

Forest Notes

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S CONSERVATION MAGAZINE



our
75th
anniversary
issue

AUTUMN 2012

SOCIETY FOR THE
PROTECTION OF
NEW HAMPSHIRE
FORESTS

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24 >



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Notable Accomplishments

We're proud to celebrate the 75th anniversary of *Forest Notes* this year. What started as a simple, but information-packed newsletter in 1937 has evolved into the familiar four-color, quarterly magazine now in your hands—with photographs and articles chronicling the challenges and accomplishments of the Forest Society and conservation in the Granite State.

When *Forest Notes* was launched, the Forest Society was already three decades old. We had helped pass the Weeks Act to establish the White Mountain National Forest, joined the ongoing effort to protect Mount Monadnock, and begun the effort to protect Mount Sunapee. We were, as we are today, committed to keeping forests as forests by promoting their wise use through education and example.

Over time we have protected not only land and vistas, but the very values we hold dear. The Forest Society is part of the state's culture and way of doing business. We've advocated both Wilderness and active forest management in the White Mountain National Forest, encouraging participation in the planning process and working out agreements to which most could subscribe. When the Forest Society protested the building of a four-lane highway through Franconia Notch, we were dogged in our attempts to bring the necessary agencies to the table. It was not always a friendly effort,

but ultimately, a compromise was crafted that didn't destroy the beauty of Franconia Notch State Park and the forests we had helped the state acquire decades before to prevent them from being stripped by unscrupulous loggers.

Today, we are confronted with Northern Pass—a new threat to our landscape that we are fighting with the same determination and commitment that has been the hallmark of earlier controversies explored in *Forest Notes*.

Buying conservation easements on land in the sights of Northern Pass will not only prevent those lands from being used for this misguided project, but from any future projects that disrupt New Hampshire's landscapes. New Hampshire values its mountains, forests and scenery. Speaker of the House Joe Cannon's declaration "not one cent for scenery" didn't sway Granite Staters in the early 20th century nor will it today.

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*.

Editor: Jack Savage

Managing Editor: Brenda Charpentier

Design & Production: The Secret Agency

Printing: TDS Printing

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

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HAPPY 75TH ANNIVERSARY

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AND PROTECTING THE FORESTS
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75 Years of Forest Notes

The Forest Society published the first issue of *Forest Notes* in the fall of 1937 as “A Publication Devoted to Forestry in New Hampshire.” Today one of the longest continually published magazines in the state, *Forest Notes* continues the tradition it started—to chronicle the conservation of New Hampshire’s forests through their wise use and complete reservation in places of special scenic beauty.



Chronicle of a Better Way

We usually aspire to longevity, and offer our admiration when we discover it. At the Forest Society’s 2012 Annual Meeting in September our President/Forester, Jane Difley, recognized four 75-year members. Their loyalty to our mission over time is exemplary.

Such loyalty is also the main reason that *Forest Notes* continues to be published today. Our members and constituents care deeply enough about the forests of New Hampshire and the issues involved in their conservation that they insist on knowing who is doing what to protect them and how they can help.

As a relative newcomer to *Forest Notes* (seven years in the editor’s chair), I relish being able to page through seven and a half decades of the magazine. In “The Woodpile”, a department in the magazine we resurrected a few years back, I enjoy featuring a tidbit from “50 Years Ago in *Forest Notes*.” Perhaps from now on we could include “75 Years Ago in *Forest Notes*.”

Perusing back issues reveals much. It quickly becomes apparent that there are few, if any, completely new conservation issues. In *Forest Notes* we have consistently treasured the White Mountains, loved Big Trees and maple sugaring, worried about taxes, wondered about funding and advocated sound energy

policy. Keeping forests as forests, maintaining a vibrant timber market, convincing a skeptical public of the value of sustainable management, pointing out the value of forests for protecting water and wildlife, balancing the desire for recreational opportunities with the need for proper stewardship, and fighting off forest pests and disease have filled our pages from Day One.

What has changed has been the solutions brought forward. The Tree Farm program. Conservation Easements. Current Use. Conservation Commissions. The Land and Community Heritage Investment Program. *Forest Notes* has chronicled New Hampshire’s determination to find better ways to protect and manage our natural resources.

Each decade of the magazine is a reflection of its era—graphically and editorially. *Forest Notes* has been small, narrow, almost square, plain and vibrant. Perhaps involuntarily, we are colored by our contemporary culture, and it shows when we look back. Sometimes we like what we see, sometimes we just can’t believe we wore those pants even if we were conserving land while wearing them.

Enjoy these few snapshots from issues gone by.

—Jack Savage, editor

1940s

A ROAD UP MONADNOCK?

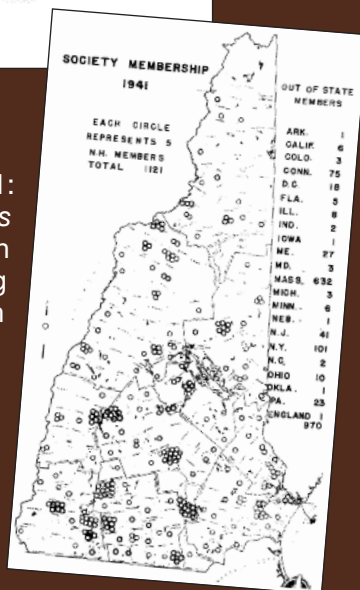
Several months ago a proposal was made that a road be built to the summit of Mt. Monadnock. The response was instantaneous and we are glad to say aggressively negative, as evidenced by the vote recorded below.

By vote of the Board of Control of the Monadnock Region Association at its November meeting, held at the Eagle Hotel, Keene, New Hampshire, November 7, 1940, the following motion was unanimously passed.

Moved that the Monadnock Region Association go on record as unquestionably opposed to the building of an Automobile Road on or to the top of Grand Monadnock Mountain, at this or any future time and be it further resolved to bend every effort for the preservation of this great natural asset from any form of commercializing in the future. This decision was made after consideration of hundreds of very fine personal letters received from influential citizens of the Monadnock Region, summer residents, and from people in practically every State of the Union who know and love Grand Monadnock.

16

1941:
Forest Notes
has always been
about sharing
good information
with members.
Even today we
have many out-of-
staters who care
about New
Hampshire
forests.



1941:

Protecting iconic peaks like Monadnock has included the need to discourage questionable ideas.

"JOE BEAYER"

By Ed Nofsinger



"The United States uses half the lumber in the world. Wonder how many people give a thought as to where it's going to keep coming from."

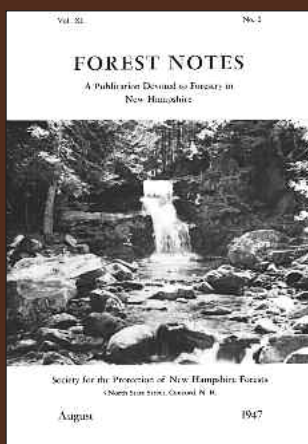
Do you know someone who is genuinely interested in the conservation of our forests both for future lumber and recreational use? Perhaps they would welcome the opportunity to become a member of our Society.

1947:

The Forest Society has consistently promoted the "wise use" approach to forest management.



May 1941



August 1947



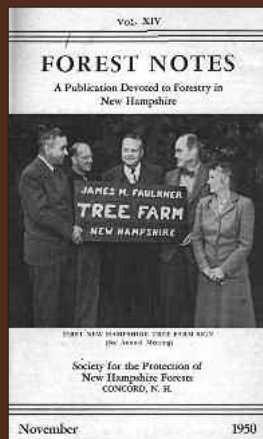
September 1949

1950s

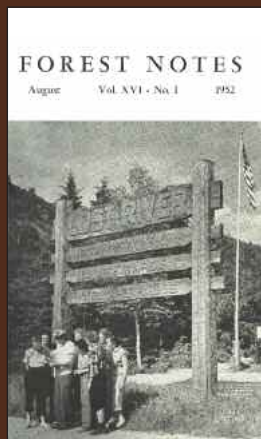
March 1953:
Our advocacy on matters
important to forest protection
has made room for a good
sense of humor.



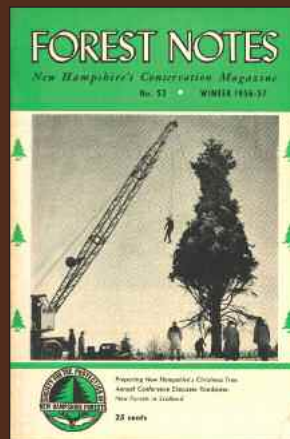
Sept. 1953:
The message has been consistent
throughout the years: conservation
benefits everyone.



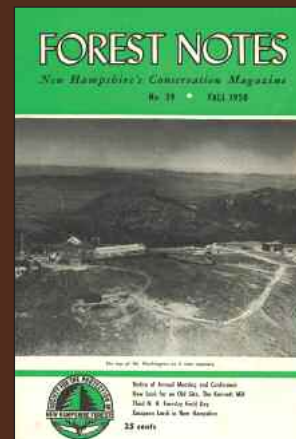
November 1950



August 1952



Winter 1956-57



Fall 1958

1960s

1967:
Invasive pests or diseases
have demanded constant
vigilance—in 1967 the balsam
wooly aphid threatened
pulpwood and Christmas trees.



WOOLLY APHID

THE tobacco-wielding spinster the happy, smiling, naive of a curiously Christmas-like. Actually, he is a die-hard holdtime lover, and a prime target for the lowest prize of the "spike war" in New Har-

This very insect, similar to the "furry green fern" that causes no real harm, loathly and scabby in appearance and

feed on all species of beavers
common to New Hampshire
before beaver is first known to
appear in their territory for
food, and to pupate until com-
mence of pupation.

ries
R.
:

A small blue butterfly in eastern Europe, the Indian result is a European one respecting to this country. The whole life has unfolded apparently in the United States in 1906 — in Sumner, Mass.

Eight years later, in 1936, he was discovered on Mt. Monaliska, in Japan, thus making his New Hampshire debut. In 1929, the balloon was lost and a search

Today, this deadly, little war machine is known to exist in all 13 states, with the most troops in the south—North Carolina, and also in the Plains.

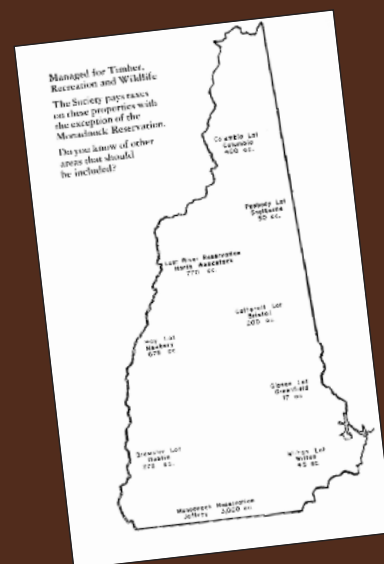
Simply stored, in human foods like
by absorbing the life-giving water

Things To Come

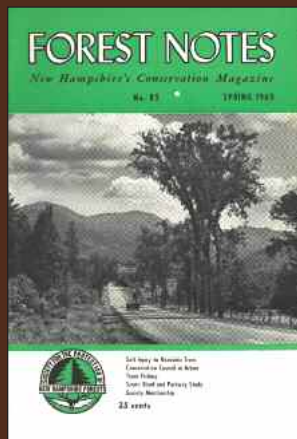
Modernization of forest industries was the theme developed by Dr. L. K. Thiessen, president of Canada Logging and Paper Research Institute, speaking at the Sixth World Forestry Congress, during the two-day luncheon address, "Forestry in North America." He forecasts "aircraft bombing and spraying, improved selection of seed trees for plantations, aerial fertilization, intensive mechanization for full-tree logging, full boom logging from steep slopes and remote areas and use of hydraulic chip-pipelines." New techniques, he said, will make present forecasts conservative; he predicted that supply could be increased by 50 percent or more by the year 2000 with the use of modern methods.

1966:

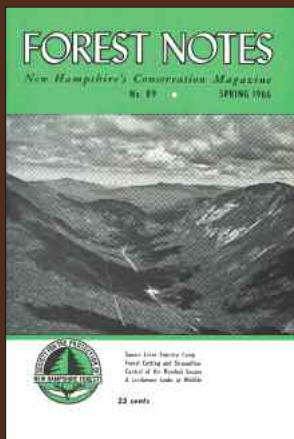
Long-term predictions are always a challenge—"balloon-logging" as envisioned has not yet become a popular steep-slope harvesting method.



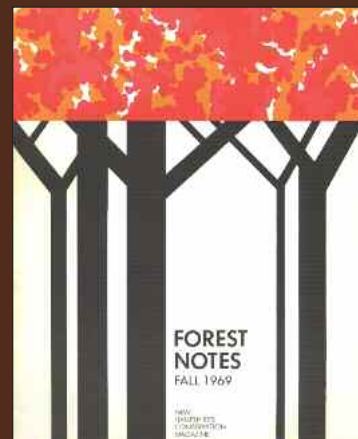
1967:
The Forest Society's
lands map as of the
late 1960s. Today we
own and manage
172 properties.



Spring 1965



Spring 1966



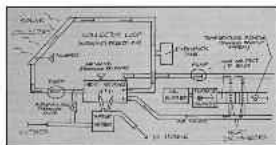
Fall 1969

75 Years of Forest Notes

1970s

1975: With the 1970s came a greater focus on energy as part of our conservation mission.

SOLAR HEAT AT HOME



CLIFF KAPALA

When it comes to energy, the Forest Society's Conservation Center is a model of energy efficiency. The building is a prime example of energy conservation, with its solar heat gain and energy flow.

I remember, nearly five years ago, the Forest Society's Conservation Center was a "solar house" and was one of the first to be built in the area. It was a prime example of energy conservation, with its solar heat gain and energy flow.

One of the main reasons for the success of the Conservation Center is its solar heat gain and energy flow. The building is a prime example of energy conservation, with its solar heat gain and energy flow.

FOREST NOTES 5

THE WILDERNESS MOVEMENT COMES EAST



THE WILDERNESS MOVEMENT COMES EAST

Because it was the first of its kind, the Conservation Center was a prime example of energy conservation, with its solar heat gain and energy flow.

One of the main reasons for the success of the Conservation Center is its solar heat gain and energy flow. The building is a prime example of energy conservation, with its solar heat gain and energy flow.

From these early efforts, I learned some specific conservation lessons. The building is a prime example of energy conservation, with its solar heat gain and energy flow.

FOREST NOTES 6

1976: The Forest Society's mission has always included room for "complete reservation in places of special scenic beauty" as well as "wise use". *Forest Notes* has chronicled the debate over the balance between designated Wilderness and managed forestland.

Conservation Center Update

The Forest Society's Conservation Center is a prime example of energy conservation, with its solar heat gain and energy flow.

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FOREST NOTES 11

1979: The Conservation Center was built in part to demonstrate the use of local wood and emerging alternative energy sources, as outlined in 1979.

FOREST NOTES
SPRING 1972



New Horizons' Conservation Magazine

Spring 1972

Forest Notes



Fall 1974

Fall 1974

Forest Notes
70th Anniversary Double Issue
Fall/Winter 1976



Fall/Winter 1976

1980s

A significant place in New Hampshire's past

By James L. Gaskie

The Rocks estate, the Forest Society's first and largest property in New Hampshire, embodies many values — productive forests, working agriculture, and ties to the glorious past of the North Country among them. The Society has applied to have The Rocks placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The following article is an excerpt from the text of that application.

In creating The Rocks, John J. Glenister attempted to control the unbridled speculating by which local farmers were driving what little water was left in land that had passed from native American to European hands. While recognizing the significance of sections of the estate, Glenister also improved the agricultural quality of the better lands of his holdings. A manufacturer of the mechanized farming equipment that was transforming agriculture in the American midwest and west, Glenister experimented with the introduction of modern machinery to the rocky and hilly lands of postglacial New England. His success in replacing the old hand and animal-powered methods of farming helped to pave the way for the use of modern machinery on other New Hampshire farms.

CONSERVATION

Although many of the farms eventually came to be purchased by the Forest Society, Glenister carefully managed the wooded lands and actively purchased forested lands where possible. Glenister wrote to Susan J. Bailew, Secre-

tary of the New Hampshire State Board of Agriculture, of his motivation in buying his estate: "The many of the farmers in my vicinity were eager to cut off the trees, leaving nothing but open fields. I can easily believe that they realize how much they are the beauty of their landscape, and make it an attraction to the stranger, and how much they devalue their property and prospects."

Glenister's private efforts in conservation provided for eventually considered with those of other conservationists in this area of New Hampshire. In 1963, he became an early member of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.

AGRICULTURE

As Vice President and sales manager of Winder, Huscott & Glenister, manufacturers of mowers, rakes and sprayers, and later of International Harvester Company, John J. Glenister was deeply interested in progressive agriculture and in the capabilities of agricultural machinery. He brought this interest to bear on his New Hampshire estate in an unusual degree, including a varied form of investment was for the region.

Glenister took careful note of the quality and condition of his numerous purchases between 1882 and 1900, as greatly as involved in the species of plants growing at the time of acquisition. Many of the trees supported stands of timber of both hard and softwood species, but several extensive tracts were open pastures. These open tracts



Still home to a functioning dairy farm, The Rocks provides a scenic home to a productive Jersey herd.

were heavily bordered with surface boulders in a manner typical of New England granite, inspiring the name "The Rocks" for the estate. Glenister expended great amounts of money and

No Fuel Like an Old Fuel New Hampshire's Commercial Wood Energy Industry Retrospective and Perspective



About a year ago, the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission received rate petitions for 23 wood-burning power plants. Total potential electrical output? Nearly 450 megawatts. Regulators were taken by surprise. They had never envisioned more than 50 or 100 megawatts of small power production, and assumed most of it would come from small hydro plants. They hadn't reckoned on the maturation — nor on the pent-up supply side — of the wood energy industry.

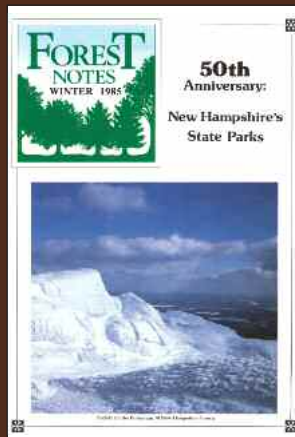
Forest Notes, Volume 1

1984:
Not yet a Christmas tree farm, the Rocks Estate was celebrated for its scenic beauty and historical significance.

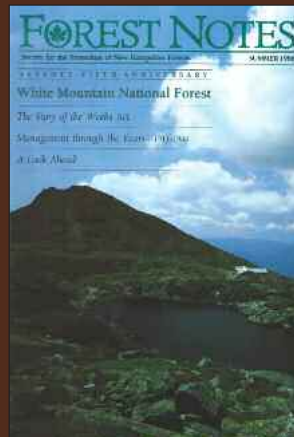
1987:
Throughout the 75 years of *Forest Notes* we have chronicled the latest trends in using wood as energy—for heat and electricity.



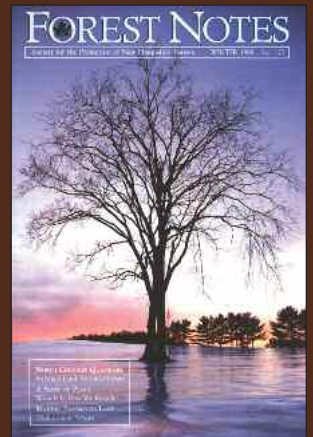
Spring 1982



Winter 1985



Summer 1986



Winter 1989

75 Years of Forest Notes

1990s

A Sanctuary of Permanence

By Richard Ober

In a time when so much in American life is shallow and ephemeral, especially in what passes for news, there is something deeply comforting about *Forest Notes*. Like the seasons themselves, or the land celebrated in her pages, this magazine is a sanctuary of permanence in an attention deficit world.

It's doubtful Larry Rathbun was thinking about that in 1937 when he first put pen to page and page to press. He just saw a need for broader conservation education and filled it. Thank goodness he did.

Over the 75 years since, it would have been perfectly sensible to stop publishing at any number of points. Changing reading habits, high printing costs, competing needs, the internet—the forces against publishing a quarterly magazine are formidable, and far more have succumbed than survived. What once took an essay now takes a tweet; what once took a tweet is now a Facebook thumbs up. Faster is better. Less is more.

For many organizations, this evolution away from printed magazines and newsletters makes sense. But for the Forest Society, where good forestry is measured in generations and land protection is forever, the flagship communication piece should be built to last. The land will be here tomorrow; the forests will regenerate; the leaves will fall; *Forest Notes* will publish. It is a publication worthy of its subject and of its host.

Of course I'm a bit biased, having edited the magazine for a fifth of its life and a third of my own. But with some distance the magazine seems even more relevant, not less. It has become not only the Forest Society's publication, but a wider chronicle of our relationship to the land since the end of the Great Depression. In these pages is a 75-year history of Granite State forestry, of conservation, of the environmental movement, of the people who made a difference. No other single source comes close. Hurricane salvage from '38. White pine blister rust. Pruning tips. Conservation camps. Pesticides. Clean Water Act. Earth Day. Solar heat. Wood heat. Pellet heat. Sprawl. Land protection. Land stewardship. Energy.

The story of the Society is ultimately about our deep and timeless connection to place and how we care for the natural systems that sustain life. And that story is told nowhere as well, year in and year out, quarter after quarter, as it is in these pages.

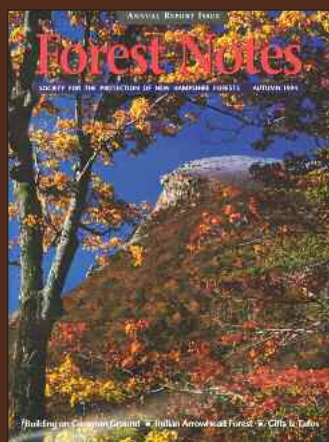
Here's to another 75.

Richard Ober is currently the President and Chief Executive Officer of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. For 15 years in 1980-1990s he worked at the Forest Society and served as editor of Forest Notes.

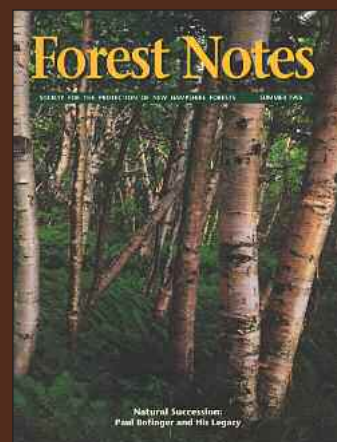
In the summer 1997 issue we celebrated the protection of our 100th Forest Reservation—High Watch on Green Mountain in Effingham.



In the 1990s long-time President/Forester Paul Bofinger retired (below) and current President/Forester Jane Difley was welcomed.



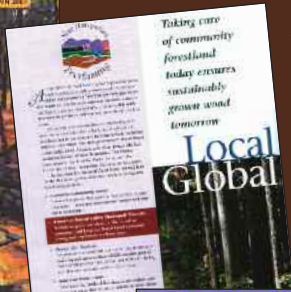
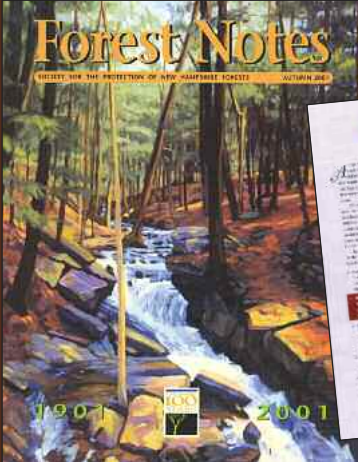
Autumn 1994



Summer 1996

2001 marked the 100th anniversary of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, and over the course of multiple issues *Forest Notes* chronicled our history.

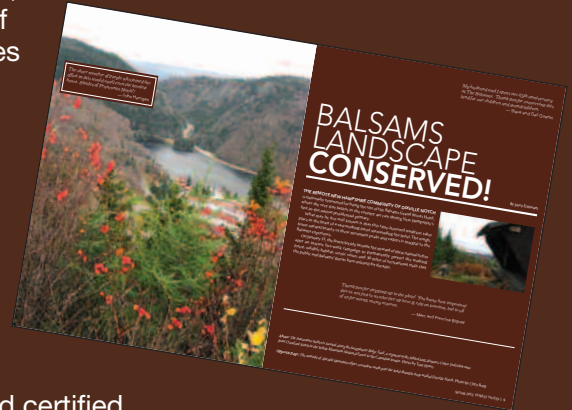
2000s



Also in 2001, we launched the aspirational New Hampshire Everlasting vision for the state, calling for the conservation of an additional one million acres by 2026.



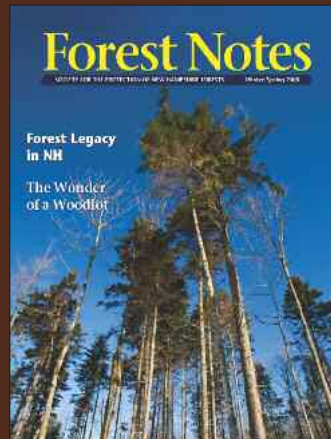
2003:
The new Leed Gold certified French Wing was added to the Conservation Center, continuing the tradition of modeling energy-efficiency.



Protecting iconic landscapes remains a priority; 1,700 donors helped save the Balsams.



Spring 2005



Winter/Spring 2008



Summer 2011

The Assets to Acres Program



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

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

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

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

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

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

A large photograph showing two hikers with backpacks ascending a large, rounded rock formation. The hiker in the foreground is wearing a red backpack and green pants, while the one in the background is wearing a black backpack and dark pants. The sky is blue with some clouds, and distant mountains are visible in the background.

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Monadnock State Park, Jaffrey

A large, faint silhouette of a person holding a walking stick, positioned on the left side of the page.

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Left: On day one of Monadnock Trails Weeks Ian Atwell (in red shirt) outlines the work to be done along the upper reaches of the White Arrow trail to elevate and rebuild the crossing of wet, boggy area and install new drainage.

Middle: Volunteers in hardhats (yellow Eric Richard, white Mark Kresge and red Aaron Horner) use stone bars to pry large rocks from the mud of the existing trail to be reinstalled once the trail is raised.



Above: Land Steward Len Martin and volunteer Ben Cosgrove work with axes to strip bark from a freshly cut red spruce log to use as a roller and to build a bog bridge.

Monadnock Trails on the Mend

— By David Brooks —

It may not sound like the best sign when volunteers show up and the organizer gleefully refers to them as “mules,” but that’s what to expect when you’re helping to maintain hiking trails.

“We need to get the tools and supplies up there, that’s the main job,” said Carrie Deegan, of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, gazing at the 22 people who answered her call

for the initial day of Monadnock Trails Week, then gazing upward to the peak of Mount Monadnock.

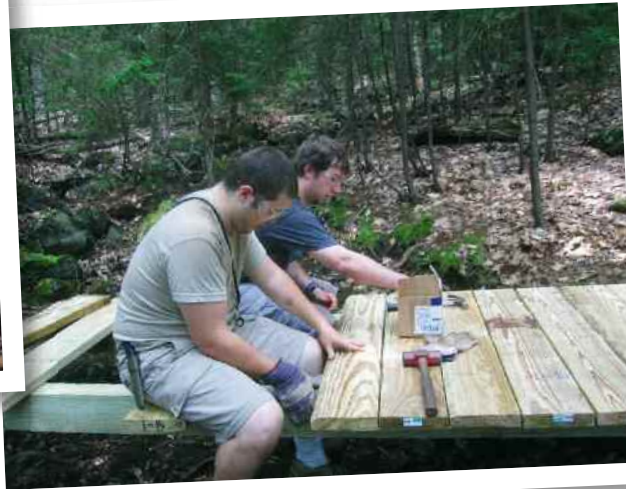
“You guys will be the mules.”

Mules we were Friday, slogging more than a mile uphill while hauling picks, shovels, pry bars, axes, lumber, a chain saw, straps and other outdoor accoutrements.



Left: Decking the new footbridge with pressure treated lumber.

Below: On day five volunteers Aaron Horner (foreground) and Doug McKenna construct a new hiker footbridge over a stream valley along the lower reaches of the Monte Rosa Trail near the Halfway House site at the top of the Old Toll Road.



They were all necessary to create bog bridges and stepping-stones to help hikers through a muddy low spot in the White Arrow trail, one of the most hiked routes on one of the world's most hiked mountains.

Working through early afternoon, we pulled up stones with bare hands and various tools; felled a spruce tree, stripping the bark and cutting it up to create bridge pylons; bashed rocks into gravel with a sledgehammer; and hooked a mechanical grip-hoist to a pine tree so two teenage sisters could haul a 1½-ton granite stone out of the mud.

"We aren't sure what to expect," Chandler Coggins, 16, had said three hours earlier in the parking lot as we prepared to head out, although it's safe to say she didn't expect to be the human engine on a device suitable for a granite quarry.

Chandler and sister Brianna, 13, from the Lancaster, Mass., 4-H club, were brought to the seventh annual Monadnock Trails Week by their mother, Becky Rovinelli. Like a number of the people who showed up Friday, Rovinelli has hiked Mount Monadnock many times. She used to leave home at 5 a.m. to get in a summit climb with friends before the day's events intruded, she said.

When Rovinelli heard of Monadnock Trails Week, organized by the society and Monadnock State Park, she thought it would be a good idea for the family to help the mountain that had given so much pleasure, even though none had ever done trail work before.

Ben Cosgrove, of Rindge, had the same idea. He's now a self-described "itinerant musician," but Cosgrove said that when he was settled in the area, he climbed Monadnock too many times to count. So when he saw a poster for the trails week, he decided to show up.

"I feel like I owed it to the mountain," he said. "I love it here." Lots of people love Mount Monadnock, which is the problem.

While it probably isn't the second most climbed mountain in the world, as is sometimes claimed, the spectacular vistas from its treeless summit draw at least 100,000 people annually, according to Monadnock State Park. That's well over the population of Nashua scrambling up and down the slopes to the 3,165-foot summit, causing erosion with every step.

Enlisting volunteers to dig drainage ditches, move boulders, cut up fallen trees, block impromptu shortcuts and otherwise keep those trails in reasonable shape isn't unique to Monadnock.

Plenty of organizations, as big as the Appalachian Mountain Club and as small as your local conservation commission, do it. Many go so far as to hold classes to teach good trail techniques. Otherwise, would you know how to build a proper flood-channeling water bar?

But the volunteer push has become more urgent in this recession. At state parks, budget cutbacks have shrunk staffing, and Park Manager Patrick Hummel said his park and others are trying to be more systematic and formal in organizing volunteers.

"We can't thank people enough for doing this," he said. "It makes all the difference."

Hence, the value of Monadnock Trails Week, started by the Forest Society, as the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests is usually called.

The Forest Society has long organized volunteers to help keep an eye on the million-plus acres it protects. Notably, it has designated many "land stewards," experienced hikers who keep an eye on certain areas or trails. More than a half dozen of them showed



On day five Forest Society Land Stewards and volunteer Trailwrights (www.trailwrights.org) deck the bridge.

up Friday to be part of the team, including Ruth Ward, of Stoddard, a land steward for Pierce Reservation – and, like many stewards, of retirement age.

“I like to be outside, so you might as well do some work,” she said.

Many others in the group had extensive experience, including Ray Jackson, president of the trail-building volunteer group New Hampshire Trailwrights, who has been doing this work for 24 years even though he lives over the border, in Townsend, Mass.

David Anderson, of the Forest Society, was also there. Although he’s the group’s education director, most people know him as the

voice of New Hampshire Public Radio’s “Something Wild” show and an outdoors columnist for the New Hampshire Sunday News.

Others had less experience, including this reporter and his wife, who have gone on a few such outings. We have found there’s always plenty of unskilled labor needed in trail-maintenance work.

The five-day Monadnock Trails Week runs through Tuesday. It also will build bridges and do other work on a variety of trails. The jobs it does depend on the need; after the 2008 ice storm, for example, all five days were devoted to clearing trails of fallen trees.

“We spend all year preparing this,” Hummel said.

If you can’t make it this year, there are plenty of other opportunities around. There’s always a need for more mules. ♧

David Brooks is a staff writer for the Nashua Telegraph. Originally published in the Nashua Telegraph. Reprinted with permission.



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Left: The Forest Society operates a Christmas tree farm at the Rocks Estate in Bethlehem, where rows of trees await families looking to pick the perfect match.

Right: Ella McPhaul says hello to a pair of hardworking draft horses whose job it is to haul a wagonload of visitors to the Rocks.

Getting into the Holiday Spirit at The Rocks Estate

By Meghan McCarthy McPhaul

With row upon tidy row of Christmas trees, splendid White Mountain vistas, and plenty of good cheer, The Rocks Estate in Bethlehem has been getting people into the holiday spirit for more than two decades.

“We try to offer both a traditional holiday experience and a few fun new twists to the season each year,” says Nigel Manley, longtime manager of The Rocks Estate which also serves as the Forest Society’s North Country Conservation & Education Center. “We try to keep the experience fresh.”

This year, The Rocks will deliver tradition in its holiday-themed activities at the farm and with a newly offered Victorian Christmas tree. The modern twists come with an updated online shop and a mobile tour that allows smart phone users to access information about the history of The Rocks, the conservation efforts practiced throughout the property, and the differences between the varieties of Christmas trees grown at the farm.

The Rocks Christmas tree operation opens to the public Nov. 17 and is open daily right through Christmas Eve. Weekend Christmas tree seekers at The Rocks may enjoy a range of holiday-themed activities, from horse-drawn wagon rides through the historic and picturesque Estate to roasting marshmallows in the fire pit and noshing on freshly popped kettle corn. The Rocks’ own Green Father Christmas greets visitors young and old, presenting children with fir tree seedlings to bring home.

Beyond trees, visitors will find two shops with all they need to deck the halls, plus plenty of unique gift options. The Gift Shop is chockfull of wreaths (made on site and with new designs created

each year), ornaments, New England-crafted pottery and jewelry, and maple syrup made with sap gathered at The Rocks.

The Rocks Marketplace, in the main building, includes an array of items crafted by local artisans in New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine—from baskets and homemade fudge and to whimsical home goods and treats for Fluffy and Fido.

This year The Rocks also boasts a revamped online store, offering a variety of Christmas trees and holiday wreaths, along with ornaments, garland, and tree accessories. The new online store was designed to be shopper-friendly. All items include free shipping, and customers may create a holiday wish list and ship to multiple addresses with one order.

One addition this year to both the online shop and the farm’s cut-your-own and retail lot is the Victorian Christmas tree. Manley describes this as a “more open tree,” that is not as impeccably symmetrical as today’s standard, and very full, farm-grown trees. It’s a style customers have been asking for.

“Each tree’s going to be slightly different,” said Manley. “It’s definitely like what they’d have had in Victorian times, but even 25 years ago, Christmas trees were like this.”

It’s the kind of tree, perhaps, that would have been trimmed by John Jacob Glessner and his family, who created The Rocks Estate as a working farm and summer retreat in the late 1800s. Glessner’s descendants donated the 1,400-acre property to the Forest Society in 1978, and it evolved from a dairy farm into a tree farm in the 1980s. The Rocks now sells more than 6,000 Christmas trees and 2,500 wreaths each year.



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The Forest Society also maintains a trail system on the property (open year-round to public use), manages the property for wildlife habitat and conservation, and orchestrates a series of natural history education programs at The Rocks throughout the year.

It's a beautiful place at any time of year, but at Christmastime, The Rocks is magical. ♪

Meghan McCarthy McPhaul is an award-winning author and freelance writer living in Franconia. She and her family look forward to visiting The Rocks each year to join in the holiday fun and find their perfect Christmas tree.

TAG-YOUR-OWN TREE

By Meghan McCarthy McPhaul

The Rocks Estate invites Christmas tree seekers to visit the farm this fall to Tag-Your-Own tree—and the gaudiest tree is free!

Tag-Your-Own shoppers are encouraged to “tag” their trees with ornaments, ribbons, and whatever else it takes to distinguish that tree as their own. The showier, the better—and easier to find come cutting time. The tree tagged with the most outrageous display will be given to its tagger for free.

Early tree shoppers may visit the farm weekends beginning Sept. 22 through Oct. 21, when the farm opens regular hours for the holiday season. The Tag-Your-Own season corresponds with the glorious fall foliage season, when The Rocks and surrounding hillsides burst into a kaleidoscope of color.

The two shops at The Rocks Estate will be open for early holiday shopping during Tag-Your-Own weekends. Visitors may also embark on a self-guided tour of the interactive New Hampshire Maple Experience museum, located in one of the carefully restored historic buildings at The Rocks.

Tag-Your-Own trees will be available for pickup and payment from Nov. 17 through Dec. 24.

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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/thingsstodo



SAT. NOVEMBER 3 | 10 am – 1 pm

Timber Harvest Tour at Victor's Woods

Danbury

Join Forest Society field forester, Wendy Weisiger, Meadowsend Timberlands Forester, Jeremy Turner and Merrimack County Forester, Tim Fleury for a guided tour of a timber sale on the Forest Society "Victor's Woods" Forest Reservation in Danbury. Victor's Woods grow nearly every species of conifer—pine, spruce, hemlock, fir and tamarack. Patch cuts and summer soil scarification techniques and more will help to regenerate softwoods. See the mechanized "cut to length" harvesting equipment during an active timber harvest. Learn about the site-specific considerations, layout of roads and landings, wood products generated and the wood markets.

Co-sponsored by: Meadowsend Timberlands and UNH Cooperative Extension.

SAT. OCTOBER 20 | 9 am – Noon

A Naturalist-Guided Tour along Little Harbor Loop Trail at Creek Farm

Portsmouth

Enjoy this special naturalist-guided tour of the newly-extended loop trail from Creek Farm along Sagamore Creek and Little Harbor to the Wentworth-Coolidge State Historic Site and City of Portsmouth land along Little Harbor Road. We'll enjoy fine autumn views across the water and share local land use history how it has shaped today's forest communities. Hike begins at the Forest Society Creek Farm Reservation in Portsmouth.

Total distance is 1.5 miles. Flat, easy walking; Families are welcome!

WED. NOVEMBER 14 | 7 pm – 8:30 pm

A Trip Through Time with the Birds of Lake Umbagog

The Rocks Estate, Bethlehem

A special program that contrasts the methods used by ornithologist William Brewster to study the birds at Lake Umbagog in the late 1800s with those used today.

Visit www.therocks.org for more information.

Lakes Region Conservation Plan Info Sessions

The Forest Society and regional land conservation groups are holding a series of public information sessions on a new land protection blueprint for the Lakes Region of New Hampshire. Developed by state and local conservation experts, the new plan aims to protect water quality in the region by prioritizing the most critical forests and shorefront lands to conserve over the next decade. The plan was developed by the Forest Society and its partners strictly as a guide for voluntary conservation by landowners interested in protecting their land.

Members of the public interested in learning more about the Lakes Region land conservation plan, as well as landowners who are interested in learning more about their conservation options are encouraged to attend.

Thursday, Nov. 1, 7 – 9 pm

Green Mountain and Ossipee Lake Area
*Ossipee Public Library,
74 Main Street Center Ossipee*

Co-sponsored by the Green Mountain Conservation Group and Lakes Region Conservation Trust

Thursday, Nov. 8, 7 – 9 pm

Moose Mountains Area
*Moose Mountain Recreation Lodge,
107 Moose Mountain Road, Brookfield*

Co-sponsored by Moose Mountains Regional Greenways

ART EXHIBIT

Exhibits are open for viewing weekdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. A percentage of sales will benefit the work of the Forest Society. Please call 603-224-9945 before visiting as the exhibit room may be in use. It also serves as a meeting space.



*"Destroying Angel"
by Jeff Sluder.*

THROUGH OCTOBER 31

Jeff Sluder: Magnificent Mushrooms

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 for 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.



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Keeping a Pioneer in Our View

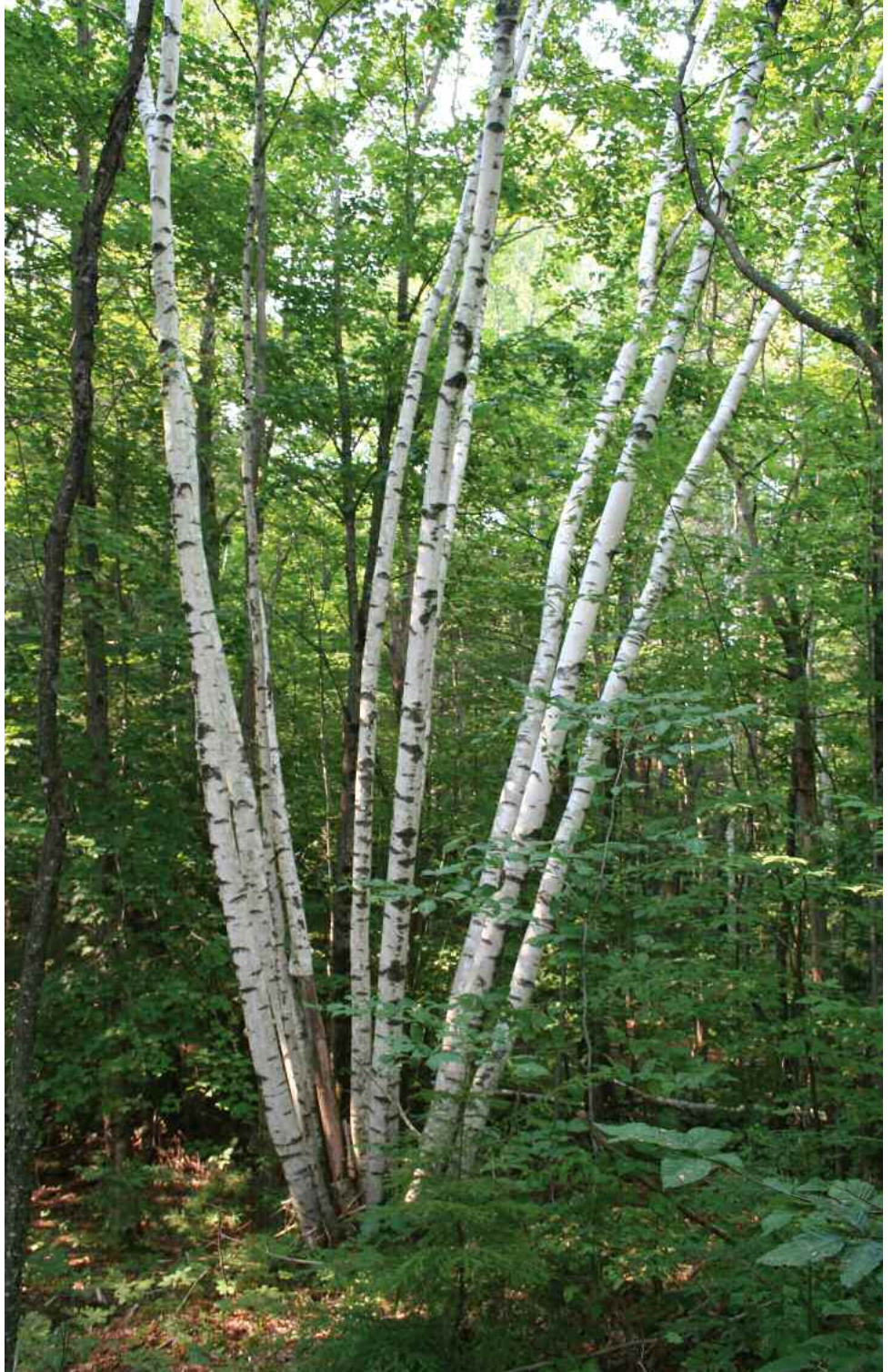
By George F. Frame, CF

You will see lots of references to 75 years in this magazine. It's a noteworthy anniversary, the diamond anniversary. Nearly two-thirds of the timberland acres in New Hampshire are populated with forests that are very near or have already celebrated their 75th anniversary, according to the 2011 USDA Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) data.

Seventy-five is also the average age of a paper birch or aspen tree that has begun its decline. While the more shade-tolerant maples, oaks, pines, beeches and hemlocks are just hitting their stride as adults (oaks can live two centuries or more), the aspen-birch forest is headed toward that old, punky wood pile in the or in the duff.

Why does that matter, you ask? Well, the aspen-birch forest type provides early successional habitat that caters to a unique set of wildlife species, some of which are not found in the later stages of forest succession. Succession is the cycle of changing forest conditions that occurs on a site as the trees and shrubs grow older, fall from dominance, and are replaced by other species that are usually more tolerant of shaded growing conditions.

Among the hardwoods of New Hampshire succession starts with aspen and paper birch (the pioneer species) and progresses through the maples and longer-growing birches (yellow and black) until the end game is reached and beech becomes the dominant species. Barring any natural or man-made disturbance, beech will continue to regenerate underneath itself



Right: Forest Notes was 10 years old when the paper birch was made New Hampshire's state tree. In the 1940s the tree was not only popular, it was populous. But its numbers have been in steady decline ever since. Photo by Jack Savage.

and become the climax species in a hardwood forest.

By definition, early successional forests are only around early in the process and then they disappear. With their disappearance wildlife species that depend on the type will also disappear. We don't see large stands of paper birch anymore and we also don't see as many ruffed grouse and woodcock, kestrels, flycatchers and New England cottontail rabbit. Currently New Hampshire has about six percent of its timberland in early successional tree species but the majority of those trees are too old to provide the required habitat values.

What's driving the aging of our forests with fewer small openings? As individual ownerships shrink in size through subdivision, they become too small to manage for a variety of habitat types. Agricultural use of land has declined, leading to fewer openings being maintained in brushy or early successional species. And despite the use of

pellet stoves and wood-to-energy plants, the use of wood as a fuel has declined. These and other reasons led Mariko Yamasaki and Richard DeGraaf, in their 2005 publication *Landowner's Guide to Wildlife Habitat, Forest management for the New England Region*, to comment that "in order to keep early successional habitats on the landscape for the wildlife species that need them, we need to intentionally and continuously create them."


It's also true that what used to be a huge market in the New Hampshire for 'turning stock'—golf tees, popsicle sticks, tongue depressors, veneer for cabinets, etc.—has dried up and the commercial value of paper birch is a shadow of its self.

With help from a grant from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) the Forest Society will be able to intentionally create several new areas of early successional habitat that will be sited to enlarge existing stands of aspen and paper birch.

Two of these sites have been selected so the activity will also improve the existing forest condition, which is extremely poor due to past cutting practices that occurred prior to our ownership. The opportunity to cure two situations with a single activity always plays pretty well in our work plans.

Forest Notes was 10 years old when the paper birch was made New Hampshire's state tree. In the 1940s the tree was not only popular, it was populous. But its numbers have been in steady decline ever since. It's a pioneer and a somewhat ephemeral one. Being 'intentional and continuous' in our creation of early successional habitats means keeping paper birch in its rightful location; somewhere within our view at all times. ♧

George Frame is the Senior Director of Forestry at the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. He can be reached at gframe@forestsociety.org.



**The members of the Granite State Division
of the Society of American Foresters and
their colleagues of the New England Society
of American Foresters congratulate the
Forest Society on 75 years of Forest Notes,
New Hampshire's conservation magazine.**



Society of American Foresters
Growing Better All the Time

Making Connections

Expanding the High Blue Reservation in Walpole

By Karen Sampson

When Steve Grega got lost one day while exploring New Hampshire he ended up in Walpole, a place that he would eventually come to call home. Walpole is where Grega recently stepped forward at a critical juncture to help the Walpole Conservation Commission and The Forest Society to protect the town's highest point.

Thanks to a very generous donation from Grega, who has now lived in Walpole for the past decade, 58 acres of woodland abutting the Forest Society's High Blue Reservation was purchased by the Forest Society.

"It's nice to be able to do something right at home," said Grega, who lives within walking distance of the land and the adjacent High Blue Reservation. "The neighborhood and the Town of Walpole have a strong sense of community and they care about the environment."

Grega is one of several people who came together to facilitate the protection of the land, which offers panoramic views into the Ashuelot River Valley to the east and contains the highest point in the Town of Walpole. Part of the "Ridge to River Greenway Corridor" proposed by the Walpole Conservation Commission, the purchased tract of land is an important link for future conservation efforts in the area due to its location.

"This tract of land connects the High Blue property from the Connecticut River up to the ridge," explained former chairman and current member of the Walpole Conservation Commission, Lew Shelly, who played a pivotal role in bringing the project to fruition. "I took this project on in order to preserve the corridor. It helps the Greenway enormously to have the two property anchors in place."

As a Walpole resident living near the newly-purchased tract land and an avid



Steve Grega and his dog Odin enjoy the new bench installed on land added to the High Blue Reservation in Walpole.

hiker and conservationist, Shelly reported there are more hikers and walkers using public lands like this than ever before. "There's a walking group in Walpole that hikes this area on a regular basis," Shelly said. He notes that although there is an existing trail on the newly protected land, it is not currently used much because few people know it exists.

"A few upgrades and trail blazes will allow the land to be connected with the adjacent High Blue Reservation and the amazing Connecticut River Valley views to the west," Shelly added.

Lew Shelly was in a unique position when it came to working with the Forest Society's land conservation staffer, Brian Hotz, to pull together the arrangement which would lead to the protection of this land. Foremost, after 22 years of service on the Walpole Conservation Commission, Shelly was acquainted with John C. Faulkner—who had once owned the land. Shelly knew of Faulkner's desire to protect the tract as open space. When Shelly learned that Faulkner had passed away in



2010, he contacted Faulkner's daughter, Sarah, who informed him that the land was never protected despite her father's intention to do so. "He loved this land—it's a beautiful parcel," said Sarah Faulkner, who recalls hiking the land with her family as a child. "This is one of those pieces of property that we knew, even as children, was meant to be protected."

Although Sarah said her family couldn't afford to donate the land outright, she discovered that her father had approached the Forest Society in 2001 to assess its interest in the land. Given her father's wishes, it was important to her to do everything in her power to see it protected.

"My dad believed it was his job to take care of his property," she said, recalling that her father turned down a \$1 million offer for the land about 20 years ago. "He was a conservationist at heart."

In addition to her personal connection to the land, Sarah carefully assessed which organization would be the best long-term steward of her family's land and she chose the Forest Society. "It made a lot of sense,

especially given the Forest Society's abutting holdings at High Blue," she said.

Knowing that his goals and Sarah Faulkner's wishes to honor her father were ultimately aligned, Shelly proposed a solution that would be amenable to everyone: he offered to work on putting together a cooperative agreement between people in the neighborhood to protect the land.

"This project has by far been the most satisfying for me since I first began my work with the Walpole Conservation Commission" Shelly said. "I saw a need, and I was able to make the right connections with the right people at the right time before the land fell out of the hands of those who wanted to protect it."

Enter Grega, who was the first person Shelly said he thought of when he began moving forward with his efforts. "I knew he had interest in potentially helping as a contributor, but I didn't expect him to agree to fund the whole thing," Shelly said.

For Grega, whose childhood in Long Island taught him about the importance of open space, his decision to donate the funds to purchase the tract was an easy one. "Preserving land is something I've always wanted to do," he said. "When I was a kid in Long Island, it was all potato farms. By the time I left, it was all houses."

Grega's ties to New Hampshire also go back to his childhood, when he spent summer vacations here with his family. He purchased his land in Walpole 30 years ago, then moved here permanently after retiring from his job as a bridge maintenance engineer for the New York State Department of Transportation.

As a retiree, Grega walks every day, often on the land he helped to protect. Walking his Bernese Mountain Dog, Odie, is an important part of his routine. "Being able to take Odie with me while hiking this land is crucial. It means a lot to me to be able to walk him without a leash."

The 58 acres is a haven for deer and moose, the newly-protected land contains 20 acres of Tier 2 wildlife habitat, which is the highest quality habitat in the region, according to the state's Wildlife Action Plan. The forested land features mixed hardwoods, hemlock, white pine and spruce. At the land's highest point, an engraved granite bench that Sarah Faulkner installed in memory of her father in July. In addition to clearing the view in front of the bench, the Society is upgrading the existing trail on the property so it will connect to the network of trails leading to the High Blue Reservation.

In meantime, Grega and his faithful dog happily traverse the existing trail, keeping watch on the land. Of his generous contribution to protect the 58-acre tract of forest near his home, Grega joked: "This is the most I've ever paid for a view I don't actually own." ♪

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Smith Tract Added to Fremont Town Forest

By Mike Speltz

The citizens of Fremont and many others believe that they, and the Phillips Exeter Academy, are the stewards of the next most valuable aquatic resource in southern New Hampshire: the 824-acre Spruce Swamp. To borrow from the parable of a diminutive locomotive, Fremont is “the little town that could.”

Despite its popular name, the 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 the 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 on the health of the surrounding uplands as a nestling is dependent on

the steady visits of food-bearing adult birds. Without the surrounding 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.

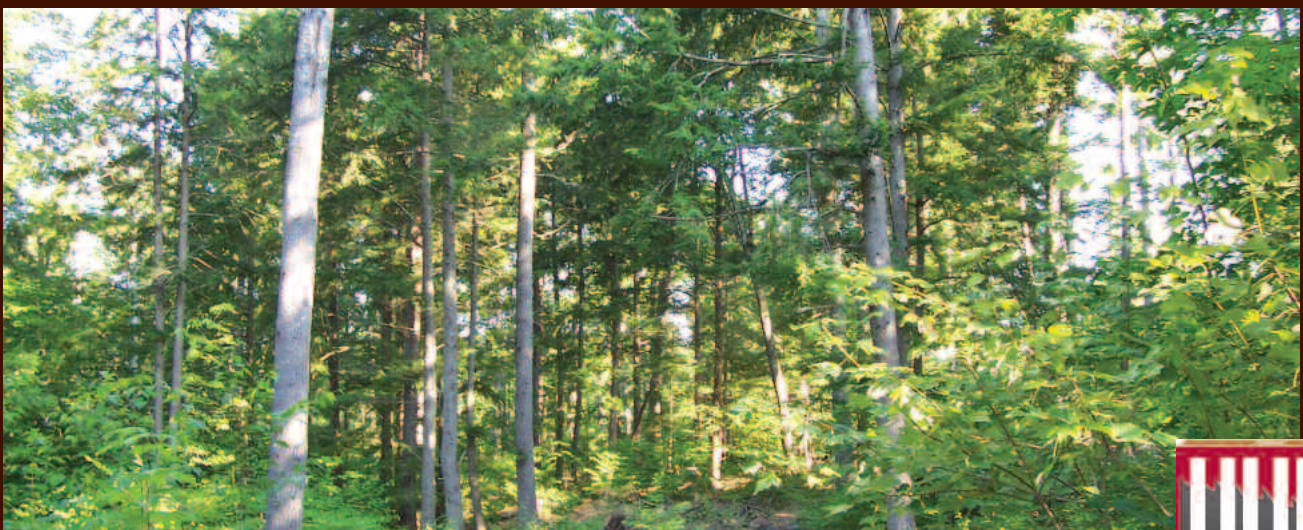
On April 2 the town added another protective buffer to the forest protecting the swamp. This latest achievement is the addition of 76 acres purchased from brothers Richard and Robert Smith and added to the Glen Oakes Town Forest, which was purchased in 2006. The Forest Society assisted in the establishment of the town forest, holds an easement on it, and has now been granted an easement on this 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 considered an imperiled community type in New Hampshire. The property is home to the state-endangered ringed bog haunter, which is also uncommon globally; loon and great blue heron have been spotted nearby. The state-threatened spotted turtle and Blanding’s turtle have been found near the property and may well be present. Altogether biologists have identified 104 animal and 152 plant species on the adjacent town forest; many of these will likely be identified on the abutting new addition.

Since Fremont first conserved this community land, local citizens have re-connected with their land. Two and a half miles of newly constructed or improved trails are supported by maps and signs at each intersection. These trails link walkers to old cellar holes, diverse

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natural communities, pens and stone walls that testify to previous farms, and just plain peace and quiet.

Among the key people who made this project successful were Janice O'Brien, Pat DeBeer, Heidi Carlson, Dennis Howland, Bill Nee, Jack Karcz, as well as Dijit Taylor and Jess Charpentier of the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP). Special thanks are due to Robert and Richard Smith who inherited the land from their grandfather and turned down offers from developers in order to see the land protected. ♪

Working Forest in Weare

The Russell Foundation brokered a project to aid the New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) in purchasing the 74-acre property from the Mclain family of Weare. As part of the project NEFF agreed to donate the conservation easement to the Forest Society after it purchased the land. NEFF now owns the land as a reservation, manages it for its timber, and has it open to the public for passive recreation. The proposed easement also includes an executory interest to the Town of Weare.

The Property is entirely forested with much of the forest at a relatively mature stage. Cellar holes, old foundations and stone-lined wells remain in two locations in the easement property near Tobey Hill Road. The proposed easement will guarantee public pedestrian access to the property. The land fronts on Sawyer Road and Tobey Hill Road, both of which are used for hiking, bicycling, snowshoeing, skiing and horseback riding by the general public. Several trails suitable for hiking and Nordic skiing also cross the Property. The property was a conservation

priority for the Town of Weare's Conservation Commission, the new Piscataquog Watershed Conservation Plan and the Forest Society' Lower Merrimack River Valley regional plan.

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Forest Society, NEFF Join Forces to Protect Forestland

Jane Difley, President Forester for the Forest Society, met with Bob Perschel, the New England Forestry Foundation's (NEFF) Executive director in May to close on the latest collaboration between the two partner organizations. The closing granted a conservation easement to the Society on 648 acres in New Hampton and Sanbornton. This easement is the result of a 1997 grant accepted by NEFF from the Sweet Water Trust (SWT) to add

onto NEFF's existing reservations on Hersey Mountain. NEFF owns about 3,100 acres on Hersey Mountain and also holds two easements on the abutting Knox Mountain Tree Farm (652 acres). About 2,100 of those acres are in a "Forever Wild" easement held by the Northeast Wilderness Trust

This latest easement with the Forest Society consists of three non-contiguous parcels, all abutting other conservation land.

All the tracts are entirely forested and contain excellent wildlife habitat, especially for black bear, moose and deer. Some areas contain medium-aged stands of mixed forest. Other areas have been harvested within the last decade and contain shrub and young, pole-sized timber habitats for songbirds. There are numerous perennial and seasonal streams that run through the tracts. ♣

Bliss Lane Realty Trust Conserves Key 483-acre Parcel in Orange

Bliss Lane Realty Trust has donated a conservation easement on 483 acres in Orange, NH, prior to selling the property to Green Acre Woodlands, Inc. Green Acre Woodlands has bought the land using funds it received from phase I of their 6,500-acre Forest Legacy project (which SPNHF is facilitating). The land abuts and enlarges the 5,500-acre Cardigan

Mountain State Forest. The forest has been well managed by Rick Evans a local licensed forester and 100 percent of the property's soils ranked among the highest suitability category (Group I) for forest products. Scenic views of the higher portion of the property can be glimpsed from Burnt Hill and Brock Hill Roads on which it fronts. It has been identified as having high

natural resource values in the Lakes Region Conservation Plan and is within a core focus area of the Quabbin to Cardigan Initiative. The property also contains some nice old mill sites and early foundation suggesting a more intensive use of this property at some point in the past. ♣

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The Davis family generously donated 10 acres of open shrub beaver meadow that abuts the Forest Society's Black Mountain Forest (left). The family has a nearly century-long conservation tradition, as evidenced by the plaque above at the Sutton Pines Reservation, which was established in 1925.

A Long Family Tradition in North Sutton

In 1925 the *Manchester Union* reported the dedication of the Sutton Pines Forest Reservation, a new reservation of the "Sunapee branch of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests" under President Herbert Welsh. The effort to save "primeval pines on the shores of Kezar Lake" was the culmination of a 12-year effort which officially began with a land gift in 1914. It was noted that Philip Ayres (staff forester), Allan Hollis (Board Chair), Herbert Welsh (Society President) and State Forester Edgar C. Hirst worked to save the pines which were slated to be logged. Four of the final five acres of this reservation were donated by Donald C. Davis, Sr., Robert H. Davis and Gertrude Davis Clay of Sutton.

Eighty-seven years later Don C. Davis and seven members of the same Davis family (most still from Sutton) have donated another ten acres to the Forest Society. Their donation is an addition to the Forest Society's new 1,054-acre Black Mountain Forest in Sutton and Warner. Don Davis had been a long-time manager of Winslow State Park on Kearsarge and Wadleigh State Park on Kezar Lake in North Sutton. He offered to donate the land the very day the Forest Society announced the start of

the Black Mountain campaign. Don was immensely helpful during the campaign by writing about the efforts in his "Parklands Primer" column for the regional Inter-Town Record newspaper based in North Sutton. Don recently revealed more about his family's connections to the Forest Society:

When I was a young boy I would always stop my bike by the stone on the North Rd. in Sutton to read the plaque about the Primeval Pines. I was impressed that my grandfather, Robert H. Davis, and his sister, Gertrude Davis Cla, had cared enough about the exceptional trees that they gave the land on which they grew to the Forest Society for a reservation to protect them. It made me proud. Dad explained to me about what the mighty stand of trees had looked like before the Hurricane of '38 had destroyed most of them and of course, that made me sad. I could still see the stumps of some of the giants.

Years later In the Forest Society's book A Greener Earth by Evan Hill, I learned the Primeval Pines gift was given "for and in consideration of the memory of our mother." It was my great grandmother, who had instilled in my grandparents a love and appreciation of their surroundings and they had thanked her with the gift. I never knew my grandfather,

except through the stories told to me by Dad. Many were about my surroundings and caring for them. Great Aunt Gertrude lived long enough to show me the beauty of a toad and the wonder of a jack-in-the pulpit. Dad was generous, always finding ways to help someone in need without fanfare. He never sought recognition for any of his deeds. When I learned about the Forest Society's Black Mountain campaign I said to my sister, Peggy, that gifting our abutting land to the Forest Society would be the perfect way to honor the memory Grampa, Aunt Gertrude and Dad. She agreed without a second thought. Our six children also agreed. We are certain that if they were alive; Grampa, Aunt Gertrude and Dad would approve. We're thrilled we can make this gift to honor their memory. We are grateful to the Forest Society for accepting our gift in their memory.

The 10-acre wetland is an open shrub beaver meadow and the headwaters of Steven's Brook, a tributary of the Warner River. The Davis land directly abuts the Kearsarge Regional High School, creating potential educational uses by students. The school's water source is a well located near the wetland and thus the additional land conservation in and around the well helps to protect the water quality for KRHS. ♪



Two views looking south from Pitcher Mountain: Then and Now. The view from Pitcher Mountain is emblematic of how afforestation has transformed the New Hampshire landscape over the past 75 years as trees reclaimed pastures.

Shifting Views

Do we remain in a rural state of mind?

By Dave Anderson

Hiking through 75 years of *Forest Notes* magazine archives reveals not-so-subtle cultural shifts that accompanied demographic changes and the afforestation in New Hampshire.

Over the past 75 years we lost scenic open vistas from hillside farms with pastures once devoid of trees. It's no comfort to those who wax nostalgic or lament lost vistas that neither quaint scenery nor tourism motivated why views were originally cleared. As hill farms vanished, forests reclaimed their former domain. Within decades, trees obstructed the hard-won, yet incidental scenic vistas.

During the same period, seven decades following the hurricane of 1938, population increase has brought more subjective *viewpoints* into New Hampshire than ever before. How have collective cultural values regarding forests and trees changed in the 75 years following September 1937 when *Forest Notes* was first published?

In 1937, the state's population was approximately 483,000 residents. By 2010 it had grown 172 percent to 1.316 million

residents. More residents now literally maintain and figuratively hold views of the state's forests. Paradoxically, population growth paralleled the return of forests: more people and more trees. People arrived and sifted into the forest understory of southern New Hampshire like seedlings crowding abandoned pastures.

What cultural shifts in perception accompanied the changed demographic of a once rural state? *Do we remain in a rural state of mind?*

As lawnmowers replaced sheep and cows, our collective view of farming also changed. Farms today are viewed with pride as a healthy source of locally-grown food or with nostalgia for a bygone era or with residential neighborhood trepidation about potential nuisance odors from manure. Perhaps we also harbor pride, romance or fear regarding the state's forests. Landowners surveyed consistently cite "commercial timber investment" as their *least* most important reason for owning forestland.

New residents often have less firsthand

experience owning and managing timber. Fewer residents each decade have descended from family roots on working farms and managed woodlots. Collectively, we're less utilitarian about the economic realities and benefits of active management. A smaller percentage of our Granite State neighbors harvest timber, heat with cordwood, or drive skidders. As with diversified, specialized niche farming, there are now more owners of smaller and smaller tracts of woodlands.

Urban views of community "street trees" in Portsmouth, Nashua, Manchester and Concord are growing more prevalent and influential as we're becoming a more urban and suburban region. Social factors increasingly influence the economics, ecological function and health of the region's forests... even forests far removed from the streets and backyards of southern New Hampshire.

Vacation destinations tour forest recreation where rough logging camps formerly held sway. More residents have built new homes along the expanding exurban crescent of the Monadnock Region, Upper

Valley and Lakes Region. Retirement homes and vacation homes built in rural areas are clustered near scenic vistas overlooking lakes, river valleys and ranks of forested foothills of the famed White Mountain National Forest. More residents increasingly associate “forest” primarily with scenic beauty, solitude, tranquility, wildlife and recreation than with timber industry jobs, wood energy, wages, board feet and tax revenues paid to local communities.

Accompanying the maturing forest are rebounding wildlife populations: fishers, black bears, moose, coyotes, beavers, Canada lynx, pileated woodpeckers, wood ducks, goshawks, bald eagles to name but a few. Wildlife are now less likely to be harvested for meat, pelts or persecuted as “varmints” and much more likely to cause traffic jams as people clamor to harvest digital photos on cell phones to instantaneously post on Facebook or in wildlife chat rooms and blogs.

According to the 2010 update to the 2006 USFS Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA), New Hampshire is now nearly 85 percent forested with 4.8 million acres of forestland, slightly higher than 83 percent reported in 2006 primarily due to a new and more accurate sampling method and not any increase in forested land area. Forest cover reached its most recent maximum with nearly 88 percent of New Hampshire in forestland by 1960. In the last 50 years between 1960 and 2010, New Hampshire lost 300 square miles of forestland. Satellite imagery shows that loss primarily in southern tier where the majority of the population growth has occurred. “Tree cover” which is not necessarily all forest is now reported even higher at 89 percent of the state’s land area.

The state’s human population is aging, a so-called “Silver Tsunami” of baby-boomers now reaching their sixties. The USFS FIA data shows our forests are likewise aging. FIA data reveals only 13 percent of the state’s forest is now less than 40 years old. More than half the timberland in NH—57 percent—is older than 61 years old. As forests age, they change in composition.

A higher percentage of forest now comprises shade-loving hemlock, beech, yellow birch and red or sugar maple. While people think older forests and larger trees sound great, there are species of both wildlife and trees that remain dependent on young forest conditions.

Young seedlings, saplings and small-diameter, brushy forests of sun-loving paper birch, pin cherry, poplar and white pine regeneration are less common. These “pioneers” first established on abandoned farm pastures or in cleared areas greater than 10 acres. They cannot establish in partial shade. They *require* large openings to regenerate and survive. The public’s preference for the appearance of micro-openings in the forest canopy via group selection and individual tree selection timber harvests maintains too much shade for species that could become less common—including our State Tree, the Paper Birch (see George Frame’s “Woods Wise” column in this issue).

The aging human population poses another challenge: the mean age of forest landowners is now sixty-two years old. Looking ahead, a coming generational transfer of land-wealth could place more acreage into smaller and more fragmented parcels owned by more residents with less experience owning and managing forestland and motivated by values other than growing the high quality timber. We’re approaching crucial decades in our state’s forest history that will determine if we will sustain a rich tradition of excellent forestry.

Perusing 75 years of *Forest Notes* reveals people have long cared deeply about the fate of our state’s forests—for timber, clean water, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities and scenic economic tourism; all the advantages our state’s forests continue to provide. We trust that continuity of sentiment will remain as renewable as the forest itself. ♪

Naturalist Dave Anderson is director of education for the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. He may be reached via e-mail at danderson@forestsociety.org.

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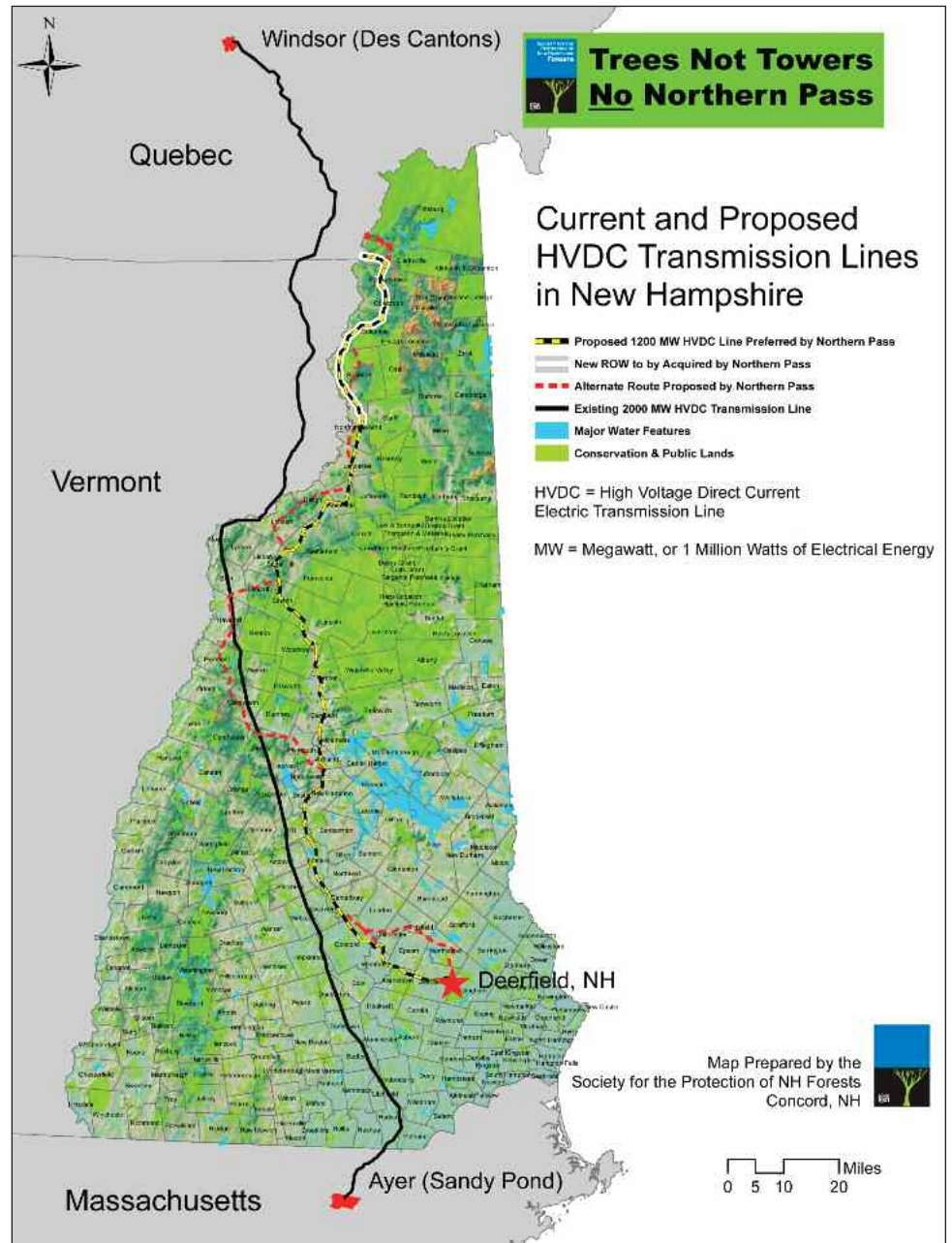
By Jack Savage

In August the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests signed purchase-and-sale agreements with four landowners to put conservation easements on some 1,800 acres of land in Coos County. The land under agreement lies directly in the obvious intended path of the proposed Northern Pass transmission line, a private commercial powerline that would put more than 1,100 towers across 180 miles of New Hampshire's landscape, including the White Mountain National Forest.

The proposed private high-voltage direct current line would enter New Hampshire along the Canadian border in Pittsburg and proceed across at least 40 miles of new right-of-way in Coos County to Groveton. From there it is proposed to be added to a PSNH distribution right-of-way and proceed south through the White Mountain National Forest to Franklin, then on through Concord to Deerfield. The proposed towers and transmission line would enable Hydro Quebec to export electricity to its U.S. subsidiary, HQ US. It is a private development project with no determination of public need.

Given that the Northern Pass project does not have access to the use of eminent domain (thanks to the legislature and Gov. Lynch via HB648 last winter), the conservation easements the Forest Society hopes to complete would disrupt Northern Pass's ability to move forward with their intended route. The conservation easements will be perpetual, running with the land regardless of who may own the land in the future. In order to acquire the easements and thwart the intended Northern Pass route, the Forest Society is seeking to raise \$2.5 million by October 31, 2012 (see page 38).

Northern Pass is proposed by Northeast Utilities and its subsidiary Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH) in partnership



with Canadian crown corporation Hydro Quebec. They have spent an estimated \$20 million to acquire land and rights-of-way through 40 miles of northern New Hampshire without finding an unimpeded route.

"To date they have created a \$20 million powerline to nowhere," said Jane Difley,

president/forester of the Forest Society. "However, if successful, Northern Pass's intended route through Coos County would scar some of New Hampshire's most scenic forested and agricultural landscape with unsightly towers and powerlines. By conserving these 1,800 acres we are taking

another step toward compelling Hydro Quebec, Northeast Utilities and PSNH to realize that they need to look at other alternatives for their private powerline project.”

The Forest Society’s objective is to protect New Hampshire’s scenic rural landscape from Northern Pass. “It is clear from Hydro Quebec’s business plan and Northeast Utilities’ property acquisitions that they are thinking beyond this one project,” adds Difley. “It’s no secret that Hydro Quebec seeks to export four times the power that would be transmitted by Northern Pass alone. New Hampshire needs to protect itself from an industrialized corridor that could support multiple transmission lines in the future regardless of the outcome of the immediate Northern Pass proposal. For that reason we are doing what we do best—permanently protecting our state’s forests from reckless, unnecessary development by working with willing landowners.”

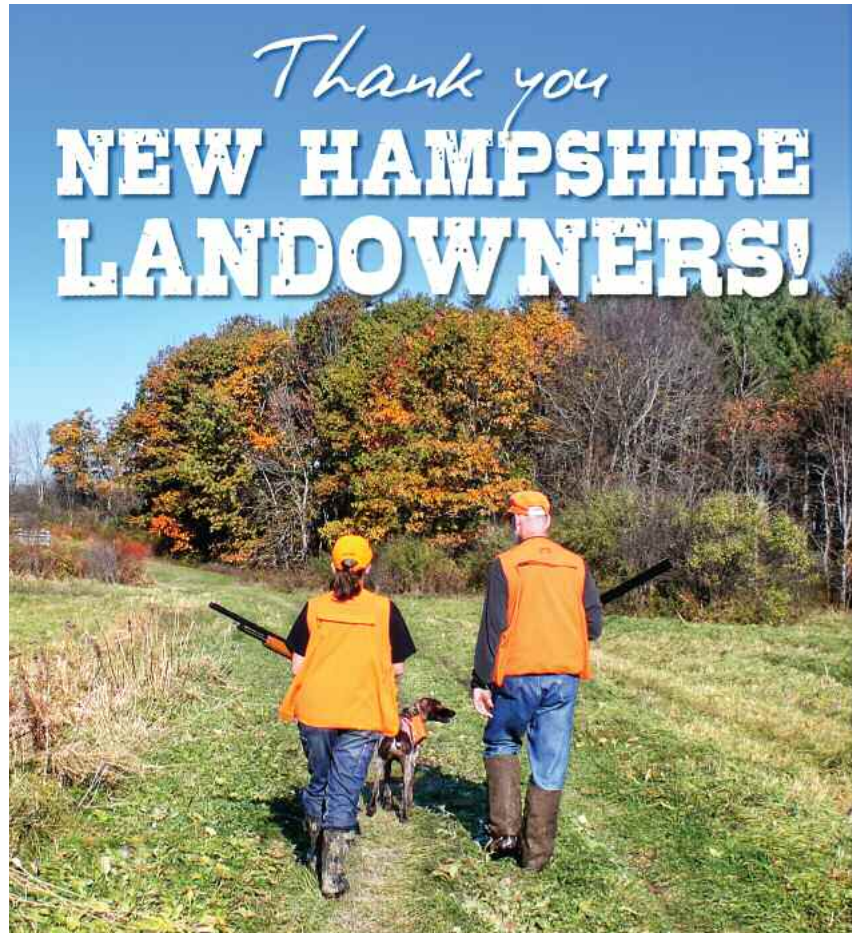
The Forest Society has opposed Northern Pass as it has been proposed in part because of its legal and ethical obligation to protect existing conserved lands. If built as proposed, the Northern Pass transmission line and 1,100 towers would directly and indirectly impact more than 15,000 acres of conserved land involving 153 different parcels owned by private individuals, local communities, land trusts such as the Forest Society, the State of New Hampshire, and the federal government. There can be no question that this is a project with a statewide impact on the precious natural resources that support a substantial part of our economy and traditional way of life. The Forest Society’s own Washburn Family Forest in Clarksville, Kaufman Forest in Stark, and popular Christmas tree farm The Rocks in Bethlehem would be directly impacted.

“We are taking action to protect land in Coos County as a way to defend conserved

lands across 180 miles of New Hampshire from Pittsburg to Franklin to Deerfield,” Difley said.

The Appalachian Mountain Club has conducted a visual impact study on the section of the proposed transmission corridor between Groveton and Deerfield. They determined that visual impacts would affect 95,000 acres in the state, including public resources such as the White Mountain National Forest, Pondicherry Division of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, four state-designated scenic and cultural byways, scenic viewpoints on the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, vistas along the I-93 gateway section to Franconia Notch, more than 9,000 acres in Concord and Pawtuckaway State Park in Nottingham.

“For more than a century the Forest Society has worked to protect New Hampshire from threats like Northern Pass,” said Carolyn Benthien, president of the Forest Society’s Board of Trustees. “Decades ago



New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and its non-profit partner, the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of New Hampshire (nhwildlifefoundation.org), extend our sincere appreciation for your generosity in sharing your land with New Hampshire hunters, anglers, and other outdoor enthusiasts.

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Franconia Notch was threatened by a proposed four-lane highway. We prevailed then and we intend to prevail now.”

“PSNH, Northern Utilities and Hydro Quebec have turned a deaf ear to overwhelming public opposition to their private

transmission line proposal. They have ignored the 30 towns that voted to oppose Northern Pass,” Difley said. “We are confident that with the support of all those who value New Hampshire’s scenic landscapes we will reach our goal. There may be a way

for Hydro Quebec to sell its power to New England, but New Hampshire should not allow its scenery, economy and way of life to be spoiled as a consequence.” ♪

Jack Savage is editor of Forest Notes magazine.

Clear Waters and Cloudy Issues at Umbagog

By Will Abbott

“Umbagog” is a word of Native American origin that means “clear water”. While the waters of Lake Umbagog remain clear today, the debate over the present and future ownership and use of the land around the lake—the headwaters of the rivers and streams that feed it—has stirred passions that are clouding the issues.

Background

Lake Umbagog is New Hampshire’s second largest lake, sharing a longitudinal boundary with Maine that divides the lake’s 7,500 acres of water surface. The majority of the lake’s water and lake frontage is in the Granite State, with frontage in three communities: the Town of Errol and the unincorporated townships of Cambridge and Wentworth’s Location. The Androscoggin River begins in Errol at the lake’s outlet, a man-made dam currently owned by a Florida electric utility. The large wetlands complex between the dam and the north end of the lake is one key reason Congress created a permanent national wildlife refuge at Lake Umbagog in 1992. That year, with the support of the Forest Society, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USF&WS) made its first purchase of 128 acres of land for what was to become the Lake Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge.

By 2007 USF&WS had acquired a total of 21,650 acres of land in fee title to add to the Refuge, through federal appropriations from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund. Adhering to a 1997 law requiring USF&WS to complete comprehensive conservation plans for all of its 545 properties,



Lake Umbagog attracts visitors and occasionally some local controversy over issues dealing with its management and potential expansion. Photo by Jack Savage.

the agency launched a 2-year public planning process that considered thousands of comments from stakeholders. The process culminated in the publication of the Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan, approved in January of 2009. The plan presented a 15-year vision for the Refuge that substantially expanded its approved acquisition boundary from 21,650 acres to 69,500 acres.

In the fall of 2009, the Trust for Public Land announced an ambitious project to protect 31,377 acres of land owned in New Hampshire by the Plum Creek Timber Company, a Seattle-based real estate invest-

ment trust. The project is called “The Androscoggin Headwaters Project,” (AHP). The Trust negotiated five different acquisitions, funded with a combination of public and private funds. The AHP aims to purchase the most sensitive wildlife habitat in fee and to leave 73 percent of the property as a privately-owned commercial forest subject to a conservation easement.

Of the 31,377-acre AHP total, approximately 19,068 acres are within the approved acquisition boundary of the Refuge established in January 2009. And of this total, 7,452 acres would be acquired by USF&WS in fee and 11,609 would be protected by a

Forest Legacy conservation easement held by the State of New Hampshire. This land within the Refuge boundary protected by the easement would continue to be owned by Plum Creek and with the forest resources managed sustainably by Plum Creek.

The USF&WS proposal to use the Forest Legacy program run by the US Forest Service to fund a working forest conservation easement of 11,609 acres within the Refuge-approved acquisition boundary was a response to the public comments during the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) process asking USF&WS to sustain the region's strong forestry heritage. The normal USF&WS approach to growing a national wildlife refuge is to acquire the fee title to land within the refuge boundary. In fact, as proposed, the AHP will result in less fee acquisition than proposed in the CCP by USF&WS. This outcome is largely due to public concerns raised during the CCP process that large-scale fee acquisitions could have adverse impacts on the region's wood economy.

The AHP was strongly supported by a broad cross-section of stakeholders, including the Forest Society and many other regional and local businesses, organizations and governments. The Board of Selectmen in Errol wrote a letter supporting federal appropriations for TPL's Androscoggin Headwaters Project in March 2010 to then-Sen. Judd Gregg, noting that "Protection of this land from large-scale development or loss of recreational access is critical to the quality of life and economic health of our town."

Concerns Raised

One year ago the three elected Coos County Commissioners sent a letter to the four members of the New Hampshire Congressional delegation, asking that they place a four-year moratorium on any new appropriations of federal money for federal acquisition of land in Coos County's 23 unincorporated townships. They argued that new federal acquisitions amounted to taking the land out of forest production,



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in the Granite State and
enriching our quality of life.**



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and that while they support efforts to promote the tourism economy, “In Coos County, a strong tourism economy requires as its foundation a strong forest economy.” Furthermore, the letter asked: “Will the privately held timber resources be a critical success factor in an [economic] turnaround [for the County]? If so, we do not want to see the land locked up under federal ownership.”

While the Forest Society respects the opinion of the Coos County Commissioners, we wish they had chosen to raise their concerns directly during the two-year Refuge planning process, when USF&WS was seeking public input. We believe that the Commissioners are right to be concerned about the long-term prospects for keeping working forests as working forests in Coos County, a subject worthy of further study. We believe the Commissioners are wrong to advocate for a moratorium on federal acquisition, as this would require an interference with purchase and sales contracts between a willing seller (Plum Creek) and willing buyer, The Trust for Public Land (on behalf of USF&WS). Further, we believe that TPL and Plum Creek have found a good balance between meeting the objectives of the Refuge and retaining valuable timberland in private ownership and active timber management. When the Androscoggin Headwaters project is completed, nearly all of the land within the Refuge’s New Hampshire approved acquisition boundary will be permanently protected.

Property Tax Issues

Another issue raised by some residents of local communities directly affected by the Refuge is the property tax impact on a town like Errol when lands are removed from the town tax rolls. We believe this is a legitimate concern, as the federal government should accept some obligation for payments in lieu of taxes. In fact, the USF&WS does accept this responsibility, and makes payments in lieu of taxes on Refuge lands removed from town tax rolls. During the earlier part of the past decade, the Town of Errol was receiving payments from USF&WS that significantly exceeded what the Town would have received had the land been privately owned and enrolled in Current Use. Only when these payments were reduced by a lack of federal funds did some residents in the Town raise a concern about the reduction. Nevertheless, we believe it would be very helpful for our Congressional delegation to work with the US Department of Interior and other members of Congress to identify a more stable funding mechanism for the federal payment in lieu of taxes program for all land owned by the USF&WS at the Umbagog Refuge.

Managing the Land

Finally, there are a series of issues relating to the land management decisions of the Refuge and its staff that have raised concerns. In each instance, we believe that the USF&WS has made a sincere effort to address the concerns where they can be

addressed. There will remain tensions over some issues, but where conflict resolution is possible we believe USF&WS will continue to make efforts to do so.

To the credit of the New Hampshire congressional delegation, they and their staffs have been working collaboratively to visit the Refuge, to visit with and listen to all stakeholders who are raising concerns and to find common ground. They have each observed that the Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge is a national resource, that the expansion as affirmed by USF&WS in January 2009 is appropriate and that legitimate concerns raised by stakeholders can and should be addressed directly. To this end, Kathy Eneguess, President of the White Mountain Community College in Berlin, and a Forest Society trustee, has recently initiated an effort to bring stakeholders together at the College with the goal of bringing factual grounding to the issues raised so stakeholders with differing views can work with the delegation, the USF&WS and one another to find common ground.

New Hampshire is fortunate the have the incredible natural resources we have, and the enormous public interest we have in sharing these resources with others. The conservation of these resources for future generations should be a unifying force; the greater good is served by working together to solve problems. It has long been the New Hampshire way. √

Will Abbott is the Vice President for Policy and Land Management of the Forest Society.

Conservation Keeps Congress Busy

By Chris Wells

The first half of 2012 saw a lot of action in Congress around federal land conservation programs and spending. Legislators worked to pass a new five-year Farm Bill, had multiple opportunities to take positions on the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), and made progress on annual appropriations bills.

The federal **Farm Bill** is legislation passed

by Congress every five years that re-authorizes and sets spending levels for the myriad programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The Farm Bill includes key conservation and forestry programs of interest to the Forest Society and its members. The biggest land conservation “news” in the Senate version of the bill (approved in June) was its provision of \$1.38 billion over

10 years for Agricultural Land Easements (ALE), a new program that merges the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program and Grassland Reserve Program. In context of a Farm Bill that makes significant cuts in other areas, the funding level for the new consolidated ALE program compares favorably with those set in the previous farm bills.

On July 12th, the House Agriculture Committee passed its version of the 2012 Farm Bill, and in a reversal of the recent House-Senate dynamic, *added* \$200 million to the Senate's number for conservation easements, even as it cut overall Farm Bill spending to \$12 billion below the Senate's number. In the absence of a final bill (or a stop-gap extension) being passed before October 1st, current Farm Bill land conservation programs could disappear altogether going into 2013. Stay tuned!

The first six months of 2012 also saw much activity around the **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**, the nation's largest single funding source for land conservation. The Fund was created by Congress in 1965 to receive a portion of offshore oil and gas leasing revenues, on the principle that the exploitation of one natural resource should be balanced, at least in part, by the conservation of others.

LWCF funds federal land acquisitions in National Forests, Parks and Wildlife Refuges, and makes grants to states for local parks and recreation projects. In recent years, LWCF has also become the funding source for the Forest Legacy program. LWCF is authorized to receive up to \$900 million a year in leasing revenue, but has only received this full amount twice in its 47-year history.

In March, "dear colleague" letters circulated in the House and Senate, led by New Hampshire Congressman Charlie Bass and Senator Jeanne Shaheen respectively, calling on Congressional appropriators to provide significant funding to LWCF in the FY13 federal budget. Both letters garnered broad and bipartisan support, and all four members of the NH congressional delegation signed the letters. Also in March, the Senate passed 76-22 to pass an amendment to its version of the Transportation Bill that

dedicated \$700 million per year to LWCF for the next two years. Again, both of New Hampshire's Senators voted for the amendment. Unfortunately the Senate's LWCF funding provision did not make it into the final compromise bill passed by both houses in June. As of this writing, LWCF funding remains in the realm of the annual **appropriations process**. ¶

Chris Wells is the Senior Director of Strategic Projects/Policy for the Forest Society. He may be reached by calling (603) 224-9945 or emailing cwells@forestsociety.org.

Visit www.forestsociety.org/issues for more information about these and other policy issues.



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111th Annual Report

May 1, 2011 – April 30, 2012

Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests

To our members:

I believe that an organization like the Forest Society can accomplish whatever we set out to do. Our goals are aspirational because our forest conservation work is critically important and because we live in a time that offers us the last best chance to permanently protect New Hampshire's landscape.

My optimism is regularly refueled by the energetic and generous support of so many members and donors who care deeply about our forests, by the dedication of our Trustees and other volunteers, and by the professionalism of our staff.

Even so, I would not have predicted that we would protect nearly 14,000 acres in fiscal year 2012. And while I was confident last winter that we could raise the funds necessary to protect the landscape surrounding the Balsams Resort, I would not have predicted a year ago that we would end up raising \$850,000 from more than 1,700 donations in six holiday-shortened weeks to do so.

Of the 30 different land protection projects completed during the fiscal year, six (1,116 acres) were new fee-owned Forest Reservations or additions to existing Reservations. Among those, we added 363 acres to our Monadnock Reservation and have the privilege of owning and managing the new Wenny-Baker Forest on Thompson Hill in Hillsborough.

Conservation easements made up 24 projects (12,806 acres) during the fiscal year. Among the highlights was a donated easement on 2,319 acres owned by Transcanada including a staggering 37 miles of frontage on First Connecticut Lake and the upper Connecticut River in Pittsburg. We conserved large blocks of working forest, award-winning farms, and other lands important to local communities as well as the families who own them.

We now steward 172 forest reservations totaling more than 50,000 acres and monitor more than 780 easements on more than 130,000 acres of land owned by others. We conveyed the 152-acre Big Island to the US Fish & Wildlife Service to become part of the Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge.

As part of our management of our Forest Reservations, we conducted five timber sales on a total of 495 acres, generating \$178,000. Harvest volume was just over one million board feet of sawtimber

with 11,700 tons of chips and pulp wood. We continue to practice what we preach—sustainable forest management helps not only create healthy forests, it can keep forests as forests.


We completed 40 miles of boundary line maintenance and, with the help of our Land Stewards and other volunteers, we installed over 40 property and trail signs. In partnership with the City of Portsmouth and State of New Hampshire we completed a new loop trail as part of our Creek Farm Reservation. Our Board of Trustees also approved our updated Plan for the Management of Fee Owned Lands, including changes that allow bicycles and horseback riding on many of our Reservations.

Perhaps our greatest challenge, however, is that posed by threats to our existing conserved lands. The proposed Northern Pass transmission line would impact not only our own Washburn Family Forest and Rocks Estate, but would directly and indirectly compromise the protection of dozens of other sensitive conserved areas across 180 miles of New Hampshire. We continue to stand with the majority of land and homeowners who do not want to see 1,100 unnecessary transmission towers scar our landscape. New Hampshire is our collective backyard, and we are determined to defend it.

While the future demands our greatest attention, we took time in FY2012 to reflect on the meaning of one of our greatest successes—the passage of the Weeks Act in 1911, which enabled the creation of the White Mountain National Forest. With our partners we celebrate the centennial of that watershed moment, culminating with our annual meeting in September that featured former Sen. Judd Gregg as our keynote speaker. The anniversary served to reinforce the collaborative relationships among those organizations concerned with forest conservation and New Hampshire's quality of life.

Thank you for your continued support and, as always, don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Jane Difley
President/Forester

Land Protection Summary

Conservation Easements	Acres	Town	Grantor
Acworth , Town of (Gove Forest Addition)	86	Acworth	Acworth , Town of (Gove Forest Addition)
Ken Stern Easement	47	Canterbury	Ken Stern Easement
Patricia Humphrey Easement	141	Chichester	Patricia Humphrey Easement
First & Second Ct. Lakes, & Ct. River	2319	Clarksville, Pittsburg	First & Second Ct. Lakes, & Ct. River
Balsams Conservation Restrictions	5690	Colebrook, Dixville, Stewartstown	Tillotson Corporation
Deering, Town of	47	Deering	Deering, Town of
Harvey (addition)	25	Deering	Henry Darrell Harvey
Platt Trust	119	Deering	Doris Platt
Green Acre Woodlands' Forest Legacy Easement (South Branch Tract)	322	Dorchester	The Green Acre Woodlands, Inc
Whippoorwill Farm	71	East Kingston, South Hampton	Clinton & Kelly Fernald
Ruth Ward/Kirstina Pastoriza	361	Easton	Ruth Ward & Kristina Pastoriza
Francetown, Town of (Crotched Mt.)	509	Francetown	Francetown Conservation Commission
Fremont Town Forest Addition (Smith)	76	Fremont	Fremont, Town of
Green Acre Woodlands' Forest Legacy Easement (Bailey Hill Tract)	1436	Groton, Rumney	The Green Acre Woodlands, Inc
Beverly Powell-Woodward	30	Hampton Falls	Beverly Powell-Woodward
Caperton	146	Hebron	Roderick Caperton
Charlie & Ann Royce Trusts	55	Jaffrey	Ann L. Royce Revocable Trust of 2004 & H. Charles Royce Revocable Trust of 2004
Candito Property	174	New Hampton	Louis F. Candito Trust – 1996
Hersey Mountain	648	New Hampton	New England Forestry Foundation, Inc.
Gallagher Property	78	Northwood	Christopher & Dorothy Gallagher
Wallman #3	40	Northwood	Carl Wallman
The Fry Homestead	279	Sandwich, Tamworth	Rachel Boyden, Rebecca Boyden, & Jennifer Kampsnyder
Connors #2	2	Sugar Hill	Greg & Margo Connors
Bolton	105	Weare	Francis Bolton
Total: 24 projects	12,806 acres		

Reservations	Acres	Town	Grantor
Neil & Louise Tillotson Reservation	95	Colebrook	Tillotson Corporation
Hedgehog Mountain Forest (Dioreg Realty LLC)	241	Deering	Dioreg Realty, Inc.
Hedgehog Mountain Forest (Buxton/Lyons)	36	Deering	Deborah Buxton
Hedgehog Mountain Forest (Lewis)	6	Deering	Marcia Lewis
Wenny – Baker Forest on Thompson Hill	375	Hillsborough	Douglas & Betsy Wenny
Monadnock Reservation - Underhill-Joseph M. Stowell Sr. Preserve	363	Jaffrey, Marlborough	Stowell Realty Limited Partnership
Total: 6 projects	1,116 acres		

Grand Total New Acreage Protected **13,922 acres**

For a complete copy of the FY2012 Annual Report, including financial statements, please visit www.forestsociety.org/aboutus. If you have any questions about the annual report, or would like a printed copy, please email Denise Vaillancourt, Vice President, Finance (dvaillancourt@forestsociety.org) or call 224-9945.



Hydro Quebec proposes to put transmission towers and power lines across this North Country landscape. Photo by Jerry and Marcy Monkman, EcoPhotography.

Trees Not Towers: A Campaign to Thwart Northern Pass

Every generation has a chance to create a legacy. For every generation, there is a moment that defines us. A moment when we have a choice about what our legacy will be. A test of our willingness to stand up for our values.

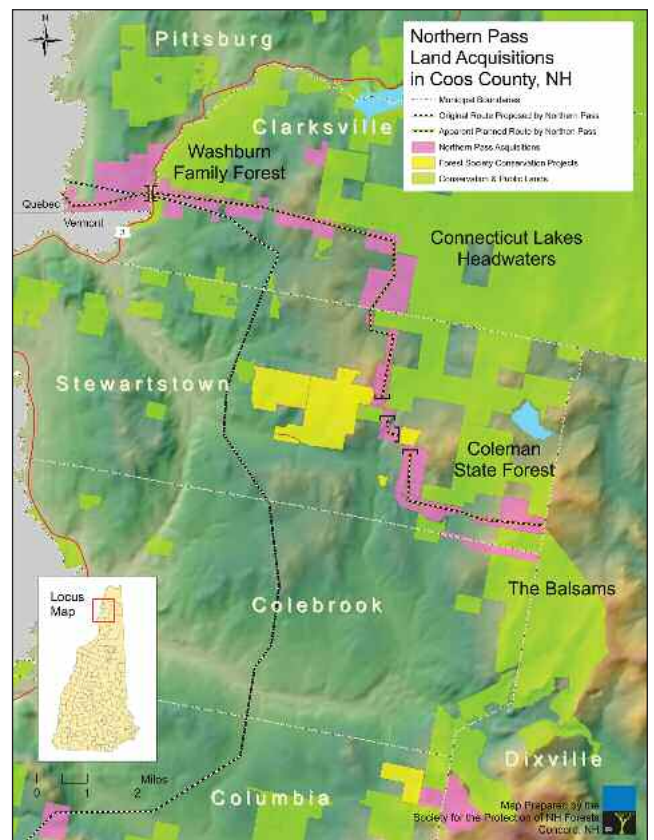
Today is such a moment. Today the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests has an opportunity to defend the state's greatest asset, our scenic working landscape, from the biggest threat of our generation.

The Forest Society is working with four landowners in New Hampshire's North Country to permanently protect 1,800 acres of forests, fields and views through permanent conservation easements. These lands lie directly in the obvious intended path of Northern Pass, and thus disrupt the project's ability to move forward with that route.

The McAllaster Farm, 967 acres including a working dairy farm, maple sugaring operation and certified Tree Farm, lies on the slopes of Mudgett Mountain in Stewartstown. A hiking and snowmobile trail climbs to the height of land, offering views east to Dixville Notch and the famed Balsams resort, west across Vermont and south all the way to Mount Washington on a clear day.

Along the ridge just west of the McAllaster Farm lies another 500 acres owned by Green Acre Woodlands. The property offers scenic views out to all four points of the compass. This easement will guarantee public access for hiking, hunting, bird watching and other recreational uses.

A third property, abutting the southern boundary of the Balsams in Columbia, NH, connects the now protected Balsams landscape to the state's Nash Stream Forest. The conservation easement on 300 acres will



permanently protect more than a mile of frontage on Roaring Brook, which feeds the Mohawk River which flows into the Upper Connecticut River.

Two other strategic parcels in Stewartstown are also under agreement.

These properties are reflective of a broader scenic landscape that is one of New Hampshire's greatest assets. And yet, incredibly, there are those who would carelessly despoil it, and in doing so threaten existing conserved lands across 180 miles of our state, including the White Mountain National Forest.

Northeast Utilities and PSNH want to build a private high-voltage transmission line for the exclusive use of Canada's mega-utility, Hydro Quebec.

Thirty communities have voted to oppose the Northern Pass proposal. Thousands of individuals have made their feelings clear to the governor and other elected officials—Northern Pass as proposed is not welcome in NH.

And yet still they persist, buying up forests and farms to convert to a power line corridor. Hydro Quebec wants to export more than four times the power represented by the Northern Pass proposal. If we permit the corridor to be built, we can



McAllaster Farm. Photo by Jerry and Marcy Monkman, EcoPhotography.

only expect more towers and powerlines in the future.

Today is the day to say no. Today is the day to create our legacy. These blocking actions clearly disrupt the intended route of the proposed Northern Pass project. We will continue to talk with other landowners, legislators, and our lawyers to pursue all options for permanently protecting New Hampshire's scenic landscape.

We can accept donations and pledges through Nov. 15, 2012 to raise the \$2.5 million necessary to close these transactions. We

will only reach our goal with your support and the support of all those who value New Hampshire's scenic landscapes.

Please make a generous donation to save our scenery and fight back against Northern Pass. ♡

To make an online donation, find out the latest update on this campaign, or watch an online video of the lands involved in the project, visit www.forestssociety.org.



☐ YES, I WANT TO HELP THE FOREST SOCIETY SAVE OUR SCENERY!

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Address: _____

Town/City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

☐ Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution for \$ _____
(Please make check out to the Forest Society, with "Trees Not Towers" on the memo line.)

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

Please mail the completed form to: Trees Not Towers, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests
54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301. Or donate online at www.forestssociety.org.
For more information, contact Susanne Kibler-Hacker at 603-224-9945 or via e-mail at skh@forestssociety.org.

Thank you for your help!





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THE MANY FACES OF CONSERVATION



Mark Kresge and Sara Lyon now (on left) and then (on right).
Photo by Al Karevy.



“National environmental groups have their place, but if you want to preserve open space in your own town, then a local group such as the Forest Society is much more effective.”

Mark Kresge and Sara Lyon Jaffrey, N.H.

Members since 1989, when they were celebrated in Forest Notes as our ‘10,000th’ member.

“Twenty three years is a long time in the life of a man; hair goes gray, jobs change, another generation is born, grows up and moves away. The forest moves at a more deliberate pace, and there is a value in that deliberateness. I think our lives are enriched when we accept a responsibility for stewardship and strive

to find the points of synchronicity between the forest clock and the human clock. In all honesty, the forest doesn’t really care—it will still be here long after I’m gone, regardless, but so too will the 3,000-pound rock that I wrestle into place on Mount Monadnock in a nod to human recreation. A dedication to local action and a land

ethic can be pursued individually, but the value of an organization like the Forest Society is its ability to shape a legacy for future generations by organizing and leveraging individual actions into more effective collective efforts. It’s hard to move large rocks on your own!”