoop houses and solar dome greenhouse, and Belgian draft horses. We'll learn about the history of the farm and sample Stonewall Farm products, including yogurt or cheddar cheese.

Difficulty: *Easy*

Cosponsored by Stonewall Farm

All field trips and tours are free with annual meeting registration, but space is limited, so please register early!

See back cover for registration options.

Summer Events: July through Sept. 2012

Go online. Get outside. Visit our website for a complete and up-to-date list of field trips and special events: www.forestsociety.org and click on the "Things To Do" tab.

You may preregister by calling (603) 224-9945 extension 313, or you may register online at signup@forestsociety.org. Most programs are free unless otherwise noted.

www.forestsociety.org/thingstodo

TUESDAY, JULY 3 | 8:30pm – 10:00pm (OR AFTER THE FIREWORKS)

Full Moon Night Hike

Evelyn H. & Albert D. Morse, Sr. Preserve, Alton

Forest Society Land Stewards Ken and Suzanne Marvin will lead a group of outdoor enthusiasts on a Full Moon Night Hike at the beautiful Morse Preserve. This year's July Full Moon coincides with the Alton Bay Firework Celebration on the evening of the 3rd. We hope to see fireworks off in the distance, then hike back by moonlight. Bring your headlamps or flashlights and water, and dress in layers.

Registration: Pre-registration is requested; contact the Marvins at ksmarvin@gmail.com or 781-272-7878.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11 | 10 am – 2 pm

Tour the NEW Wenny-Baker Forest

Wenny-Baker Forest on Thompson Hill, Hillsborough

Located in the Quabbin-to-Cardigan land conservation focus area, the Forest Society's new 375-acre Wenny-Baker Forest on Thompson Hill abuts Lowe State Forest. We'll explore dry red oak forests, stonewalls and apple trees left from early farms, and drinking springs along hiking trails. The land also contains the entire summit of Thompson Mountain with an elevation of 1,760 feet, offering dramatic views south and east to Mount Monadnock and the Contoocook River Valley. (See p. 26 to read more about the Wenny-Baker Forest.)

Co-sponsored by Hillsborough Conservation Commission.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 | 10 am – 3 pm

Trail Maintenance and Construction Basics

Conservation Center, Concord

This workshop will cover the basic skills and techniques for maintaining hiking trails, as well as for designing and building new trails. Trail professionals from the Appalachian Mountain Club will lead the group in both indoor and outdoor field sessions. Come ready for some outdoor practice!

Cosponsored by the New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF).

Cost: $10 for non-members; FREE for NEFF and/or Forest Society members and land stewards.

ART EXHIBIT

This exhibit can be viewed Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm at the Conservation Center Conference Room, located at 54 Portsmouth Street in Concord. As the Conference Room is used for meetings, please call (603) 224-9945 before visiting to confirm that the room is open.

SEPTEMBER 1 – OCTOBER 31

Jeff Sluder: Magnificent Mushrooms

"Destroying Angel" by Jeff Sluder.

Sluder's interest in mushrooms began with a lecture that he attended in Portsmouth. He wanted to learn which mushrooms in our woods were poisonous and which were edible. However, as a photographer, he became increasingly fascinated by their form and structure. The images in this exhibit were largely taken with a pocket camera in the woods near his home in Kingston, NH. Some of the photos are true to life and stand on their own while others were manipulated using color or mirroring to emphasize the mushroom's patterns and form.

Sluder is a contributing photographer to the Forest Society as well as member of the Newburyport Art Association and the New Hampshire Society of Photographic Artists. Visit www.sluderphotography.com for more information.

The Hazelton Farm at the northern tip of Newfound Lake includes more than a half mile of frontage along the Cockermouth River and 1.5 miles along Wise Brook, home to brook trout and salmon. Photo by Brian Hotz.

SATURDAY, JULY 21 | 10 am – 3 pm

Hazelton Family Land Hiking Tour

Hazelton Farm, Hebron

Join us for a guided hike of the Forest Society's latest conservation project and discover how conserving the 275-acre Hazelton Farm at the northern tip of Newfound Lake will protect more than a half mile of Cockermouth River frontage and 1.5 miles along Wise Brook, home to brook trout and salmon. A conservation easement will also protect drinking water supplies, productive hay fields, well-managed forests, and scenic views while expanding a growing regional network of conservation land. We will tour the farm's productive agricultural fields and a recent timber harvest on this well-managed Tree Farm, then hike along Wise Brook and learn about its natural and cultural resources. (See p. 33 to learn more about the Hazelton Farm.)

Co-sponsored by the Hebron Conservation Commission and Newfound Lake Region Association.

BRETZFELDER PARK LECTURE SERIES

Wednesdays in August from 7 – 8 pm
Bretzfelder Memorial Park,
Prospect Street, Bethlehem

Owned by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, Bretzfelder Park is managed in cooperation with the town of Bethlehem. Bequeathed to the Forest Society in 1984 by Helen Bretzfelder in memory of her father Charles, the Park houses a classroom, educational trails, a pond, and several picnic sites. Two series of free public educational programs are held there each year in August and February.

For more information, visit www.therocks.org or call (603) 444-6228.

AUGUST 1 – BARB'S NATURE SONGS

Combining her musical aptitude with a master's degree in environmental education, local musician Barbara Desroches will perform engaging songs packed with wildlife facts. Her animal puppet friends help her entertain and teach as she explains the roles that animals play in nature. Desroches' performance will be geared toward children ages three and older.

AUGUST 8 – WILDLIFE HABITAT TRAIL

Local naturalist and Bethlehem Elementary School Teacher Priscilla Didio will lead visitors through Bretzfelder Park's 1.5-mile interpretive trail. Participants will explore several wildlife habitats, including wetlands, beaver marsh, spruce-fir forest, and deciduous forest. The trail includes several educational signs describing the different habitats and the wildlife that live in them.

AUGUST 15 – OWLS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

A naturalist from the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center will bring three owls native to New Hampshire to Bretzfelder Park and describe their habits, along with myths and facts about these beautiful nocturnal birds. This hands-on, interactive program is designed to engage and educate people of all ages.

AUGUST 22 – WILD LANDS FIREFIGHTING

Steve Sherman, District Ranger The Wardens, Special Wardens and the Deputy Wardens of the NH Division of Forests and Lands, will join members of the Bethlehem Fire Department to demonstrate the equipment, tools, and tactics for wild land firefighting. This presentation will include a live demonstration, weather permitting.

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

Summit Circle
($5,000 and up)

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Camp Pemigewassett, Inc.
Event Builders, LLC
Inns at Mills Falls
The Mountain Corporation
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Prince Communications
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Superior Nut Company, Inc.
Wassett Investment Fund, LLC
Winnipesaukee Chocolates

Steward
($750 to $999)

Durgin & Crowell Lumber Co., Inc.
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Wendell Veterinary Clinic

Colleague
($250 to $499)

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Arcomm Communications Corporation
BLAKTOP, Inc.
Cersosimo Lumber Co., Inc.
Forest Land Improvement, Inc.
Meadowsend Timberlands, Ltd. Ptn.
MegaPrint, Inc.
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And many thanks to those businesses who give less than $250.

The Forest Society…Where Conservation and Business Meet

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

Bunny Business in the Forest

By George Frame and Wendy Weisiger

The New England Cottontail rabbit has the potential to be placed on the federal endangered species list if its numbers don't increase over the next few years. The wildlife community, including the Forest Society, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the NH Department of Fish and Game, the Wildlife Management Institute, The Nature Conservancy, and the NH Association of Conservation Districts, among others, has been taking positive action to see that the rabbit stays off the list.

These conservation partners have been working to create rabbit habitat on conservation lands in the Seacoast within the Cottontail's normal range. These efforts involve the removal of overstory trees and their replacement with shrubs and brush that provide cover. Generally, these habitat creation projects take place in locations off the beaten path, far from roads, trails, and houses.

In 2011 the NH Fish and Game Department created a 20-acre opening on its Bunker Lane Tract in Durham, adjacent to one of the Forest Society's newer reservations, the Hills Forest. This seemed like a natural opportunity for the Forest Society to expand this new area of rabbit habitat. This past spring, the Forest Society hired a logging contractor to remove all the low-quality white pine, red oak, beech, and hickory from a five-acre over-grown orchard to return it to a very open condition. Yes, it was a clear cut. Following the harvest, the area was seeded using a special mix of shrub seeds provided by NH Fish and Game. Over the next few years, the land should grow into the thick, tangled, brushy state loved by the rabbits.

But the bunnies still have a problem: it will take too long for the desired level of brush cover to grow, and the rabbits need their acres of thickets now.

This past spring, the Forest Society cut a five-acre patch on its Hills Forest in Durham. Following the harvest, the area was seeded using a special mix of shrub seeds. Over the next few years, the land should grow into the thick, tangled, brushy state loved by the rabbits. Photo by Wendy Weisiger, Forest Society Staff.

After further review of the surrounding area, the project managers identified another 13 acres almost adjacent to the original five. This additional acreage will soon receive a slightly different type of treatment—"different" because, to our knowledge, it's not a treatment we have ever prescribed within a forest before. The trees on these acres will be cut and left. There will be no trucking of product to the mills, no chips sent to the local energy producers, and no firewood for the stoves next winter. In this case, the trees will not be removed to create an opening in the woods that will eventually grow into new habitat; the felled trees themselves will be the habitat. Their tangled crowns and ground-level boles will provide the rabbits with the immediate cover they need to thrive.

The Forest Society is proud of its efforts to create habitat for the New England Cottontail. There are only a few landowners in the state who have the land base, the management flexibility, and the mission-driven mandate to accommodate a project like this.

George Frame is the Senior Director of Forestry and Wendy Weisiger the Field Forester for the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.

Consulting Foresters

The Forest Society encourages landowners to consult with a licensed forester before undertaking land management activities. The following are paid advertisers.

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FEATURED FORESTER:

Swift Corwin

Corwin and Calhoun Forestry, Peterborough, NH

Swift Corwin began practicing forestry in New Hampshire in 1981, shortly after graduating from the University of Wisconsin. One cold winter day when he was out skating on Harrisville Pond, he met John Calhoun, who had been operating his own forestry business since the 1960s. The two clicked, and it wasn't long after that Corwin and Calhoun was born.

The company operates within a 50-mile radius of Peterborough, sometimes traveling further. Corwin has been working on a planning project on the Forest Society's Asheulot Headwaters Forest, a piece of land on which he has been involved for more than 25 years. In 1988, the year his daughter Lucy was born, he planted some trees there with John Calhoun. Some of these trees are now eight inches in diameter and 50 feet tall—a rate of growth that is unusual for New Hampshire. Corwin also finds it exciting to see the quality of the natural regeneration on the site, most of it invited in by harvesting practices.

"It is gratifying to be a part of the dynamic forest mosaic," he said.

Corwin has worked with multiple generations of landowners—in one case, four generations at a time on the same property—as well as succeeding generations of land managers. He makes it a priority to keep up on the latest practices and share his knowledge with his clients, but he tends to take a long-term perspective.

"Those of us who work in forestry understand that conserved land is what's going to sustain the forestry industry," he said. "On conservation land, you can really think long-term about growth and rejuvenation, how to grow a good forest that matches the soil. You can imagine how the forest will look in another 25 years."

He is thankful for the many acres of conserved land in New Hampshire, saying, "It is this work that will sustain the lifestyle and forest workplace and play place that we know and love."

Licensed foresters should address inquiries about advertising to Jack Savage at (603) 224-9945 or jsavage@forestsociety.org.

This photo of the forest floor with wildflowers was taken near the Marlboro Trail, which borders the recently conserved land on the western side of Mount Monadnock. Photo by Peggy Ueda.

Expanding Monadnock's Conservation Landscape

More than 1,000 Donors Help Forest Society Add Largest Amount of Protected Land to Monadnock Landscape in Nearly a Century

By Joyce El Kouarti

Thanks to the generosity of more than 1,000 contributors, the Forest Society has conserved 418 acres along the slopes of Mount Monadnock in Jaffrey and Marlborough.

"We are so grateful to the many individuals, businesses, and organizations that have helped us reach our goal," said Forest Society President/Forester Jane Difley. "This is our largest addition of conserved lands on Mount Monadnock since our first purchase of 650 acres in 1915."

With their forests and wetlands, the protected parcels enhance the varied wildlife habitat that the region is renowned for. These lands include several wetland complexes that provide important waterfowl nesting and feeding areas, as well as habitat for amphibians and reptiles. The waterways also serve as key travel corridors for mammals and birds.

The recently conserved land also includes footpaths, trails, and Class 6 roads that are heavily used as hiking trails, including part

of a cross country ski trail that begins at the state park headquarters.

"The mountain isn't exactly as it was when Henry David Thoreau hiked it more than 150 years ago, but he would certainly recognize much of the mountain and its trails today," said Monadnock State Park Manager Patrick Hummel. "I think he would be very pleased with the protection and preservation efforts that keep Monadnock intact."

The Forest Society owns more than half of the mountain's 6,900 conserved acres and holds conservation easements on more than 1,000 additional adjacent acres. The organization leases approximately 1,000 acres to the State of New Hampshire to be operated as Mount Monadnock State Park.

The organization's campaign was buoyed by generous donations from private foundations, state grants, and the Town of Marlborough. Thanks to the advocacy of Eastern Mountain Sports and JetBoil, the Conservation Alliance kicked off the campaign with a $25,000 donation. The NH Land and Community Heritage Program (LCHIP) contributed $125,000 toward the purchase of the two tracts on the western side of the mountain; the State Conservation Moose Plate Grant program contributed $30,000; the Town of Marlborough donated $25,000; and an anonymous donor contributed $50,000.

"Thanks to the generosity of these contributors and many others, the Forest Society was able to conserve land with tremendous natural and recreational significance," said Difley. "Now we'll be able to ensure that important sections of active hiking trails remain open to the public, and that visitors to the region can continue to enjoy views of the undeveloped mountain."

Top: *The conserved land includes several wetland complexes like this one that provide important waterfowl nesting and feeding areas, as well as habitat for amphibians and reptiles.* Photo by Brian Hotz.

Right: *This trail register marks the start of the Marlboro Trail, one of the most popular routes to the mountain's summit.* Photo by Jeff Sluder.

An Agricultural Oasis in the Seacoast

By Mike Speltz

Just as the Forest Society, through its conservation efforts, is re-assembling once-fragmented lands throughout New Hampshire, the Furnald family of South Hampton has been expanding—and protecting—Whippoorwill Farm for more than 30 years. Most recently, Clint and Kimberly Furnald conveyed a conservation easement on 76 acres in East Kingston and South Hampton to the Forest Society.

Whippoorwill Farm is a critical link in a rare agricultural and forested oasis in New Hampshire's southern tier. Just two miles from the Massachusetts border and 15 miles from New Hampshire's busy Seacoast, the farm's open fields and forests roll across the East Kingston/South Hampton town lines, connecting other conserved land.

The NH Fish and Game Department's Wildlife Action Plan has identified much of Whippoorwill's Appalachian oak-pine forest as "best in state" for this quickly disappearing type of habitat, which is unique to the Southeast and Upper Merrimack Valley, and the Towns of East Kingston and South Hampton have also identified the land as a conservation priority.

Whippoorwill Farm is a haven for many species of wildlife, including bobolinks and other birds that depend upon grassland habitat for survival. In fact, the Furnalds delay mowing portions of their fields to allow resident bobolinks to finish nesting.

This historic farmstead serves as a visual link demonstrating the owners' commitment to sustaining the region's agricultural heritage. With its 44 acres of prime and statewide significant agricultural soils, of which more than 30 acres are in active hay and forage production, the property preserves excellent farmland in an area of the state that is both the most productive and the most threatened. The fields provide hay for a local dairy farm in East Kingston, fueling the local food production cycle, while the property's forests are sustainably managed for fuel and fiber.

Whippoorwill Farm contains 44 acres significant agricultural soils, the majority of which are in active hay and forage production. These fields provide hay for a local dairy farm in East Kingston, fueling the local food production cycle. Photo by Mike Speltz.

In a state that produces only five percent of the food it consumes, preserving agricultural production is not just common sense, it is vital to our quality of life in a world of expensive fossil-fueled transportation and climate-threatened cropland. The Natural Resource Conservation Service recognizes this as do the towns of South Hampton and East Kingston. All three pulled together to contribute much of the funding needed to make this project suceed. But the key contribution was by the Furnalds themselves, who sold the easement at a substatial discount to make the project financially feasible.

The Furnald family first purchased Whippoorwill Farm in 1978 with the goal of preserving it and creating a legacy of family farming. First came smaller purchases from abutting private landowners. Then, about six years ago, a developer purchased a neighboring tract in South Hampton and proposed a large-scale subdivision. Clint, with the indispensable aid of the Howfirma Trust, put together a financing package to buy the developer out and instead conserve 35 acres. Another transaction placed 23 acres on the northeast side of the farm in East Kingston under an easement held by the town. This most recent transaction, financed by the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the towns of East Kingston and South Hampton, and contributions from many individuals, adds another 72 acres of land to the local conservation mosaic. Clint and Kimberly's oldest son is studying agriculture in college and plans to return to Whippoorwill Farm to continue his parent's farming legacy.

"We are proud share the forward-thinking conservation ethic of the Furnald Family in ensuring the long-term protection of Whippoorwill Farm," said Forest Society President/Forester Jane Difley. "We are also grateful to the conservation commissioners, select boards, and town administrators of South Hampton and East Kingston, to the NRCS, and to the many private donors who helped make the project succeed."

Black Gum Swamp Conserved

By Chris Borg

This spring, with the assistance of the Town of Northwood, the Forest Society purchased a 77-acre conservation easement from Chris and Dottie Gallagher at a reduced bargain sale.

More than 2,100 feet of ephemeral first-order streams flow through this newly-conserved land en route to the Lamprey River, a major tributary of Great Bay. As a result, protection of this property contributes to the quality of this nationally-recognized watershed.

Together, the property's upland forests, basin swamps, vernal pools, headwater streams, as well as its hay meadow contribute significantly to an interesting array of animals and plants that includes Canada warblers, bobolinks, and ancient black gum trees.

In New Hampshire, basin swamps supporting black gum, such as those found on the Gallagher's land, are an uncommon site. However, several excellent examples can be found in the Town of Northwood. Black gum is a resilient tree species that can tolerate acidic, stagnant, nutrient-poor growing conditions and a number of environmental stressors that most other species cannot, such as drought, fire, flood, shade, and even windthrow.

As a result of its adaptations to such environmental extremes, black gum is a long-lived and slow-growing species. In fact, the oldest-known hardwood tree in North America is a 700-year-old black gum from a southeastern New Hampshire swamp! According to the New Hampshire Natural Heritage Bureau, the Gallagher property is home to a black gum approaching 30 inches in diameter and estimated to be 500 years in age. Even in death, the standing trunks of black gum provide excellent habitat for mammals and birds alike.

Additionally, the property abuts other conserved lands, including Northwood Meadows State Park, creating a large contiguous block of more than 2,300 acres of formally protected lands. These conserved properties lie within a larger, mostly unfragmented 4,000-acre block of land. Composed of an interconnected network of wetlands and uplands, this area supports a diverse flora and several wide-ranging wildlife species such as black bear, bobcat, fisher, northern goshawk, and moose.

Importantly, it is within this larger block that an informal group of private and public neighbors established the Northwood Area Land Management Collaborative (NALMC). It is through this partnership that the Gallagher's were introduced to the Forest Society.

"When you live on a place as long as we have... you just fall in love with it," said Chris Gallagher. "We're committed to protecting it."

A large black gum on the Gallagher property. These stalwart trees are known to live for several hundred years.

Read more about NALMC online at **www.forestsociety.org/nalmc**

Left: *The recently-conserved land extends up and over the summit of Thompson Mountain, and offers dramatic overlooks to the south and east.* Photo by Brian Hotz.

Right: *A network of internal hiking trails crosses the land, many marked by cairns. This cairn at the summit is over eight feet high.* Photo by Brian Hotz.

Mountaintop Legacy Conserved

By Lori Johnson

If you were to hike to the top of Thompson Mountain in Hillsborough today, you might notice Mount Monadnock in the distance or the cairns along the trails, the tallest at nearly eight feet marking the summit. However, if you were a member of the Wenny family, you would notice a different view entirely. Through their eyes, you would see the family history in the landscape, now protected thanks to their generous donation of 375 acres to the Forest Society.

Douglas Wenny and Betsy Baker-Wenny contacted the Forest Society last year expressing their wish to donate this former family campsite to the organization. The land extends up and over Thompson Mountain, containing the entire summit at 1,760 feet, and includes many internal hiking trails. One trail leads to the mountain's summit, where several overlooks offer dramatic views to the south and east. A well-managed registered Tree Farm, the property has seen several improvement harvests over the last 10 years. Going forward, this land, now known as the Wenny-Baker Forest on Thompson Mountain, will be owned and managed by the Forest Society. Looking backward, it reflects the story of a family's past.

Betsy Baker-Wenny's grandparents, Donald and Margaret Baker, began summering in Hillsborough in the 1930s. The farmer who owned much of the acreage on Thompson Mountain, Walter Murdough, granted the couple permission to camp on his land with their children. Thompson Mountain may be heavily wooded now, but Mr. Murdough would have talked about the days when this place served largely as pasture for up to nine different types of cattle. Many of the hiking trails that exist today began as cow paths.

A labor of love created a lifestyle very different from the one the Wenny family lived back home in Wilmington, Dele. Without utilities or running water at the campsite, the family of six learned to live off of the land, save for the occasional journey into town. They cooked their meals over an open flame or on a propane stove; they sourced their water from natural springs on the land that they worked to clean out and maintain. The Wennys were fortunate to have apple trees and blueberry bushes nearby.

Years later, Donald and Margaret's daughter Betsy and her husband Douglas honored Betsy's family heritage by purchasing Walter Murdough's land with the help of Betsy's family. Although all the Wenny children are now grown and living across the country, conserving this piece of their past was important to all of them, as well as the town.

Conserving this land was important to others, too, including the Hillsborough Conservation Commission, which provided a grant of $17,000 to help cover some of the transaction costs related to the project. Abutting Lowe State Forest, the land is also a priority of the Quabbin-to-Cardigan (Q2C) conservation initiative.

At 375 acres, this woodlot is the second largest Forest Society reservation in Hillsborough. "It's truly inspiring to see large land gifts still coming in," said Hotz. "It's also encouraging to see the Hillsborough Conservation Commission supporting these conservation-minded donors by helping to cover project costs."

At last, the land that was the source of so many memories will now be protected in perpetuity.

Above: *Birds like this chestnut-sided warbler seen on the conserved land are not only great indicators of habitat condition, but also conduits for connecting people with place.* Photo by Len Medlock.

Right: *Hoyt Brook is one of the perennial streams that flows through the conserved land, draining into the lower Pemigewasset River watershed.* Photo by Chris Borg.

A New Hampton Haven for Songbirds

By Chris Borg

"Pleased, pleased, pleased... to meet cha," the sweet song of a male chestnut-sided warbler greeted me as I approached the late eighteenth century farmhouse of Louis Candito. This neotropical songbird, with its distinct yellow crown, black whisker stripe, and extensive chestnut flanks, is anything but resident to these woods. He merely borrows them from time to time.

"You must be Chris... Nice to meet you," Lou said, emerging from his farmhouse. "I've been trying to see that bird all morning."

This past winter, the Louis Candito Trust donated a conservation easement to the Forest Society on 174 acres in the Town of New Hampton. Situated at the headwaters of perennial Hoyt and Harper Brooks, this largely forested, mostly upland tract lies within the lower Pemigewasset River watershed, and its protection contributes to local water quality. In fact, more than 4,300 feet of first and second order streams flow through the conserved land.

Additionally, at least two vernal pools occur on the property and provide breeding habitat for wood frogs and American toads. The land's forests include pure coniferous stands of eastern hemlock as well as hardwoods dominated by American beech. Embedded within these uplands is a two-acre herbaceous drainage marsh community. The land also contains about seven acres of fields maintained for scenic westward mountain views as well as for wildlife—like the visiting chestnut-sided warbler.

In concert, the property's wetlands, fields, and forested habitats contribute significantly to a diverse flora and fauna that includes wetland plants like turtlehead as well as amphibians such as the terrestrial northern redback salamander. The land also offers safe harbor to many charismatic wildlife species, such as barred owl, black bear, and even the occasional moose.

Importantly, this newly-protected land is situated within a large unfragmented forest block designated as a conservation priority in New Hampton's 2002 Master Plan and also in the Forest Society's Lake's Region Strategic Plan.

"Fire fire...where where... here here." An indigo bunting perched high in a sugar maple revealed himself while proclaiming territory.

Throughout the day, I explored the property with Mr. Candito, taking notes, measurements, and photographs. But all the while, I kept my eyes and ears focused beyond and pointed out the more obvious and charismatic birds to Lou. A male scarlet tanager tee'd on a high snag overlooking the property's wetland provided exceptionally nice looks. By the end of this warm, late July day, we had recorded over 30 bird species!

Birds are not only great indicators of a property's habitat condition, but likewise excellent conduits for connecting people with place... the perfect formula for inspiring land conservation.

Befriending a Fen in Fremont

By Mike Speltz

The citizens of Fremont believe that they are the stewards of one of the most valuable aquatic resource in southern New Hampshire: the community's 824-acre Spruce Swamp.

Despite its popular name, Spruce Swamp is really a "fen," a wetland fed by ground water with only a minimal flow leaving the water body. The shallow bowl now filled by Spruce Swamp was created by the last glacier. Decaying wetland plants, water leached through the organic duff of surrounding forests, and a lack of water movement made the fen moderately acidic. This big, burly swamp is as dependent upon the health of the surrounding uplands as a nestling is upon the steady visits of food-bearing adult birds. Without the adjacent forest land to provide and protect a reliable flow of clean, acidified ground water, the swamp will die—or at least become a much more common meadow.

On April 2, the town added another piece of armor to the forested buffer protecting the swamp. This latest addition of 76 acres was purchased from brothers Richard and Robert Smith, with the goal of adding it to the Glen Oakes Town Forest, purchased in 2006. The Forest Society assisted in the establishment of the town forest, holds an easement on it, and has now been granted an easement on this latest 76-acre addition.

This unique habitat shelters many shrubs at the extreme northern limit of their range, including sweet pepperbush, which dominates a remarkable 200-acre sub-community that is one step from being imperiled in New Hampshire. The property is home to the state-endangered ringed bog haunter, also uncommon globally, and loon and great blue heron have been spotted nearby. The state-threatened spotted turtle and state-endangered Blandings turtle have also been found near the property. Altogether biologists have identified 104 animal and 152 plant species on the adjacent town forest, many of which will likely be found on the abutting new addition.

The town has sought to conserve Spruce Swamp for human habitat as well, to provide opportunities for people to re-connect with the land. Today, two and a half miles of newly constructed or improved trails are supported by maps and signs at each intersection, linking walkers to old cellar holes, diverse natural communities, animal pens and stone walls that testify to previous farms, and plain peace and quiet.

Spruce Swamp is really a "fen," a wetland fed by ground water with only a minimal flow leaving the water body. Without the adjacent forest land to provide and protect a reliable flow of clean, acidified ground water, the fen will die. Photo by Mike Speltz.

FRIENDS OF THE FEN

- **Robert and Richard Smith:** Who inherited this land from their grandfather and turned down offers from developers in order to preserve it.
- **Janice O'Brien:** Conservation commissioner who led the project over seven years.
- **Dennis Howland:** Open space committee chair who showed the community why conservation pays.
- **Bill Knee:** Biologist and teacher who told the Spruce Swamp story.
- **Jack Karcz:** Conservation commission chair who shepherded the project to conservation success.
- **Heidi Carlson:** Fremont town administrator who guided the project to closing.
- **Pat deBeer:** Who brought in a handful of grants to finance the project.
- **The following grantors who showed their confidence in the Town of Fremont:**
  - The State Conservation Committee's 2012 Conservation License Plate Program (Moose Plate)
  - The William P. Wharton Trust
  - The Davis Conservation Foundation
  - The Cricket Foundation
  - Fields Pond Foundation
- **The Board of Fremont Selectmen**, who stood up to be counted when it mattered most.

The Land, the Lake and the People Who Love Them

A Newfound Lake success story

By Martha Twombly and Paul Doscher

The Newfound Lake region is one of NH's hidden gems. Surrounded by steep forested hillsides, this picturesque lake is one of the cleanest in the state. These forests are home to five summer youth camps, one of which has been operating for nearly a century. These camps also keep hundreds of acres and miles of shoreline undeveloped.

Fortunately, even with the development pressures of the late 20th century, the essential character and quality of the Newfound Lake region remains intact. And today, summer people, year-round residents, and visitors are realizing that to keep it that way will require working together to conserve what's special.

Surrounded by steep forested hillsides, picturesque Newfound Lake is one of the cleanest lakes in the world. Photo by Brian Hotz.

Newfound Lake is considered a "Class A" lake due to its pristine water quality and largely undeveloped watershed. In 2007 the Newfound Lake Region Association realized that proactive steps were needed to protect the integrity of the watershed and prevent the degradation experienced around other more developed lakes.

At the same time, the NH Fish and Game Department's Wildlife Action Plan revealed that much of the Newfound Lake watershed was characterized by some of the highest quality wildlife habitat in the state.

Prior to this, the Forest Society's Quabbin-to-Cardigan Initiative also identified the Newfound watershed as a high priority for conservation due to its large, seamless forested landscapes and important water resources.

Recognizing that effective land conservation by private landowners is essential to preserving the integrity of the watershed, the Newfound Lake Region Association, the Forest Society and the Lakes Region Conservation Trust formed the Newfound Land Conservation Partnership (NCLP). Bolstered by a grant from the NH Charitable Foundation, the Partnership has been active since 2009, sponsoring workshops and sharing information with landowners and towns about the conservation options available to protect the conservation values on privately-owned land. These values include retaining the water quality of streams, rivers, and the lake; protecting wildlife habitat or rare species; conserving working farmland; sustainably managing the area's forests for wood products; and fostering opportunities for public recreation.

Building relationships with landowners, the group brings projects forward and refers them to the appropriate land trust, most often the Forest Society, or Lakes Region Conservation Trust. One of the group's first conservation successes involved the donation in 2011 by an abutter to Camp Pasquaney of a 120-acre parcel to the camp, with a conservation easement on it held by the Forest Society. Today the Partnership is working to conserve several parcels throughout the watershed—including the Hazelton Farm profiled on page 32.

In late summer of 2011, Forest Society member Helen Gemmill, daughter of the late Camp Pasquaney Director John Gemmill, established a charitable fund in honor of her father to support land conservation in the Newfound Lake watershed, where she too spent her childhood exploring. This remarkable $750,000 gift, in Helen's words, "will inspire us all ...to see the true treasure in Newfound Lake and the surrounding hills and streams, and take action upon our belief in those treasures."

Today, this creative collaboration will help ensure that the future quality of the Newfound Lake and its watershed are preserved. The potential for protecting this special place is much greater, thanks to the NLCP and the individuals and organizations that created it.

Lost River: A Gift of the Glaciers

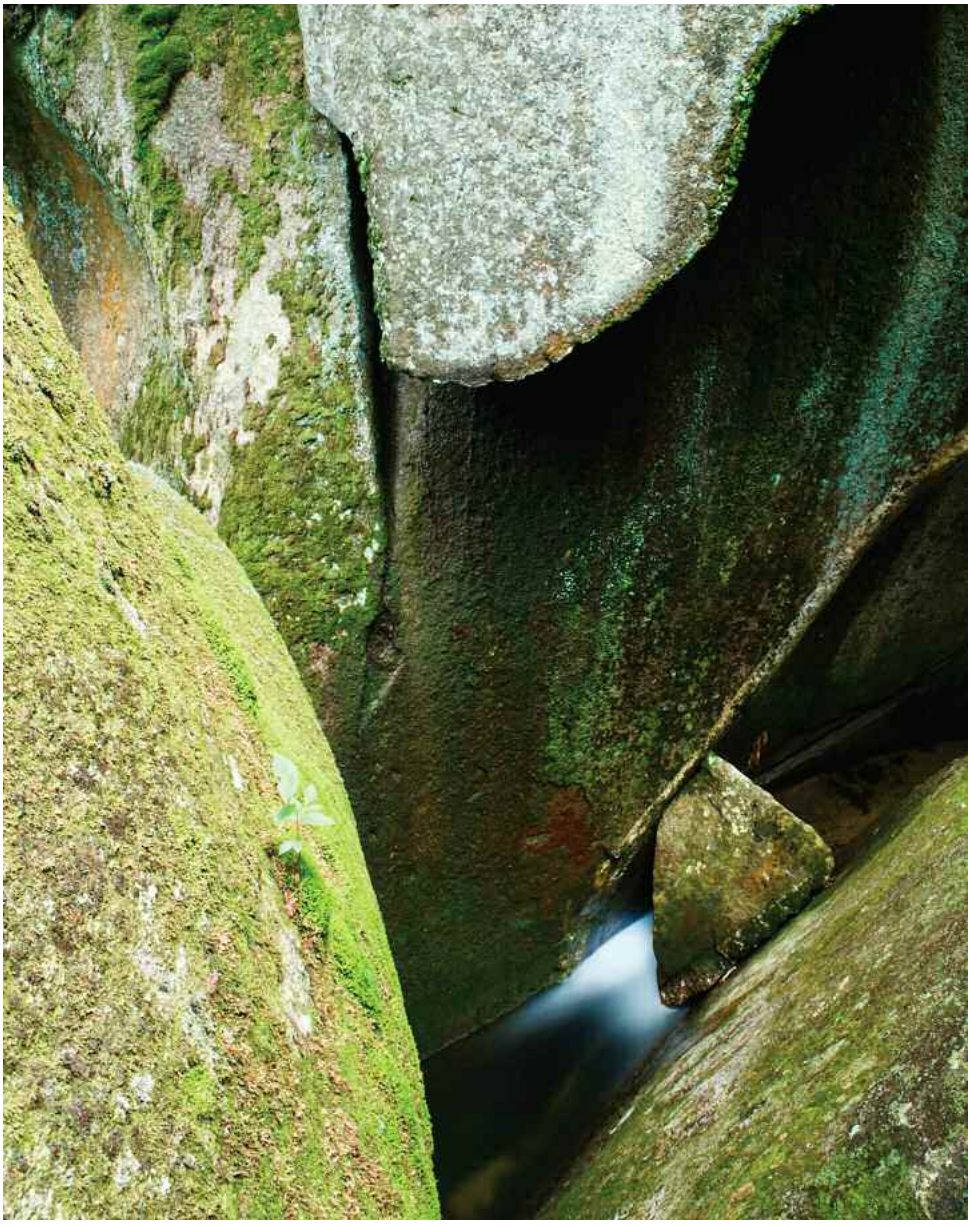
The gift of the glacier was a rugged bequest: A landscape too wild, rocky, broken, and steep for even the craftiest of loggers.

By Dave Anderson

Legend has it that Lyman and Royal Jackman accidentally discovered the "Shadow Cave" in what is now the Forest Society's oldest forest reservation, Lost River. The two young men had been fishing their way up toward remote beaver ponds in Kinsman Notch in 1852 when Lyman suddenly disappeared. He had slipped through a moss-covered hole and fallen 15 feet into a waist-deep pool. Royal Jackman eventually blazed a four-mile trail to guide intrepid tourists back to the cave, where he explained, "This is where my brother found the lost river." The name stuck.

A jumble of boulders alternately cradles and conceals Lost River at the foot of a talus slope beneath the Dilly Cliffs. Twelve thousand years before the Jackman brothers, the mile-thick sheet of ice covering the White Mountains began to recede. Roaring torrents of glacial melt-water plunged down the sheer faces of ice cliffs twice the height of contemporary Cannon Cliff, the western wall of Franconia Notch. Boulder caves at Lost River were shaped and scoured by the raging waters, which exposed a resistant pegmatite dike. Melt-water carved immense arching potholes into the granite bedrock. By the 1870s, intrepid tourists marveled in "dusky chambers" at the "grandeur, desolation and wild loveliness" of Lost River's wild mountain scenery.

Forests eventually colonized the jumble of boulders. It isn't easy growing in harsh, subalpine conditions where winds routinely accelerate through the narrow cleft of Kinsman Notch to create the legendary roar known as the "Bunga Jar," named for its local place of origin near Bungy. Soil is thin to non-existent. The boreal trees best adapted to this micro-climate are red spruce, balsam fir, white birch, and yellow birch. Where soil is deeper and disturbance less frequent, beech and sugar maple—classic transitional northern hardwood forest—can be found. The oldest trees still standing today are spruce and yellow birch. White birch pioneers, a legacy of the lumbering activity and fires that took place at the turn of the century throughout the White Mountains, are now dying of old age



Legend has it that Lyman Jackman accidentally discovered the Shadow Cave after slipping through a moss-covered hole to fall 15 feet into a waist-deep pool. Photo by Jerry and Marcy Monkman, EcoPhotography.

Left: *Part of Kinsman Notch, the Dilly Cliffs, shown here, were formed by glaciers twelve thousand years ago. Eager to harvest all the valuable virgin spruce timber off these steep walls, the notorious G.L. Johnson Lumber Company developed a system to lower logs and even horse teams from the steep cliffs down to the floor of Kinsman Notch.* Photo by Jerry and Marcy Monkman, EcoPhotography.

Right: *The oldest trees still standing at Lost River today are spruce and yellow birch, including the ancient tree shown here.* Photo by Dave Anderson.

as they approach the century mark.

Before the close of the 19th century, logging interests advanced high into the remote, rugged terrain of Kinsman Notch to access virgin spruce timber. Logging on Mount Moosilaukee along the upper Wild Ammonoosuc River featured a series of small impoundments called "squirt dams" to build a sufficient head of water to flush logs west downstream toward mills at Woodsville and points further south on the Connecticut River.

East of Lost River, the now-forgotten Gordon Pond logging railroad served a large sawmill operated from 1904 to 1916 by the G.L. Johnson Lumber Company in Woodstock. The underlying land itself was owned by the Publisher's Paper Company, which had conveyed the timber rights to the infamous logger G. L. Johnson. In turn, Johnson drove a shrewd bargain with the Matson Manufacturing Company of Pennsylvania, selling them the rights to the relatively worthless yellow birch in Kinsman Notch while retaining the rights to more valuable red spruce timber. In that era, hardwood timber—used for making specialty products, furniture, and bobbins and spools for the textile industry—was considered much less valuable than the high-volume softwood timber used for lumber.

Johnson has been described as "a shrewd old cuss… so crooked he could hide behind a cork screw." Johnson's woods crew walking boss, Jake McGraw, was charged with figuring out how to extract the virgin spruce timber off the steep walls of Kinsman Notch. Jakey McGraw's operation utilized a "Steam Donkey" engine rigged to a logging cable to help lower logs and even horse teams to the floor of Kinsman Notch. Today, the rusting remains of a 100-year old steam engine remain hidden on a spruce-clad knoll south of the Lost River Reservation.

The Forest Society finally succeeded in protecting the 152-acres that make up Lost River in March of 1912. The land itself was donated by Publisher's Paper Company, and Mattson Manufacturing donated the hardwood timber rights. However, the Forest Society still needed to purchase the softwood timber rights owned by G.L. Johnson. Living up to his reputation, Johnson drove another hard bargain, negotiating the sale of the softwood timber rights to the Forest Society for $7,000. Today the tract harbors still small fragments of old yellow birch and red spruce—trees that G.L. Johnson and Jake McGraw calculated could not be extracted from the rugged and inoperable Lost River landscape.

Years later, Forest Society Assistant Forester J. Wilcox Brown wrote *The Forest History of Mount Moosilaukee*. Brown includes an anecdote from 1916 when Johnson returned to Lost River at the height of the summer season to witness tourists paying 25 cents each to tour the Lost River Gorge. Johnson is alleged to have said, "Dammit, I never should have sold this place, and I couldn't see it." Brown chuckled when telling the tale of a shrewd logger, adding that "Johnson lived to regret but one business mistake" when he drove such a hard bargain with the Forest Society for its acquisition of Lost River.

The glacier's rugged bequest to all of us is this incredibly rugged and beautiful landscape—too rocky, wild, and steep for even the craftiest of White Mountain loggers.

Naturalist Dave Anderson is director of education and volunteer services for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.

The Hazelton Farm contains approximately 35 acres of open hayfields that have important agricultural soils, as well as 240 acres of forested hillsides on Tenney Mountain. Photo by Brian Hotz.

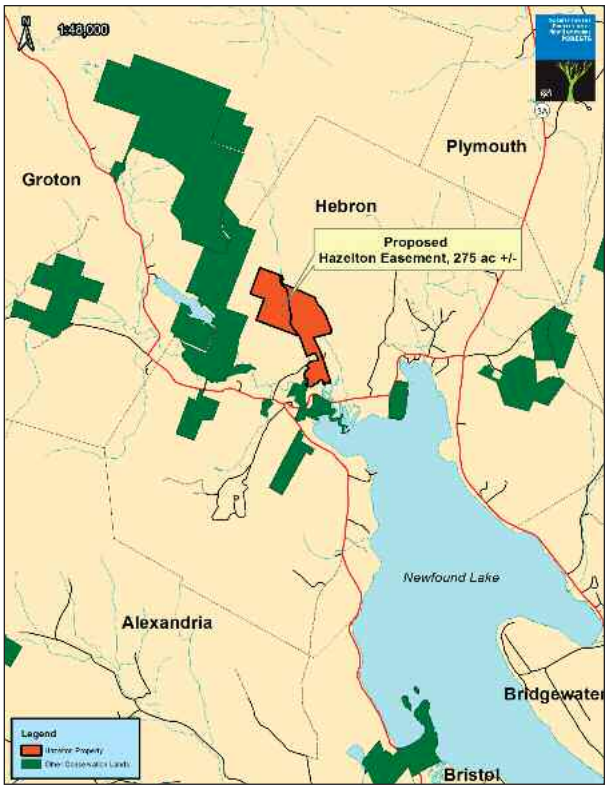
Help the Forest Society Conserve 275 Acres along the Cockermouth River in Hebron

Reminiscent of earlier centuries, the picturesque and historic Hazelton Farm is a well-known local landmark in Hebron. The land features extensive frontage along the Cockermouth River, and its forested hillsides on Tenney Mountain are visible from Newfound Lake and the surrounding hills and shoreline.

We need your help today to purchase a conservation easement on the Hazelton Farm so it can continue to be managed as working forest and farmland.

Paul Hazelton has the original King's Deed granted to Samuel Hazelton in 1637, when the land was part of the "Cockermouth Plantation" before it became Hebron. The Hazeltons farmed the land until it was sold out of the family in 1873. Amazingly, Paul's father located the farm while researching the family geneology and was able to purchase it in 1951. Paul vividly remembers his childhood in Hebron "at the edge of the 20th century," with gravity-fed water, no plumbing, a crank phone, and a one-room schoolhouse. The farm was left to Paul and his brothers a few years ago by their parents, and they hope to preserve the land as working forest and farm for future generations of the family.

275 acres in Hebron



Why is this land so special?

Water quality protection—Located near the north end of Newfound Lake, one of the state's most pristine water bodies, the land overlays a stratified drift aquifer that drains into the lake. The property also includes two-thirds of a mile of frontage along the Cockermouth River and a half-mile of frontage along Wise Brook.

Fisheries—Both Wise Brook and the Cockermouth River are important spawning areas for native brook trout and land-locked salmon.

Wildlife habitat—The NH Department of Fish and Game's Wildlife Action Plan indicates that the Hazelton land contains the highest quality wildlife habitat because of its continuous forestlands and brooks. This land is also close to other conserved lands, including the Hebron Town Forest, Audubon Fields, and Cockermouth Forest.

Recreation—The Hazelton family has created ski and walking trails and welcomes the public to enjoy their land on hikes to Bald Knob, Crosby Mountain, and Tenney Mountain. A popular snowmobile trail follows Tenney Lane to the network of trails connecting to the entire Lakes Region.

Regional and local importance—This land is located in a priority focus area of the Quabbin-to-Cardigan Conservation Initiative, the Lakes Region Conservation Plan, the Hebron Conservation Commission, and the Newfound Lake Region Association.

Working farm and forests—The land contains approximately 35 acres of open hayfields that have important agricultural soils. The forested portion, a registered Tree Farm, is being sustainably managed for wood products and wildlife habitat under the guidance of a professional forester.

The Hazelton family wishes to sell a conservation easement to the Forest Society. We need to raise $298,000 in order to pay for the conservation easement, projects costs, and stewardship expenses associated with this project. If we are successful, the conservation easement will guarantee continued public access for recreation.

Please help the Forest Society protect the water quality of the Cockermouth River and Newfound Lake by making your donation today.

Join us for a field trip on July 21 at the Hazelton Farm. Watch the website for details and registration.

☐ **YES, I WANT TO HELP THE FOREST SOCIETY CONSERVE HAZELTON FARM**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town/City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

☐ Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution for $_____
(Please make check out to the Forest Society, with "Hazelton Farm" on the memo line.)

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard Number: _____ Expiration date: _____ Security code: _____

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

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

Thank you for your help!

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THE FOREST SOCIETY'S

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH

Annual Meeting

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2012

Join us in the heart of the Monadnock Region at Stonewall Farm in Keene.

Celebrate land conservation in the Monadnock Region at the Forest Society's 111th Annual Meeting.
Photo by Jerry and Marcy Monkman, EcoPhotography.

EARLY BIRD DEADLINE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 15TH!

TO REGISTER:
Sign up online at
www.forestsociety.org
OR
Call Tina at (603) 224-9945
ext. 313

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HIGHLIGHTS:

10:00 am to 3:00 pm — **FIELD TRIPS AND WORKSHOPS**

- *Farm and Forest History at Mount Monadnock*
- *Hurricane Hill Hike*
- *Exploring Goose Pond*
- *Tour High Blue Forest Reservation*
- *Forestry and Forest Health*
- *Pitcher Mountain Hike*
- *Afternoon Tour at Stonewall Farm*

4:00 pm to 8:00 pm — **FOREST SOCIETY ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

- *Reception and Recognitions (including cash bar)*
- *Business Meeting*
- *Dinner*
- *Awards and Keynote Address: Phil Bryce, Director of the NH Division of Parks and Recreation*
- *Adjourn*

COST: Early Bird price is $40 per person prior to August 15th. Regular price is $50 per person.

Final registration deadline is September 7.

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 Susan Faretra at (603) 224-9945 ext. 345.

See page 17 for field trip options!