# Forest Notes

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S CONSERVATION MAGAZINE

## The N.H.-Made Naturalist John Hay

## No Mountain Stands Alone

## Saving the Farm in Pittsburg

WINTER 2013

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SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE FORESTS

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## FEATURED FORESTER:

## Jeff Langmaid

*Fountains America*

As a forester for Fountains America, Jeff Langmaid has helped landowners plan and manage forests both big and small. Some of those landowners know the intricacies of their property well; some have never set foot on lands they hold as investments. The variety is all part of what makes forestry interesting.

"It gives you a good perspective of how forestry changes depending on the size of the project and the landowners' goals," Langmaid said. "Sometimes they're not certain what they want to do, and they need to know what their options are. Foresters can give them very good options that are realistic."

Langmaid has been with Fountains America for the last four of his 11 years in the field. Though Fountains America provides forestry services all over New England as well as New York, Pennsylvania and W. Virginia, Langmaid works out of the company's Montpelier, Vt., office and focuses his efforts on New Hampshire and Vermont.

One of his major projects is managing the working forest section of the 8,200 acre Lightning Mountain Forest in Columbia and Stratford, N.H., owned by Bunting Family V Forestry LLC. The state holds a conservation easement on the land, and the project must follow strict environmental standards to pass a Forest Stewardship Council audit each year.

The land is former paper company property that had been degraded and needed to be managed with care to meet multiple goals: overall forest health, improved timber quality and wildlife habitat.

"Good silviculture is number one," Langmaid said. "That varies from light thinnings to shelterwood harvests to overstory removals and in certain instances small clearcuts, or patch cutting," he said.

The patch cuts will encourage successional forest habitat and openings ideal for improving bird habitat, specifically songbirds, woodcock or grouse, in addition to deer and moose.

While Langmaid said he enjoys the challenges of such a large project as Lightning Mtn. Forest, the smaller projects offer rewards of meeting landowners' goals as well.

"A lot of our work is in people's backyards, so we definitely deal with small clients on a regular basis," he said.

"Every property is different, and everybody's goals are different, but a consulting forester is a good tool for a landowner because they probably have dealt with similar projects," Langmaid said.

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






## FEATURES




*On our cover:*
The Forest Society's Creek Farm Reservation in Portsmouth offers a tranquil setting for winter walks and snowshoe adventures. Learn more about the 36-acre property and the 1.5-mile Little Harbor Loop Trail by clicking on the Guide to Our Lands at forestsociety.org. Photo by Jerry and Marcy Monkman, EcoPhotography.

## DEPARTMENTS

# Forest Treasure

Two passengers in a plane descending across southwestern New Hampshire in preparation for landing at Manchester Airport stretched their necks to look out the window. As New Hampshire's autumn treescape came into view, they gasped.

"It's so green!" exclaimed one, taking in our pines and still-green meadows. "Look at all the colors!" remarked the other, marveling at the fall foliage. Both, as it turned out, were visiting the Granite State for the first time, and they both hailed from dry western climates where the landscape wears a dull brown blazer most of the time.

It's easy to take New Hampshire's relatively plentiful water supply—and our temperate forests that filter and nurture the watershed—for granted. I was reminded of this during a recent trip to Utah, where the landscape presents a more arid aesthetic and the politics of water resources can be fierce.

I was in Salt Lake City for the annual Land Trust Alliance Rally. Staff and volunteers from many of the approximately 1,700 land trusts—including the Forest Society—attend this conference in order to share knowledge and experience in order to make ourselves better at what we do.

While in the Beehive State, I visited with friends who told me about their local shade tree program, in which they work arduously to plant, water and nurture shade trees.

Such reverence for each individual tree reminds us that we shouldn't take our forests for granted. We should remain wary of the oft-unchecked hunger to pave and fragment more and more acres. It is easy to fall into the trap of thinking that since our forests are abundant, any incremental loss is of little consequence. Like plentiful water and clean air, trees and forests are the treasure that we cannot squander.



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

**Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests**
A non-profit membership organization founded in 1901 to protect the state's most important landscapes and promote wise use of its renewable natural resources. Basic annual membership fee is $35 and includes a subscription to *Forest Notes*.

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By Jack Savage

## 50 Years Ago in Forest Notes

From the winter 1962-63 issue we find this excerpt:

*Leaping flames and the steady song of a fireplace have an ageless appeal to man, but he who would be a good hearth tender must be patient and cheerful, a dreamer and a philosopher as well.*

*Charles Dudley Warner wrote, "To poke a wood fire is more solid enjoyment than almost anything else in the world," and Vincent Lean said, "you may poke a man's fire after you have known him for seven years, but not before." Good countrymen and wise philosophers recognize that a man's fire is his personal possession and should be poked only occasionally.*

*— Haydn S. Pearson, author of* New England Flavor

## Officers of the Board

At the 111th Annual Meeting in September, the Board of Trustees elected the following as officers for the coming year:
**Chair:** Carolyn Benthien of Goffstown
**Vice-Chair:** William Webb of Holderness
**Treasurer:** Leonard "Hunt" Dowse of Hancock

As per the bylaws, the membership in attendance at the Annual Meeting elected the Secretary, Midge Eliassen of Sunapee.

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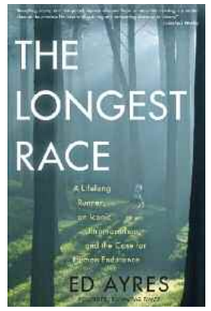
## The Longest Race




In this new book, author Ed Ayres compares the skills and mindset required of a long-distance runner to the challenges society faces in finding sustainability. Though the storyline follows Ayres' completion of a 50-mile footrace, his intellectual journey carries readers through a learned landscape of provocative perspectives about the world, its natural resources, and how we use those resources.

Ayres is known as one of the founders of *Running Times* magazine and an accomplished competitor himself. He also served for more than a decade as the editorial director of the Worldwatch Institute, which promotes a transition to a sustainable world. As a consequence, his own writing is informed by a wide range of scientific studies and authors, including many such as Aldo Leopold, Rachel Carson, Bill McKibben and Bernd Heinrich who are familiar to conservationists.

Among Ayres' observations, he notes that industrial output has increased primarily through gains in energy-efficiency, relying less on increases in energy supply. And while he lays some of the blame for a misdirected focus on supply at the feet of energy suppliers who profit from increased demand, he notes that most of us operate on a sketchy understanding of what efficiency really is. Our economy, he concludes, could learn a lot from long-distance runners, who train themselves to go farther on a steady supply of fuel.

## Meet the New Managing Editor of Forest Notes

Brenda Charpentier has joined the Forest Society staff as communications manager and managing editor of *Forest Notes*. She assumed the role in September, replacing Joyce El Kouarti, who is serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Cameroon.

Charpentier's background includes 15 years in journalism, first as a writer and editor with the *Concord Monitor*, and later as a freelance writer with a special interest in conservation. She also taught elementary school for five years before returning to her journalistic roots.

Charpentier first came to know the Forest Society in 1995, when a lifelong passion for the outdoors led her to complete the training for the Land Steward Program. Along with her husband, Jon, she served as a land steward for the Jellame Forest in Warner before moving to the Lakes Region.

When she's not working to promote land conservation and sustainable forestry, Charpentier enjoys hiking, fishing, running and gardening with her family in Sanbornton.

## New Quarter Celebrates the Whites


The United States Mint will release a new quarter in 2013 featuring New Hampshire's White Mountain National Forest as part of the America the Beautiful Quarters Program. The program will eventually include 56 quarters depicting national parks, national forests and historic sites.

Locally, the Forest Society will partner with Littleton Coin to celebrate the release of the White Mountain National Forest coin and help preserve the forested landscape of the region. Stay tuned for more information when the new quarter is released.

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF CAPE COD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

# SEEKING THE SOURCE

*John Hay's writings continue to influence our views of the natural world and our place in it. Hay's adult home, Cape Cod, was the subject of many of his books, but it was New Hampshire that made Hay a naturalist.*

*by* IAN ALDRICH
*photographs by* JONATHAN KOZOWYK

## WE'RE HEADING TO THE SOURCE OF THE BROOK.

**It's a late-August morning, blue skies hang overhead, and Dave Anderson, director of education and volunteer services for the Forest Society, is leading me on a hike he knows probably better than anyone. Beginning at the The Fells gatehouse and heading south into the John Hay National Wildlife Refuge in Newbury, it's a meandering walk that starts on a stretch of flat, wide trails. Over the next hour we'll gaze up at a towering hemlock (the largest tree on The Fells property), pick up the ghost of an old trail many years abandoned, step around a beaver pond, and admire bear markings on a pair of beech trees, before crossing into the less-tamed terrain and steeper land of the Hay Forest Reservation upstream, to the east.**

**But it's the memory of the late John Hay, noted environmental writer and educator—author of 18 books and recipient of the John Burroughs Medal, nature writing's most distinguished award—that brings us out here on this fine day. Hay's connection to this land ran deep. His grandfather, John Milton Hay, assistant secretary to Abraham Lincoln and secretary of state under presidents William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt, found refuge from the tumult of Washington, D.C., in the woods of New Hampshire. In the late 1880s he started buying up retired farmland—almost a thousand acres of it—near Lake Sunapee, and then set out to build his escape. The Fells, his summer home, was completed in 1891. Over the next century, the property served as a country oasis for the Hay family. Under the ownership of John Milton Hay's son, Clarence, and his wife, Alice, it was transformed into a grand Colonial Revival estate, with a working farm, exceptional gardens, and picturesque pastures rolling down to the lake.**

## ABOUT THE HAY FOREST RESERVATION

The Hay Forest Reservation in Newbury was created in 1960 when Clarence and Alice Hay donated 675 acres from the family estate to the Forest Society. This parcel was just the Society's sixth Forest Reservation; currently, 171 properties are under the stewardship of the Forest Society. The Hay Forest Reservation was expanded in 1998 with the addition of 37 acres on Chalk Pond Road.

Today, the 712-acre Hay Forest Reservation is the largest tract of an 876-acre complex of protected land overlooking Lake Sunapee. Over the years it has proven integral to the Forest Society's outreach goals for both forest management and natural-history education. The property's unique and exceptional wildlife habitats, diverse forests, Sunset Hill, Beech Brook, and associated wetlands and areas of active forest management—including timber harvesting and precommercial timber-stand improvements—provide an ideal setting for forestry and wildlife-education programs.

Across Route 103A from the Reservation are the 81-acre U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's John Hay National Wildlife Refuge and the adjacent Fells estate, the 83-acre former Hay family home with its landscaped grounds. The Fells provides horticultural and cultural-history education programs, including house and garden tours.

*For more information, including trail maps, visit: forestsociety.org/ogol*

***Previous spread:*** *Naturalist John Hay found his greatest subjects in the immediate world around him, both at home on Cape Cod and at his family's summer retreat in Newbury, New Hampshire.* ***Above:*** *Hay's close friend, Dave Anderson of the Forest Society, tracking Beech Brook to its source.*

For their son, John, The Fells became more than just a summer retreat. The property was his classroom, where he educated himself about trees and wildflowers and learned to read the woods for signs of wildlife. Hay's adult homes on Cape Cod and the Maine coast were the subjects of many of his essays, but it was New Hampshire that made Hay a naturalist.

Even after the property passed from his family's hands, Hay continued his visits to Newbury and his walks in the woods. Much of that later exploration came with Anderson, who'd arrived here in 1990 as the Forest Society's new education program coordinator. Their strolls would sometimes go for hours, with Hay, armed with a pen and a spiral-bound book, taking meticulous notes about what he was seeing.

"We'd look at things and agree that this was a hemlock and this was a pine and how old they were and the history of the stand," Anderson recalls. "And then he'd start to ask questions that didn't have answers. He was always asking why. It was like going out with a child who wants to know how everything works."

The walk we're on today is one of the most cherished hikes Anderson and Hay took together. Beech Brook bisects the old Hay estate, running straight down from the south saddle of nearby Sunset Hill west to Lake Sunapee. For many years its cold, clean water was piped directly into the Hay family's home. But its origin, the exact point at which the brook begins, remained a source of mystery and fascination for Hay. When Anderson said he'd found its beginning point, Hay requested that he lead him to the spot. The hike later became the subject of an essay called "The Source of the Brook" in one of Hay's last books, *In the Company of Light*. "John cared about the details," Anderson says. "Getting down to what makes nature tick. He constantly wanted to draw people's attention to the fact that what we put down as mere birds or mere trees have myriad associations with their environment that we as humans are rather dismissive of."

In describing the walk, Hay wrote about seeing a world that was both familiar and magical. Signs of life existed everywhere, from a porcupine den and moose and deer tracks to a red eft resting on an old root mass. For Hay, this thumping pulse of energy was beautiful and obvious; you just had to take the time to notice it. And failing to do so had its consequences.

"We walk over a great underworld of knowing and sensuous relationships," Hay wrote. "On the surface, we may know the details of the shape-changing universe of frogs or butterflies, but fail to give it much connection with ourselves ... We have all become invisible destroyers who are incapable of identifying our victims. This can only be highly disturbing and frightening to those who are aware that their own, personal ties to the land are being frayed to the limit. It is as if we looked down into the surface of any stream and failed to find our own reflection there."

—

John Hay's bloodlines ensured that he could have done anything he'd wanted with his life. The fact that he ended up devoting it to nature writing might have cut against the grain of his privileged background, but it was totally appropriate. He was born in Ipswich, Massachusetts, in 1915 and raised in New York City, where his father was curator of archaeology for the American Museum of Natural History. Following his graduation from Harvard in 1938, Hay embarked on a career in journalism, taking a job as the Washington correspondent for a newspaper out of Charleston, South Carolina. After serving in World War II, he eventually settled with his wife, Kristi, into a life in Brewster, Massachusetts, where the couple built a home on a plot of land called Dry Hill, near Cape Cod Bay. There they raised their children.

Hay's first foray into books came in 1947 with a volume of poetry called *A Private History*. It would be another 12 years before he found his calling with the publication of *The Run,* a prose collection on alewives. From there, Hay became part of a burgeoning environmental-writing movement; his status was cemented with the 1964 Burroughs Medal for *The Great Beach*, in which the author trained his eye on the Cape's "outer reaches."

Hay's strength as a writer lay in the fact that he never truly abandoned his poetry; it just took on a different form. His gifts as a naturalist, on the other hand, stemmed from his ability to patiently observe the world around him. Hay didn't need to venture off to exotic lands to look at gorillas or other creatures that only a few lucky souls would ever witness. Instead, he became enraptured by what he found in his own backyard.


*On the Hay Forest Reservation, the trail to Sunset Hill, so named by John's grandfather, Secretary of State John Milton Hay, who often rode or walked to the summit. John Hay wrote of it: "... a brow of sloping granite, surrounded by a fringe of low trees. Dark green mountains [roll] out westward with the fires of the sun; and the shores of the sparkling lake far below them [are] all that [show] any signs of habitation. Who could resist the promise of such a world?"*

## BOOKS BY JOHN HAY

*A Private History,* 1947 (poems)
*The Run,* 1959
*Nature's Year,* 1961
*A Sense of Nature,* 1962
*The Great Beach,* 1963
*The Atlantic Shore,* 1966
*The Sandy Shore,* 1968
*In Defense of Nature,* 1969
*Spirit of Survival,* 1974
*The Undiscovered Country,* 1981
*Natural Architecture,* 1984 (poems)
*The Immortal Wilderness,* 1987
*The Great House of Birds,* 1987 (editor)
*The Bird of Light,* 1991
*A Beginner's Faith in Things Unseen,* 1994
*In the Company of Light,* 1998
*The Way to the Salt Marsh,* 1998
*Mind the Gap,* 2004

***Top left:*** *John Hay at home on Cape Cod.* ***Above:*** *Beech Brook as it slices through the 712-acre Hay Forest Reservation in Newbury.* ***Opposite, from top:*** *Hay's father, Clarence, in front of the family's longtime New Hampshire retreat, The Fells; Dave Anderson and John Hay at the Reservation.*

"So much of what he was writing about was stuff that I could see," says naturalist Ted Levin, the author of nine books, who first discovered Hay's work as a teenager growing up on the Long Island coast in the 1960s. The two men eventually became good friends, and Hay wrote the foreword to Levin's first book, *Backtracking.* "And he wrote about it with such a creative use of language that it just made things pop alive," Levin adds. "I can remember having to reread sentences to make sure I could understand what he was saying."

For Levin, now a Vermonter and currently at work on a book about timber rattlesnakes, Hay's works—through their clear, concise writing—brought into focus a natural world that deserved to be celebrated. "Who would ever think that a book about alewives running up a stream to spawn would be fascinating? But John found a whole book in them," Levin says.

"That's the beauty of it," he notes. "There's a lot to rail about, environmentally, these days, with global warming and genetic engineering, but you also have to take the time to remember why you care about this stuff. Whether it's looking at terns or alewives, John made you appreciate these things."

Susan Hand Shetterly is another writer who found inspiration in Hay's work. The author of seven books, including *Settled in the Wild*, *The New Year's Owl*, and *Shelterwood*—a teacher's guide to the forest—Shetterly had started reading Hay in the early 1970s after committing herself to an off-the-grid life on the edge of a small village in rural Maine. Needing to augment her family's income, she decided to try to make it as a nature writer.



"Hay was one of my teachers," Shetterly says. "I read him over and over again. He was very clear. Take a book like *The Run*: He goes out in the dusk and watches the alewives come in. He has this beautiful description about the gulls and the light fading and the rush of fish. And then he starts talking about what it means to be a human in this world. So he gives you the fish, and then he gives you this feeling of being another animal being surrounded by this great gift of nature."

Hay's talent, though, extended beyond the written word. He was a co-founder of the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, serving as its president for several years, and he taught environmental studies at Dartmouth College for 15 years. In his hometown of Brewster, he volunteered as a member of its Conservation Commission. In honor of his many achievements, the nonprofit Orion Society, the Massachusetts-based publisher of *Orion Magazine* and other materials on environmental issues, launched the John Hay Award in the early 1990s; during its existence, it was, next to the Burroughs Medal, perhaps the most coveted recognition a naturalist could receive.

John Elder, a retired English and environmental-studies professor at Middlebury College who served on Orion's board for a number of years and got to know Hay, says that his writing evokes the best of Thoreau. "His voice is always that of the discoverer, the one who is exploring things for himself and trying to learn things that are fascinating to him," says Elder, the author of several books and co-editor of *The Norton Book of Nature Writing.* "He doesn't need to claim authority. He leads with his own curiosity."

Like Levin, Elder admired Hay for his ability to take notice of the world immediately around him. "You don't have to go on safari," he says. "You don't have to be a Shackleton. You can look out at the terns on your beach, as John did in a book like *Spirit of Survival.* They're not peacocks, they're not eagles, but they're extremely interesting, and they have an amazing story. We just have to look closely, be inquisitive, and ask questions."

—

Two hours into my hike with Anderson, we're far off the trail. Lanky birch and hemlock dot the forest landscape, a flat, quiet piece of land just southwest of Sunset Hill. Anderson believes we're near the source of the brook, but he's not certain just where it's located. He was last out here in late April 2011, two months after Hay's passing, at age 95. He was planning to speak at his old friend's memorial service and wanted to bring a gift from the land by which to remember him. Water straight from the brook's spring seemed an appropriate offering.

But the landscape looks different now, and Anderson pauses for a moment to examine his surroundings. "It's tricky trying to find the source of the brook," Anderson says. "And that's how it should be." Looking south, he begins to follow his instincts, quietly making his way to a sunken spot in the earth, where a slow-moving stream is trickling out. The water is cold and clean. It's the source of the brook.

Anderson gets on his knees and scoops up a handful of the water, bringing it to his mouth. He's quiet for a moment. "This

is the full expression of Beech Brook," he finally says, before taking another sip. "This spot was unremarkable until I brought John here. His writing about it created a mythology about this place.

"People have asked me if I could take them here. But you can't just go until the brook runs out, because it runs out in several places." He pauses once more and takes in a deep breath. "This is the highest it goes."

Hay, too, found power in the water. His final discovery of the brook's exact origin, at a point when his own life was starting to slow down, was both awe-inspiring and humbling. As he had so many other times, he marveled at what nature could reveal to him. "The ever-flowing waters seeped out of this spring to be carried down, century after century, trickling through a far-reaching network of roots and associated fungi, feeling their way through the soil to a great wilderness lake," he wrote. "The brook has guarded all the secrets of the forest, as well as its own origins, which lie at an unknown depth in the bedrock of this minor mountain. I once unconsciously drank of its water, and for much of my life I had been far removed from it, but now I had come home, to the center, the waiting heart, which was not ours to claim alone."

*For more on John Hay, visit these Web sites: forestsociety.org/ourproperties/ac-hay-reservation.asp; fws.gov/northeast/johnhay; thefells.org*

COURTESY OF GORDON CALDWELL/CAPE COD TIMES (JOHN HAY);
COURTESY OF THE FELLS, NEWBURY, NH (CLARENCE HAY); COURTESY OF DAVE ANDERSON ANDERSON AND JOHN HAY)

# No Mountain Stands Alone

Friends of conservation have enabled the Forest Society to conserve nearly 14,000 acres this past year, three times the typical annual number. Jane Difley, Forest Society president/forester, described the uncommon strength of New Hampshire's conservation friendships at the 111th Annual Meeting in Keene. Here is her address:

*Thanks to friends of forest conservation, future generations will continue to enjoy unspoiled mountain vistas like this one, from Gap Mountain to Mount Monadnock.* Photo by Jerry and Marcy Monkman, EcoPhotography.

***Above:*** *Mount Monadnock as seen from Andorra Forest. Photo by Chris Wells.*

***Right:*** *Jane Difley, Forest Society president/forester. Photo by Chelsea Pathiakis Photography.*

I am cheered this afternoon to be surrounded by so many good friends. Friends of the Forest Society, to be certain; friends of mine, and above all friends of conservation and New Hampshire's landscape, mountains, rivers and forests.

I am also buoyed to be at the epicenter of so many conserved lands. Here at Stonewall Farm itself we hold conservation easements on the fields of this remarkable place. We also steward easements on the neighboring fields and forests of the Doyle family, as well as on the land surrounding Goose Pond owned and managed by the city of Keene. A little further out is the Andorra Forest, where we are honored to hold an easement on the largest family-owned conserved parcels in the state, some 12,000 acres. Some of you were on field trips to these conserved lands today.

I count as close friends our nearby forest reservations, lands we own and manage. Our Dickinson Forest is just south of here in Swanzey; the infamous Madame Sherri Forest is to the west in Chesterfield; to the north in Walpole is High Blue, where I joined some of you for a field trip today. To the northeast is our Taves Reservation; Silver Mountain and the Ashuelot River Forest, made up of lands once belonging to the Wright Family of silver polish fame here in Keene, is a short drive away in Lempster.

Each of these places has its own story, and every story has a long cast of important players, each of whom played an important role in allowing the land to be a conserved forest reservation.

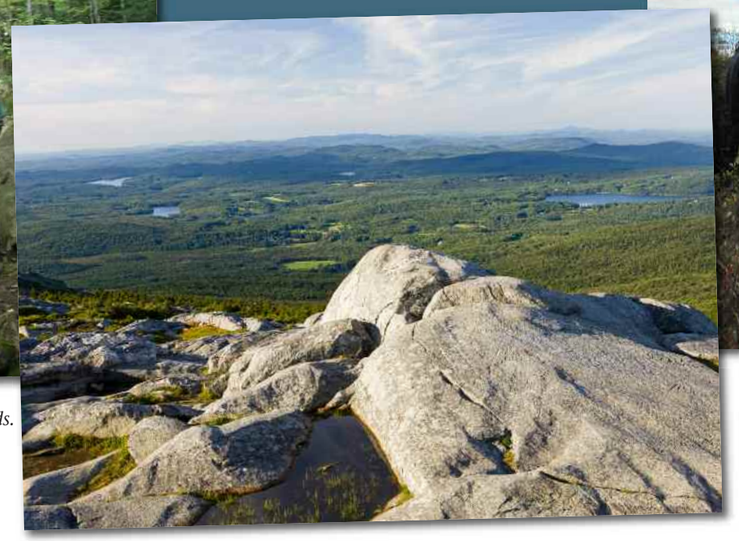
> It is good for the soul to be among friends and communities who not only recognize the benefits of forests, but also take action to permanently protect them.

Today at High Blue we were joined by Steve Grega, who is here with us this evening. I first met Steve on the trail, and I immediately recognized him as a kindred spirit because of his dedication to his dog, Odin. Steve has for a number of years walked with Odin on a parcel of land that abuts High Blue. And in doing so he developed a strong affection for the place. So when the opportunity came to acquire that parcel and add it to High Blue, it was Steve who generously stepped forward and helped make it happen with the assistance of the local conservation commission.

It is good for the soul to be among friends and communities who not only recognize the benefits of forests, but also take action to permanently protect them.

Oh, and as if it were possible to forget, there's another forest reservation of ours, that peak rising out of the East: Mount Monadnock—along with its own very good friend, Gap Mountain.

It was from Gap Mountain that I learned what the Forest Society is about when I was a student intern (a year or two ago). Assigned to do a management plan on Gap, I discovered that knowing the land wasn't enough. People who lived adjacent to the mountain not only had a stake in what happened there, they loved the mountain, were donors, or hosted a trail across their land.



***Above and at right:*** *Annual meeting attendees explore Forest Society lands.*

***Middle:*** *The view from Mt. Monadnock.* Photo by Jerry and Marcy Monkman, EcoPhotography.

I got to know the Gregories, the Fisks, the Tylers, Ray McGrath, and many others that summer. Protection of Gap could not have happened without them. Gap Mountain was our focus, but the friends of Gap were critical partners. We ate lunch on the mountain, followed by handfuls of blueberries. We had lunch with the Fisks and learned about John Noble (Jane Fisk's father), we visited the Tylers and heard tales about the hikers who walked through their front yard. They all had a piece of Gap's story.

Gap has been a favorite place of mine ever since. And among its many good features is what I believe is the very best view of Mount Monadnock.

In the language of friendship, Monadnock and the Forest Society go way back. In fact it was exactly a century ago, in 1912, that a group including landscape painter Abbott Thayer approached the Forest Society about the possibility of acquiring ownership of 1,000 acres on Monadnock. The title to these 'common' lands were traced to 77 different heirs of the Masonian proprietors, and the Forest Society's Philip Ayres led the effort to track them down as far away as Mexico City and England. He worked tirelessly to secure their willing approval to conserve the lands as the "Masonian Monadnock Reservation," which was to be forever kept open to the public.

Every generation since has done its part to build on that early conservation success. At various times, the towns of Dublin, Jaffrey, Tory and Marlborough have done their part. We have enjoyed a highly successful partnership with the state of New Hampshire through our lease of lands for Monadnock State Park. Park managers fall in love with the place, and stewardship of the mountain sometimes becomes a lifelong pursuit. The Monadnock Garden Club has been instrumental in caring for the mountain, and later tonight we will recognize them as 75-year members of the Forest Society. In more recent years, the Monadnock Conservancy has become an important partner, working to protect surrounding landscapes.

Monadnock has had an ardent supporter through the years in Yankee Publishing, and I know Jamie Trowbridge is here tonight. Jamie's father Rob is a former chair of our board, and Yankee has been a member of ours for 35 years. I think it's true that just as the Forest Society has endeavored to foster and protect the values that make New Hampshire New Hampshire, Yankee has stewarded the values of New England and made them famous, and much admired nationwide.

Monadnock had a great friend in the late Jim Johnson. Jim was a legendary worker on the trails as a volunteer and seasonal park employee. I'm told that Jim was one of those people who, when he saw work to be done, simply grabbed his tools and started doing it.

As you probably know, "Monadnock" is an Abenaki word that has been translated as "the mountain that stands alone." I would observe that based on the last hundred years or so, Monadnock in fact does no such thing. The mountain stands among many, many friends.

Earlier this year, thanks to those friends, we added the 362-acre Stowell tract to our ownership on the mountain. As part of that same campaign, we were able to help two of Monadnock's greatest allies, Charlie and Ann Royce, realize the protection of a 55-acre parcel on its southeast flank.

And as so often happens, that project then led to a subsequent donated easement from the Hamlen family on 55 key acres along Route 124, as well as a soon-to-be completed easement on 85 acres on the eastern slope owned by the Sands family.

As you probably know, "Monadnock" is an Abenaki word that has been translated as "the mountain that stands alone." I would observe that based on the last hundred years or so, Monadnock in fact does no such thing. The mountain stands among many, many friends.

When I say that we completed these projects, or that the Forest Society conserved these lands, I really mean that we enabled their protection. Our organization, made up of 10,000 members, allowed those who care deeply enough about Monadnock to make these projects happen. Every view we keep unsullied, every stream we keep clean, every forest we keep undeveloped is matched a hundredfold by the number of people who help make it so. They are not only members, they are conservationists.

One of those tireless conservationists is Sue Doyle, who is also here tonight. Sue—and her late husband Peter—have already done far more than their share to advance conservation in this part of the world, including conserving their own lands. But—as everyone in this room knows—we always give you a chance to help us with one more project, and Sue is always willing to jump in to help rally the friends of conservation behind a project.

Today the Forest Society owns more than 4,000 acres on Monadnock, part of a complex of more than 5,000 protected acres surrounding the mountain.

Part of my purpose is to report to you, the members. You can find facts and figures to fare-thee-well in the annual report in your packets. But I will highlight a few accomplishments in numbers:

- **30**: In the last fiscal year we completed 30 land protection projects. This is not unusual.
- **14,000**: Through those projects, we protected nearly 14,000 acres, nearly three times our typical annual average.
- **37**: the number of miles of lake and river frontage involved in one 2,300-acre easement on land surrounding First Connecticut Lake in Pittsburg.
- **One million**: the number of board feet of sawtimber harvested on our reservations during the fiscal year.
- **1,700**: the record number of donations received as part of our 5-week campaign to Save the Balsams Landscape, including gifts from 22 states and Canada.

And one more number:

- **1,100**: the number of transmission towers that Hydro Quebec, Northeast Utilities and PSNH would like to erect across 180 miles of the Granite State, including through the White Mountain National Forest, our Rocks Estate in Bethlehem, our Washburn Family Forest in Pittsburg and other conservation lands.

To give you a sense of scale, if the same number of towers were to be built up the slopes of Mount Monadnock, there would a tower every three feet of elevation from bottom to top. You could wrap the entire mountain like a Christmas tree. Spreading that damage across 180 miles from Pittsburg to Deerfield does not improve it in any way.

A century ago the leaders of the Forest Society made the following pledge:

The Society will strive earnestly to protect permanently the many points of special interest and scenic beauty in New Hampshire. It seeks to protect every prominent mountain in the state.

Thanks to the many friends of forest conservation, we have made great progress toward accomplishing that goal over the last 111 years. And we will continue to strive earnestly to reach our own New Hampshire Everlasting goal of protecting an additional one million acres by 2026.

But there are those interests who would diminish our gains to date, and our trustees have made it clear that it is our generation's duty to protect existing conserved lands from the threats of not only encroaching suburbanization from the south but from ill-considered and unnecessary powerlines invading from the north.

There may be special interests who do not share our values, but I can tell you that today we have more friends than ever across the state. I can promise you that we will join with those friends and our partners to fight for our scenic landscapes, our working forests, and the natural resources that support our treasured quality of life.

New Hampshire's forests do not stand alone.

# Winter Events: Feb. through April 2013

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

Pre-registration is requested for all programs. To register, call 603-224-9945 ext 313, or email signup@forestsociety.org. Most programs are free unless otherwise noted.

## www.forestsociety.org/thingstodo

*What critters are using the woods near your home?*

*Learn how to use tracking methods to find out at a field trip to the Hay Forest Reservation in Newbury Saturday, Feb. 2, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.*

***Above:** Turkey tracks*

***Far Right:** Raccoon tracks*

SATURDAY, FEB. 2 | 9 am to 1 pm (SNOW DATE SUNDAY, FEB. 3)

### Winter Wildlife Tracking at Hay Forest Reservation

*Hay Forest Reservation, Newbury*

Join a Forest Society naturalist for a guided snowshoe tour along the lower slopes of Sunset Hill to identify tracks and signs of winter wildlife. February features reliably deep snow cover for tracking at the outset of the breeding season for many active-in-winter mammal species including weasels, fisher, coyote, fox, bobcat. Learn basic tracking patterns and the natural history for common local wild mammals.

This relatively easy two-mile hike can be challenging on snowshoes in deep snow. Be prepared for wind and cold weather conditions; wear winter boots and outer layers, bring snowshoes, lunch and water.

*Preregistration required. Co-sponsored by the Sunapee-Ragged-Kearsarge Greenway Coalition.*

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, FEB. 8 – 9

### Annual N.H. Farm and Forest Expo

*Radisson Hotel/Center of New Hampshire*

The Forest Society will be in booth #310 in Manchester at New Hampshire's Greatest Winter Fair, which offers commercial exhibits, educational sessions, demonstrations, an auction and many activities for all ages. Visit www.nhfarmandforestexpo.org for more information.

SATURDAY, FEB. 16 | 10 am to 1 pm
(SNOW DATE SUNDAY, FEB. 17)

### Dawson Forest Timber Harvest Tour

*Hillsborough*

Join Forest Society foresters and logging contractors for a walking tour of an active timber harvest at the Forest Society's 589-acre Dawson Memorial Forest in Hillsborough. Learn the hallmarks of good forestry on a carefully planned and executed timber harvest. Learn about wood markets and see a diverse mix of wood products. Meet the loggers and see equipment up-close, including a mechanized feller-buncher and traditional chainsaw hand felling. Moderate hiking along snow-packed skidder trails.

*Co-sponsored by Hillsborough County Cooperative Extension and Bronnenberg Logging and Trucking.*

FRIDAY, MARCH 15 | 10 am – 1 pm
*Forest Society Conservation Center, Concord*
and
SUNDAY, MARCH 17 | 10 am – 1 pm
*Rocks Estate, Bethlehem*

### Wild Apple Tree Pruning Workshop

Releasing and pruning wild apple trees can keep them healthy and increase fruit production for use by a wide variety of wildlife. This basic introduction to releasing and pruning wild apple trees, with both indoor classroom session and outdoor field practice, will be led by Nigel Manly, Director of the Forest Society's Rocks Estate. Learn when, why and how to prune apple trees, as well as which tools and techniques will bring you the best results!

*Cost: $10 for non-members; FREE for members and land stewards. Bring a bag lunch and appropriate outdoor wear. If you have favorite pruning tools, you may bring those also. Pre-registration is required.*

*The paintings of Sandy Sherman (scarecrow) and Richard Whitney (Ascutney pastoral) will be on display at the Conservation Center in Concord from March 1 to April 30.*

THURSDAY, MARCH 14 | 5:30-7 pm
(SNOW DATE FRIDAY, MARCH 15)

### Illustrated Talk on Landscape Painting by Noted Artist Richard Whitney

*Conservation Center, Concord*

MARCH 1 – APRIL 30

### Art Exhibit: The Paintings of Richard Whitney and Sandy Sherman

*Conservation Center, Concord*

Richard Whitney will present "Painting New England Landscapes, Past and Present," in conjunction with an exhibit of his and Sandy Sherman's paintings. Richard will show the work of notable landscape painters who have inspired him, along with examples of his own work. He will describe the contrast between the photo of the actual scene and the painting. Richard will have copies of his book, *Painting the Visual Impression*, at the event.

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of Richard's book will benefit the Forest Society as will sales of Richard's and Sandy's art for the duration of their exhibit.

Richard and Sandy live and work from the Studio at Crescent Pond in Stoddard. A preview of their paintings may be seen at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=JU73ZBOVHv8.

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

### Follow us on Facebook!

Go to www.facebook.com/ForestSociety, and like our page to find out about more things to do and places to go!

## BRETZFELDER PARK LECTURE SERIES

*Except where noted below, these lectures take place at Bretzfelder Memorial Park, Prospect St., Bethlehem, NH. Call 603-444-6228 for more information. Pre-registration is not required.*

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 6 | 7-9 pm

### A Labor of Love: Revising the AMC White Mountain Guide

Hiking columnist and *AMC White Mountain Guide* co-editor Mike Dickerman of Littleton will present a slideshow detailing revisions to the 29th edition of the Appalachian Mountain Club's *White Mountain Guide*. The latest edition covers more than 500 trails and includes six pull-out topographical maps, along with hiking recommendations and camping and safety information. Mike will also include an overview of the damage caused to area hiking trails during Tropical Storm Irene in the summer of 2011.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 13 | 7-8 pm

### Over the Headwall: A Short History of Skiing in Tuckerman Ravine

This year marks the centennial of the first documented trip to Tuckerman Ravine on skis. Since that time the ravine, an island of alpine terrain unique to the East, has been a Mecca for spring skiers and backcountry adventurers. The ski history of the ravine, from the legendary Inferno races of the 1930s and the extreme descents of Brooks Dodge in the 1950s, to the rise of telemark skiing and snowboarding, is a prism through which to view the wider history of skiing in America. Guest speaker Jeff Leich, New England Ski Museum Executive Director, is an avid skier and author of *Over the Headwall: The Ski History of Tuckerman Ravine*.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 20 | 7-8 pm

### Film and Discussion: *Mother Nature's Child*

*(This program held at the Rocks Estate in Bethlehem, not at Bretzfelder Park)*

This film explores the role of nature experiences in the health and development of toddlers, children and adolescents. Featuring children interacting with nature from Vermont to Washington, D.C. and voices from several experts, the film marks a moment in time when a living generation can recall their childhood spent in free play outdoors, which will not be the case for most children growing up today. The effects of "nature deficit disorder" are being noted in epidemics of child obesity, attention disorders, and depression across the country. Discussion following the film will examine the importance of unstructured time outside for children, the place of risk-taking in healthy child development, how children learn through play, and ways for children to connect with nature.

*Learn about the habitat needs and natural history of the bobcat at the Feb. 27 session of the Bretzfelder Memorial Park Winter Program Series in Bethlehem.* Photo by Sheri Tucker.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 27 | 7-8 pm

### Understanding Bobcats

The Understanding Bobcats program features the natural history and habitat needs of these elusive animals, as well as the implications of research findings for future management. Funds supporting bobcat research to determine the population and develop a means for assessing habitat value are raised through a federal excise tax on firearms used for hunting, ammunition, and archery equipment. Bob LaFleur, Fish and Game wildlife steward and trapper, will present the program, which is part of the N.H. Fish and Game Department's Fish and Wildlife Stewards program.

## 2013 COTTRELL-BALDWIN ENVIRONMENTAL LECTURE SERIES

### In New Hampshire's Forests—What Is and What Might Be

*All events will take place at the Caroline A. Fox Research and Demonstration Forest, 309 Center Road, Hillsborough, N.H.*

TUESDAY, MARCH 5 | 7 to 8:30 pm

**N.E. Forests and the Winds of Change**

UNH Associate Professor of Natural Resources Scott Ollinger, PhD., will detail how changes in global air quality, climate and atmospheric carbon dioxide are affecting ecosystem health globally as well as that of the New England region's forests.

TUESDAY, MARCH 19 | 7 to 8:30 pm

**The Nature of New Hampshire: Natural Communities of the Granite State**

Come learn about the extraordinary geology and biodiversity of New Hampshire with Dan Sperduto, co-author and photographer of *The Nature of New Hampshire*. Dan will take us on a journey through the state's natural communities, exploring swamps and bogs, forests and ancient trees, and rocky summits and alpine tundra, including some of the common and rare species of these habitats.

TUESDAY, MARCH 26 | 7 to 8:30 pm

**Too Hot Trout, Suffocating Herring and Ticked-Off Moose: How Climate Change is Affecting N.H. Wildlife**

New Hampshire's fish and wildlife populations are already being affected by climate change. Eric Orff, a retired N.H. Fish and Game Department wildlife biologist, will discuss which species are being impacted and how you can help turn down the heat on our wildlife by taking a few simple steps in your own home.

TUESDAY, APRIL 2 | 7 to 8:30 pm

**Mountain Lions in the Northeast**

Cougars were nearly driven to extinction in the East in the last century. Increased sightings in recent years suggest they are making a comeback. Bill Betty, who has logged more than a dozen sightings and personal close encounters with mountain lions in the last 41 years, will detail their behavior, from predation to reproduction, and discuss three theories explaining how pumas are recolonizing the Northeast. Participants will learn how to recover evidence of cougars and where to search for it. They can also see examples of cougar scat, a skull and other artifacts.

## AT THE ROCKS ESTATE

*All events take place at The Rocks Estate in Bethlehem; visit www.therocks.org for details. Preregistration not required.*

MARCH 16, 23, 24, 30, 31 AND APRIL 6 | 10 am-4 pm

**The New Hampshire Maple Experience**

The New Hampshire Maple Experience at The Rocks Estate showcases the tradition of sugar making with hands-on learning and tasty treats. The tour includes an interactive demonstration of crafting maple syrup, complete with a visit to the sugar house and a visit with fourth-generation sugar maker Brad Presby.

A horse-drawn wagon ride through the historic 1,400-acre estate, and a syrup tasting—complete with the requisite sour pickle—make the Maple Tour a delight of the senses. The "Taste of New Hampshire Maple," features a variety of local chefs who will give cooking demonstrations.

*Reservations highly recommended (603-444-6228), but walk-ins welcome as space allows.*

*Tour a maple sugar operation, take a wagon ride and sample maple-inspired chef's creations at the New Hampshire Maple Experience.*

MARCH 20 | 7-8:30 pm

**"The Nature of Pondicherry" Slide Program**

"The Nature of Pondicherry" slide program by David Govatski celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the 1963 founding of the Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge by Tudor Richards and Bill Carpenter. Explore the rich natural and cultural history of our closest national wildlife refuge, located in the White Mountains north of the Presidential Range. Learn which trails and sites offer an insight into the nature of Pondicherry.

*Sponsored by Ammonoosuc Chapter, Audobon Society of New Hampshire.*

MONDAY, APRIL 15 | 7-8:30 pm

**John and Frances Glessner: Builders of The Rocks Estate**

In August 1883, John and Frances Glessner and their two children moved into their new home on their summer estate, The Rocks. This lecture will explore the lives of John (1843-1936) and Frances (1848-1932) Glessner, including John's role as vice president of International Harvester, Frances's hobbies of beekeeping and silversmithing, the couple's support of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the famous guests they welcomed to the beloved home in the White Mountains.

The lecture will be given by William Tyre, executive director and curator of the Glessner House Museum in Chicago. Glessner House was built for the Glessners in 1887 from designs by architect H. H. Richardson, and stands on Prairie Avenue, known in the late 19th century as "Millionaire's Row." This National Historic Landmark contains nearly all of its original furnishings and has been extensively restored to the early 1890s, interpreting the lives of the Glessners, their children, and their live-in staff of eight.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 | 7-8:30 PM

**Vernal Pool Ecology**

As the spring days grow warmer, new life begins in the forest. Vernal pools come alive as wood frogs and mole salamanders re-emerge from the ground to migrate and breed in their natal vernal pools. Workshop participants will learn how to identify vernal pool species by sight, sound and habitat. They'll also learn about the unique role amphibians play in forested ecosystems and how to locate and protect woodland vernal pools. This popular annual workshop will include an opportunity to see live amphibians and their eggs.





# The Trouble with Assumptions

## How a willingness to get more facts could clear way to cleaner water

By George F. Frame, CF

As a representative of the Forest Society, I was recently invited to take part in a Forestry Roundtable organized by UNH Cooperative Extension. The discussion centered on forestry operations (timber sales) in a large watershed and the potential threats to the quality of water in a central New Hampshire lake. Water quality is an 'everyone' issue whether you drink it, wash with it, recreate in or on it, use it in an industrial process or just look at it.

*Stakeholders should consider all potential causes of water quality decline when seeking a solution.*

Attending the meeting were town officials, timber operators, watershed scientists, GIS professionals, foresters, state forest rangers and a few interested landowners. In this case forest management—logging—was on a very short list of possible causes of a small increase in phosphorus levels in the lake occurring over the last 25 years.

I became a bit prickly at the start of the meeting because of an immediate assumption that active forest management in the watershed was the culprit causing this adverse impact on the water quality of the lake. I felt it was sort of a 'guilty without proof' argument. It is true that phosphorus comes attached to sand and soil that washes into the lake, but it also comes from fertilizers and soil treatments used to keep lawns and farms green and growing, and from septic system runoff.

A facilitator maintained order and kept participants on task and topic as the afternoon flew by. But as the discussion deepened, it became apparent that what we were all calling 'forest management' wasn't the same thing. On one side were those who thought forest management was completely clearing all vegetation off a property without regard to state environmental regulations, best management practices (BMPs), or sustainable results. (They had a good reason for this thought, for just up the road a large property had been abused like that.) I sat on the other side thinking that forest management meant science-based activities, including harvesting, that adhered to all state regulations, was administered by a licensed forester, used qualified loggers, applied all BMPs to provide benefits to wildlife, aid soil retention, mitigate visual impacts, and accomplished the landowners' goals and objectives. Both sides were protective of their position and defensive in their approach to the discussion.

Part of the roundtable process was to think about other data points that were missing or undervalued in the presentations. To that end, we heard from forest rangers about the lack of evidence that managed timber harvesting in the watershed was adding siltation to any of the local brooks or rivers. The presenters admitted that phosphorus could not be linked to its source and could have definitely come from fertilizers or other sources. We learned that in the last 25 years there had been a significant increase in landscaping along the shore of the lake and that new gravel roads had been constructed to access higher slopes within the watershed where large seasonal and full time residences had sprung up like large mushrooms. And we heard that the resident and recreational population around the lake had increased within that same time period but that no demographic information had yet been accumulated.

Participants began to realize that maybe there were large gaps in the data needed to make a rational decision about where the phosphorus was coming from, and that maybe, just maybe, it wasn't from 'forest management' activities at all. This idea gained ground when all the foresters and loggers at the table decried the shoddy operation others had seen nearby and pointed out that it was in no way representative of the vast majority of logging operations.

And those of us on the sustainable forest management side began thinking that with some more discussion and additional information, there was hope for greater understanding.

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

# Brothers and Sisters Protect 'This Land That We Know'

## Their gift honors a generations-old relationship with Mt. Monadnock

By Brenda Charpentier

A walk in the woods is not just a walk in the woods for Richard Hamlen. When the woods are those his grandfather bought in 1906 at the base of Mount Monadnock in Jaffrey, the walk is more like a reunion with old friends.

That truck-sized boulder? It's big-sister Ann's Rock, and you had to be good to climb it as a kid to bug your sister perched up there all high and mighty.

That path of stones covered in green moss? It's Granddaddy Ewing Hamlen's labor of love for his wife—each flat rock nestled into the loam almost a century ago so she and her sisters could keep their long dresses clean.

And that's not just a patch of trees beyond the house. No, that's hard-fought ground won in water-pistol battles between siblings and friends. He can hear the hollering, still.

"In the 1950s, there was a very good squirt gun you could get at the Woolworth's five and dime that had a very focused stream of water. We used to have some very fine water pistol fights on this mountain," Hamlen, 77, recalled.

When the rocks and trees and slopes hold the story of a family's good times for five generations, it becomes unthinkable that any of "this land that we know," as Hamlen calls it, would be destroyed by development anytime in the future. So, donating a conservation easement on 55 acres of their land to the Forest Society became the ideal solution for Hamlen and his sisters, Ann Hamlen Goldsmith and Katharine Hamlen Reed, and his brother, Charles Hamlen.

"All this land that we've had such rich experiences with is going to be protected. The coming generations are going to have all that," Richard Hamlen said.

*By donating a conservation easement on 55 acres of land off Route 124 in Jaffrey, siblings Ann Hamlen Goldsmith, Richard Hamlen, Katharine Hamlen Reed and Charles Hamlen are preserving the scenic hiking experience up Mount Monadnock's Old Toll Road as well as along the Metacomet to Monadnock summit trail.*

The four siblings, who live in Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York, share the place that has been a summer retreat for generations of Hamlens. Their Scotland-born grandfather, Capt. Ewing Wallace Hamlen, and his wife Mary started the tradition by bringing their family to a seasonal home there from Cambridge, Mass., each summer. Friends came too, and Mary's two sisters. They'd come by train as far as Troy, then take a wagon the rest of the way, with the men walking alongside the horses up the steeper hills.

It was during this time, around 1913, that Ewing Hamlen helped the Forest Society to conserve land around the summit of Mount Monadnock, an effort Richard and his wife Bard learned about through what Bard calls 'serendipity.'

They bought a 2007 book called *Monadnock, More than a Mountain* by Craig Brandon, and were thrilled to find the Hamlen name in the index. It referred them to Chapter 13: "How Monadnock was Saved." There, they read about the Forest Society's efforts to stop overly enterprising businesses from claiming title to Monadnock land. Many tracts had unclear ownership, with deeds that dated back to Colonial grants from the British Crown. Ewing was an attorney for Abbott Thayer, the landscape artist who called on the Forest Society's first president/forester, Philip Ayres, to protect his beloved mountain. Ewing helped Ayres track down the 77 long-lost descendants of the original grantees so they could be asked to sign their claim over to the Forest Society. They did, and 406 acres became the first Monadnock tract protected by the Forest Society.



*Richard Hamlen sits on the stone seat his grandfather built for watching sunsets on the west-facing slope of Mount Monadnock. A rich family heritage tied to an appreciation for the land is one of the reasons the Hamlen family has donated a conservation easement on 55 acres to the Forest Society.*
Photo by Brenda Charpentier.

For his grandchildren nearly a century later, learning about Ewing's efforts made gifting the Forest Society a conservation easement on their land seem like a fitting tribute to him.

"In terms of protecting and conserving the mountain, what we've done is in the spirit of what he was doing then," Richard Hamlen said.

The four Hamlen siblings spent their summers on Monadnock with their parents, Richard Sr. and Caroline Hamlen, and grandparents. It was a place of constant activity—climbing Monadnock more times than they can count, fierce tennis competitions on a clay court, picnics at Fassett Brook, singing joyfully along as their grandfather played Scottish tunes on his handmade violin while sister Ann played the grand piano. When they had children of their own, Monadnock again was the destination for summer vacations (Richard and Bard brought their second child Polly to the summit at 10-weeks old).

Chores, too, connected young and old to the land as much as the playing. Gathering wood, gardening, picking berries, clearing brush. And always, a connection to the land was a connection to the family heritage.

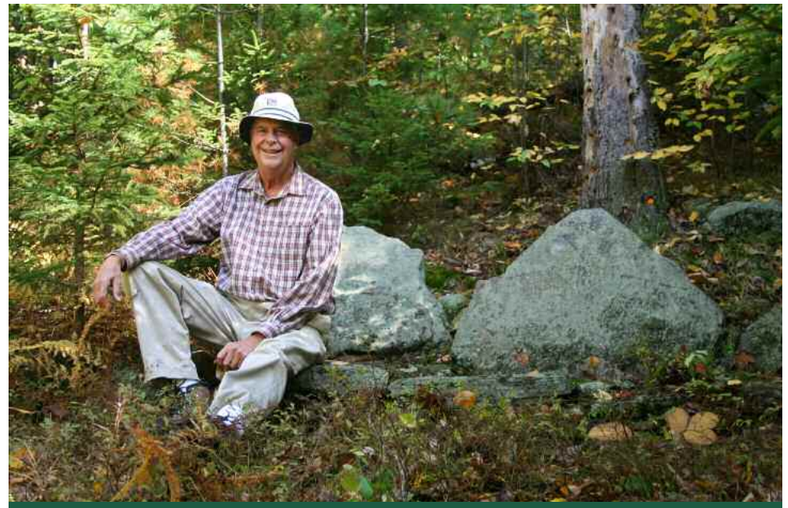
That's why Richard Hamlen's walk in the woods now isn't complete without finding two things, and on a search this past fall he found them both. One is a stone seat made by Granddaddy Ewing out of flat slabs of granite. It faces west, and when his grandfather sat there to watch the sunset behind the hills, Richard said, "it reminded him of Scotland."

The second is a towering mass of granite ledges, a destination for one of the stone paths his grandfather laid so many years ago. It rises up surrounded by trees and sky, the twitter of birds and nothing more.

"You can walk across the top," he said. "You can imagine coming up here, to clamber all over and give heartache to your parents that you're going to fall and break your neck," he said.

He thought about climbing it for a moment, but the rocks were still slick from rain the night before. He thought better of it and just took a long look around.

"It's going to be wild like this and not developed," he said. "We're very glad it's going to be protected."



### FAMILY'S GENEROSITY PRESERVES THE MONADNOCK HIKING EXPERIENCE

Thousands of future Mount Monadnock hikers will benefit from the Hamlen family's donation of a conservation easement on 55 acres on the mountain's southern flank in Jaffrey.

The property abuts the Toll Road Trail, one of the most popular routes to the summit. The easement ensures that hikers will continue to see forested views from the trail.

The property also hosts a section of the Metacomet to Monadnock Trail connecting the Mount Monadnock summit to the Gap Mountain summit. The easement includes an agreement to keep the trail open for hikers to use.

"This was one of the few unprotected sections of that trail," said Brian Hotz, senior director of strategic projects for the Forest Society. "If someone wants to go to both peaks in one day, they can do that hike, and that's the trail that connects the two."

The Hamlen property easement is one more victory in the century-old effort to protect one of America's most popular and iconic mountains. It started in 1915 when the Forest Society acquired its first 406 acres on the upper slopes and kept adding parcel after parcel. Today, more than 5,000 acres of the mountain and surrounding lands are protected. Other recent successes include the Forest Society's purchase of 362 acres Jaffrey in 2012 and the subsequent 55- acre easement nearby on the southeast shoulder.

"We're always happy to see one project leading to another project, and the Hamlen property is a perfect example of that," Hotz said. "For us, it's often the case when we pursue a purchase of property, it reminds people of our desire to see more land conserved around Monadnock."

*The Pettyboro Farm property in Lyman conserves 160 acres of farmland, scenic views and wildlife habitat.* Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust photos.

# Giving Back, Giving Bats Crucial Habitat

## Family donates easement on 160 acres in Lyman

By Rebecca Brown

Bill and Lorraine Hanaway have been spending summers in Lyman since the mid-1980s. Avid hikers, they were drawn to the White Mountains and introduced to the area by friends in Sugar Hill. Soon, they were looking for a place of their own and found the perfect spot in Lyman. A former farm property on Pettyboro Road still had a historic clapboard house, expansive fields, and a stately forest. Over the years they added adjacent parcels.

Now they've permanently protected 160 acres of their land by gifting a conservation easement to the Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust.

The Hanaways wanted their land to always be available for the many species of wildlife that call it home, and so that it may be in active farming someday. Perhaps most important, they saw their decision as a way to give back to their adopted community of Lyman. Lyman expresses in its Master Plan the strong desire to stay rural and promote agriculture, as well as protect scenic views and wildlife habitat. The Hanaway conservation easement helps achieve all of these objectives.

The Hanaway land is key bat habitat, and the easement marks the third Ammonoosuc Land Trust project to protect bat habitat in Lyman. The N.H. Wildlife Action Plan ranks the Hanaway forests as important feeding areas for bats that hibernate not far away on Gardner Mountain—in hibernacula (caves) on land also recently conserved with the Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust. The Hanaway and Gardner projects, along with the Godfrey Memorial Conservation Area, conserve 1,500 acres of bat habitat in Lyman.

*Rebecca Brown, executive director of the Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust, joins Lorraine and Bill Hanaway on their woodlot. The work of creating a conservation easement tailored to the Hanaways' goals and land included learning more about their forest.*

*Rebecca Brown is the executive director of the Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust.*



*Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge boasts some of the most pristine recreational waters in the state.* Photos by Jerry and Marcy Monkman, EcoPhotography.

# Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge Grows by 4,532 Acres

## Purchase protects popular hunting, fishing and snowmobiling destination

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service added a 4,532-acre North Country property to the Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge in September by purchasing the land from Seattle-based Plum Creek Timber. The $3.6 million transaction was facilitated by The Trust for Public Lands (TPL). It is the second phase of what partners expect to be more than 31,000 acres of conserved land in the Androscoggin Headwaters to sustain working timberlands, protect water quality and wildlife habitat, and expand public recreation lands.

The land has critical wildlife habitat for moose, deer, bear and a variety of waterfowl species. There are 11.5 miles of trout streams, all of which flow into the Androscoggin River, forming one of the best recreational fisheries in New Hampshire. Under refuge ownership, the property will stay open to recreational use including hiking, hunting and fishing. The property also contains more than 13 miles of snowmobile trails that are maintained by the Umbagog Snowmobile Association and the N.H. Trails Bureau. These trails will be kept open and will continue to serve as vital links in the statewide snowmobile system and as an economic driver of the North Country's winter tourism economy.

Prior to this conservation agreement, Plum Creek's 31,000-acre property had been the largest unprotected property remaining in New Hampshire, and TPL, a national conservation organization, continues to work with Plum Creek to conserve the land in phases. The completion of the 4,532-acre acquisition is the last one by the refuge of the Plum Creek lands. Still to be completed are 23,000 acres of working forest conservation easements held by the State of New Hampshire and a State fee acquisition of 934 acres around the Greenough Ponds. The easements will prohibit future development and guarantee recreational access while allowing Plum Creek to continue commercial forestry.

"This property is an ecological treasure and offers wonderful public access to the woods and waters of the Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge," said Rodger Krussman, TPL's New Hampshire state director. "We are pleased to be able to protect this important wildlife habitat and to guarantee hunting, fishing and snowmobile access for the residents and visitors to the North Country."

Funding for the acquisition came from two sources: $2 million from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, which uses revenues generated from offshore oil and gas drilling leases, rather than taxpayer dollars, to acquire critical new conservation lands; and $1.625 million from the federal Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, which is dedicated to wetlands protection and derives from the sale of duck stamps to hunters.

(To learn more about the effort to protect 31,000 acres of land in the Androscoggin Headwaters Project, see "Clear Waters and Cloudy Issues at Umbagog" in the Fall issue of *Forest Notes*, available online at www.forestsociety.org.)

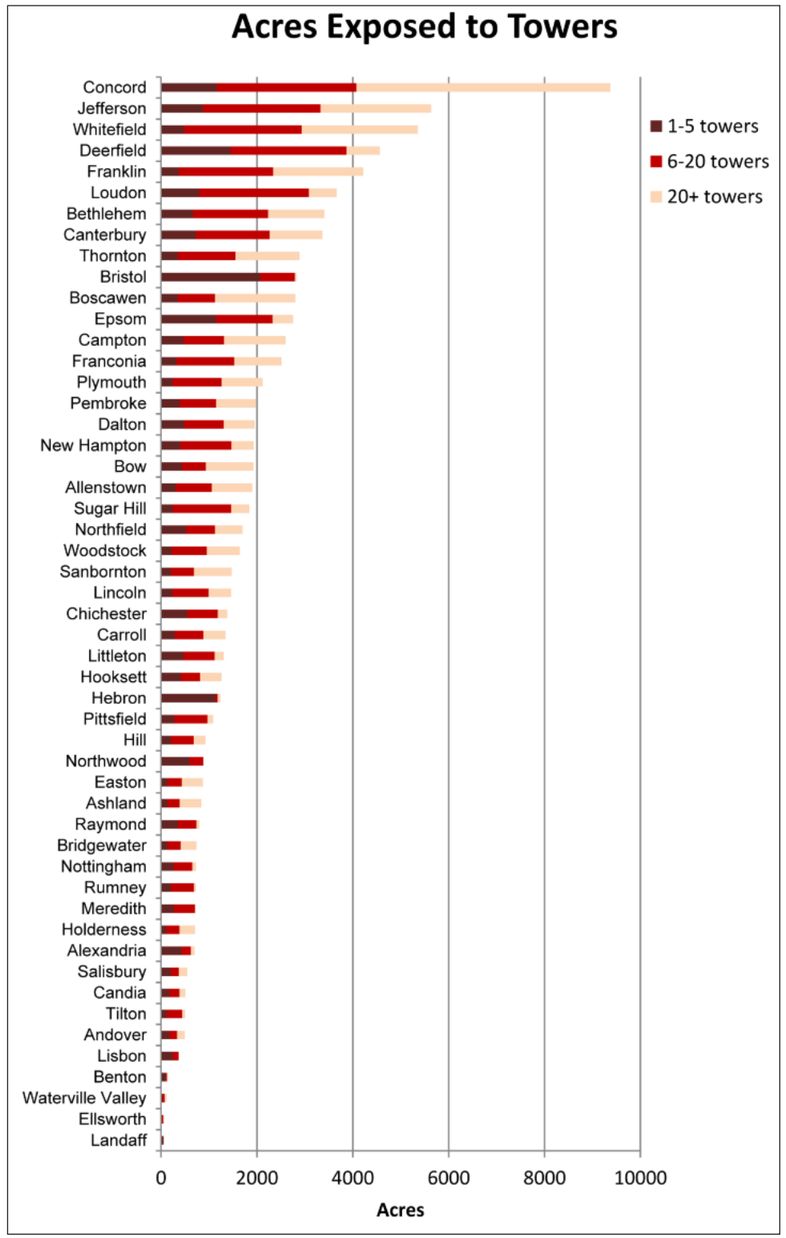
# Northern Pass Update: Trees Not Towers Gains Momentum

By Jack Savage

In December 2010 the Board of Trustees of the Forest Society voted to oppose the Northern Pass transmission line project as proposed. That opposition was rooted in the organization's legal and ethical responsibility to protect those existing conservation lands—including the White Mountain National Forest, the Forest Society's Washburn Family Forest and Rocks Estate among more than 30 other conserved parcels—from the more than 1,100 transmission towers that would be built across 180 miles of New Hampshire as part of the proposed private project.

The Forest Society has joined with a broad, grassroots coalition of communities and partner organizations who are working to get Northern Pass to abandon its ill-conceived proposal. The fight is being waged legislatively through the permitting process required for an elective project, and on the ground in northern Coos County. (When Northern Pass lost any ability to use eminent domain to pursue a powerline right-of-way, they began spending heavily on land purchases in order to secure a route, and to date have spent more than $25 million.)

This past December the Forest Society announced that it had closed on the first of several conservation easements that are part of the Trees Not Towers campaign to block the intended route of the Northern Pass transmission line as proposed.




***Right:*** *The Forest Society's Trees Not Towers campaign seeks to block Northern Pass as proposed in order to protect a large swath of New Hampshire from the private transmission line. As this graph from the Appalachian Mountain Club's visual impact analysis shows, thousands of acres will be impacted—not only in the White Mountains but in centrally located Concord, Deerfield, Franklin, Loudon and Canterbury, among other towns. The full analysis can be accessed at www.outdoors.org.*

"We've wanted for several years to protect the 530-acre Green Acre Woodlands parcel in Stewartstown," said Jane Difley, president/forester of the Forest Society. "We're pleased that the owners had the same goal in mind.

"Moreover, we are determined to protect other existing conserved lands from the threat presented by the proposed Northern Pass transmission line across 180 miles of New Hampshire, including the White Mountain National Forest. Green Acre Woodlands is a strategic part of our efforts to compel Hydro Quebec, Northeast Utilities and PSNH to look at other viable options for their private transmission line," Difley said. "We remain confident that they will not successfully acquire an unimpeded route through northern New Hampshire, thus sparing the rest of the state through the Lakes Region, Concord and on to Deerfield."

A mostly forested certified Tree Farm, the Green Acre Woodlands also includes more than 100 acres of open fields that are enrolled in a federal program that delays mowing until August to encourage grasses, forbs and small shrubs and to enhance the wildlife habitat on the property.

The Forest Society's Trees Not Towers campaign seeks to raise $2.5 million to put conservation easements on additional parcels of land in Coos County that will serve to block the intended route of the proposed transmission line. As of December 2012, the campaign has raised $1.15 million. More than 1,200 donations have come from nearly 200 towns and 26 states across the country, making it one of the most supported campaigns in the Forest Society's history (along with the Save the Balsams Landscape campaign).

"We're on track to complete this campaign in the new year," said Susanne Kibler-Hacker, VP for Development at the Forest Society. "End-of-year contributions are coming in, and the new tax year will bring more."

To see a map and video or make contributions to the Trees Not Towers campaign, visit www.forestsociety.org/np. For more information about making a gift, contact Susanne Kibler-Hacker at 603-224-9945 or by email at skh@forestsociety.org.

## SB361 COMMISSION: BURYING TRANSMISSION LINES IS VIABLE

During the New Hampshire state legislative session of 2011, Senate Bill 361 created a commission to study the viability of using state-owned transportation rights-of-way for siting energy infrastructure, including burial of transmission lines. The so-called SB361 Commission, chaired by Sen. Jeannie Forrester (R-Meredith), issued its report on Dec. 1.

Among the findings, the Commission identified four highway corridors as possible energy infrastructure corridors, including I-93, I-89, I-95 and NH Route 101 between I-95 and I-93. "These State-owned transportation rights-of-way, and potentially others, could be used to locate underground energy transmission corridors," the report said. Further research is required to identify any of the 516 miles of railroad right-of-way that could be used.

The Commission also noted that its work "highlighted the need for a comprehensive framework for evaluating, planning and regulating (energy) projects, to ensure not only a complete understanding of projects' technical, economic and legal feasibility, but also the assurance that the project serves a larger public benefit."

**The Commission also found that:**

- Underground transmission technology is being used extensively throughout the U.S. and internationally.
- Testimony suggests that underground corridors may increase the reliability and security of the electric transmission system.
- Testimony suggests that underground transmission facilities on appropriate state transportation rights-of-way may be technically and financially competitive with other transmission designs and locations.
- At least two pending interstate electric transmission projects in the New England/New York region have been designed with underground transmission lines located on state-owned transportation rights-of-way, indicating this approach can be technically and financially viable.
- At least one New England state (Maine) has developed a general framework for making state-owned transportation rights-of-way available to transmission developers, including provisions for the nature and amount of compensation to be paid to the state.
- Through testimony received at the Commission meetings, it is clear that other states are considering and implementing proactive policies to make state-owned transportation rights-of-way available for transmission infrastructure development. New Hampshire is deficient in this area, and is without any process for considering such development.

In addition to the findings, the Commission recommended that legislation be introduced giving the Governor the authority to create a task force on underground and above-ground energy corridors. "The task force shall include membership representing utility ratepayers, the business community, the conservation community, legislators, State and municipal government, and the utility industry," the report said. Such a task force would continue researching the costs, potential benefits, and other aspects of using underground transmission technologies on state-controlled corridors.

Other recommendations, such as requiring elective transmission proposals to include an underground option, a one-year moratorium on elective overhead transmission projects, and a call for the development of a comprehensive state energy policy were thought to be outside of the scope of the Commission by some members. Those recommendations are likely to be brought before the legislature through bills introduced by elected officials in the 2013 session.

*Editor's note: The following op/ed appeared in newspapers before the November elections. We reprint it here to keep Forest Society members abreast of LCHIP's crucial importance to conservation efforts in New Hampshire.*

## Lawmakers Have the Best Opportunity in Years to Fix LCHIP

New Hampshire voters understand the connection between the protection of our natural resources and the state's economic well-being. This message comes across loud and clear when looking at the results of a recent statewide survey conducted by the University of New Hampshire on the value of conservation—and more importantly, the state's role in it.

The survey found that an overwhelming majority of voters—88%—believe that conserving land is good for the state's economy because of its benefits to tourism, and jobs in agriculture, recreation and forestry. Granite Staters, regardless of political party or ideology recognize the fundamental importance of open space and working forests in our economy. People and businesses come here because of our farms, forests and quality of life.

*Using LCHIP funds for their intended purpose—to help local communities protect natural, cultural and historical resources—helps to conserve important lands such as the forested hillsides and fields of the Hazelton Farm in Hebron.*

Voters not only recognize the value of conservation to our economy, but they feel strongly that the state has a role to play in ensuring that more land is protected—even in these challenging economic times. The same UNH survey found that over 80% of voters believe that there should be public funding for land conservation efforts. Only 23% of New Hampshire voters state that we can't afford to conserve land.

Try and find another issue where the voters of New Hampshire speak in such a unified voice.

Unfortunately, even with this level of public support, our state government has failed to keep its promise of funding for land conservation. But, with the upcoming elections and next year's budget debate, we will have the best opportunity in years to get the state's popular and effective conservation program—the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program ("LCHIP")—back on track.

Established in 2000 by nearly-unanimous votes in the Legislature, New Hampshire's conservation funding program is designed to help local communities protect natural, cultural and historic resources.

In the early years of the program, the state budget allocation ranged from as much as $7 million a year to a low of $500,000. The funding mechanism was changed in 2008, when the program was moved out of the state budget and granted its own dedicated funding source: a $25 fee collected on the filing of certain documents at the county Registries of Deeds. The intent was to provide a guaranteed and steadier stream of funding to support the programs good work.

However, in the five years since the dedicated fee was established, more than half of all the revenues has been diverted to fund general state government. This fiscal year new grant money allocated to the program is zero.

These raids on the dedicated fund have been justified as a temporary measure driven by a fiscal emergency, but many New Hampshire taxpayers have been dismayed to learn that the "conservation fee" they paid at the county registry is being used to fund other state functions.

Voters surveyed by UNH overwhelmingly reject this budgeting shift, with 79% disapproving of the use of these dedicated conservation funds for general budget purposes. The message from the New Hampshire public: keep dedicated funds dedicated.

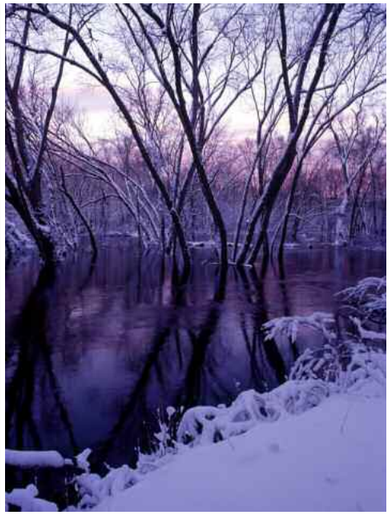
Looking ahead to November, and beyond to next year's state budget process, we expect that the next Legislature and Governor will stand with New Hampshire people of every political stripe and support the dedicated fund for conserving our land and heritage. Dedicated means dedicated.

Edward (Rusty) McLear
CEO of Hampshire Hospitality Holdings
LCHIP Board Chair

Alex Ray
Founder/Owner
Common Man Family of Restaurants







***Left:*** *The McCabe Forest work crew (front row, left to right): Matt Cahillane, Patrick O'Malley, Brook Burke and Kate Ketschek. Back row: Wendy Weisiger (holding dog), Mark Debanico, Chris Hunt, Jason Teaster, Carrie Deegan, Shauna Burt, Dave Anderson, Jamison Burt, Lori Charlonne, and Cam Brensinger.*

***Right:*** *The McCabe Forest offers a tranquil setting for walks along the Contoocook River.*

# When 'Can-Do' Becomes 'Capable'

### Volunteers make the McCabe Forest more walker-friendly than ever

By Brenda Charpentier

Not so long ago, about all Jamison and Shauna Burt knew about wooden bridges on hiking trails was how to walk over one. "Little to none" summed up their trail-building skills.

No matter.

A willingness to jump in and help was all they and seven other volunteers from Eastern Mountain Sports and NEMO Equipment, Inc. needed to assist Forest Society staff improve the hiking experience at McCabe Forest Reservation in Antrim.

"They pretty much set us up on the spot," said Jamison Burt, a purchasing manager at Eastern Mountain Sports' corporate office in Peterborough. "There was nothing too terribly taxing and if there was, the more experienced people stepped in. Anybody is capable of doing these things."

Anybody looking for a beautiful walk along the Contoocook River will appreciate that can-do spirit and what it yielded at McCabe Forest. The volunteer group created a new trailhead with plenty of parking along Route 202 in Antrim, cleared a new trail to connect the trailhead to the existing trail system and built five wooden "bog bridges" over the muddy spots.

And the volunteers even got a paid day off from their jobs to do it. The project was a "Backyard Collective" of the Conservation Alliance, a national group of outdoor industry companies. The Alliance provides grants (from membership dues) and volunteer labor (employees of member businesses) to grassroots environmental organizations. For each Backyard Collective, the member businesses close their doors for a day and send employees out to get their hands dirty.

The McCabe Forest project was one of eight Backyard Collectives taken on by the Conservation Alliance nationwide and one of 20 Monadnock-region projects hosted by Eastern Mountain Sports's corporate headquarters this fall. A similar workday was held at the McCabe Forest in 2011.

### TAKE A WALK

The McCabe Forest Reservation in Antrim offers a 2-mile loop trail that passes through meadows and a variety of forest types on its way to the Contoocook River. It takes about an hour to walk, depending on how often you stop to admire the scenery. Along the way you'll see remnants of former farms, long stretches of Contoocook River shoreline, wild apple trees and perhaps a glimpse of some of the birds and other critters that live there. The new trailhead is located on the east side of Route 202, about a mile north of the center of Antrim.


***Top:*** *The new trailhead offers plenty of parking off Route 202 in Antrim.*

***Bottom:*** *Volunteers build wooden bridges over boggy areas along the trail.* Photo by Carrie Deegan.

The Forest Society also received Conservation Alliance grant funding recently, to help secure a conservation easement on the 55-acre Royce property on Mount Monadnock.

"We love going outside and being able to give back to the places we play in," said Beth Marchand, Eastern Mountain Sports's marketing manager and Conservation Alliance ambassador.

The volunteer crew took on the work in this year's Backyard Collective despite dismal weather conditions that ranged from a cold drizzle to pouring rain and back again, said Carrie Deegan, volunteer coordinator for the Forest Society.

"They were very rugged and capable people. They joked about the rain and just went out and tackled the projects. We got an impressive amount of work done in a short time," she said.

The new trailhead is located on Route 202, about a mile north of the center of Antrim. The more visible location should make it easier for visitors to find the McCabe Forest trailhead.

"It's a very pretty walk, and a lot of people probably didn't even know they could access it. Now it will be clearer to people driving on Route 202," Deegan said.

The volunteers also landscaped the parking area, installed a kiosk and wooden curbing around the perimeter. Tenney Farm donated perennials and shrubs while Robblee Tree Service provided bark mulch and hemlock timbers for the parking curbing.

Thanks to the donated supplies and the volunteer labor, the entire project cost about half of what it would have cost to hire a landscaping company, said Jason Teaster, the Forest Society's property manager who planned the project.

In conjunction with the Backyard Collective's work, the Forest Society also spruced up a storage garage on the site by removing an attached apartment and replacing the garage's siding.

Like many who volunteer on Forest Society projects, Jamison Burt said he enjoyed the hands-on nature of the work, especially since he's a "desk jockey" on typical workdays. He and his wife live nearby and walk their dogs along the trails, so signing up to work at McCabe Forest for the Backyard Collective was the obvious choice.

"It's an area we use, so why not give back?"

Would you like to volunteer for the Forest Society? Check out opportunities at www.forestsociety.org.

### HER LEGACY ENDURES

Nature lovers have been enjoying McCabe Forest Reservation since 1982, when Dorothy McCabe turned down many a developer's proposal and deeded her 189 acres to the Forest Society to manage for wildlife habitat, timber harvests, recreation and education.

## Forest Society Board Welcomes Two New Trustees

Forest Society members elected Margo Connors of Sugar Hill and Rebecca Oreskes of Milan to three-year terms on the Society's board of trustees at the 2012 annual meeting held Sept. 15 in Keene.

Connors is chairwoman of the Sugar Hill Select Board and also serves as the town's health officer and a member of the conservation commission. A 2004 graduate of Leadership North Country, she serves on the advisory board of the Bethlehem Colonial Theatre and as a member of the North Country Keep Growing Initiative. She is a Master Gardener and a member of the N.H. Master Gardener's Association.

Connors is a graduate of Cornell University School of Nursing and holds a master's degree in Nursing Administration from the University of New Hampshire.

Oreskes worked for the U.S. Forest Service for 25 years, serving as a timber marker, wilderness ranger, public services staff officer and a member of the forest leadership team.

Since retiring from the Forest Service in 2011, Oreskes has written her first book, *Mountain Voices*, a compilation of interviews with people who have been important to the White Mountains, co-authored with Doug Mayer. It was published by AMC Books in October.

In addition to volunteering for the Forest Society, Oreskes remains active with the Waterman Fund for which she was a founding board member, serves on the editorial boards for the *International Journal of Wilderness* and *Appalachia* and is a member of the Milan Community Forest exploratory committee. She and her husband also grow and sell vegetables from their farm, Whiskey Jack Farm.

*Margo Connors (left) and Rebecca Oreskes.*

## Linda Howes Honored as Volunteer of the Year for Dedication to Grafton Pond

By Carrie Deegan

As a volunteer land steward for the Grafton Pond Reservation in Grafton, Linda Howes of New London has cultivated a culture of respect for the pond among visitors through her persistent outreach efforts. To honor her dedication, the Forest Society has presented her with the Trish Churchill Volunteer of the Year Award.

Named for Patricia "Trish" Churchill, longtime Forest Society volunteer coordinator, the Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes someone who exemplifies the quality and commitment of Forest Society volunteers and the significance of our volunteer programs.

Linda's devotion to Grafton Pond fits those qualifications beautifully. The 320-acre pond is one of the few largely undeveloped lakes in Central New Hampshire, with only three structures dotting its shoreline. The Forest Society owns 933 acres of land surrounding the pond, including almost seven miles of pond frontage. Despite its pristine surroundings, the pond hasn't always been treated well by visitors.

When she began her land steward duties at Grafton Pond, Linda spent a great deal of time removing old furniture and other trash—remnants of partying summer campers on the pond's many islands. The abusive party crowd is mostly gone now, but the pond's popularity has increased exponentially among paddlers, leading to new recreational challenges including overcrowding of parking and launch areas and disruption of breeding loons.

*Linda Howes regularly paddles around Grafton Pond as part of her monitoring and outreach efforts.*

In 2010, Linda was instrumental in the founding of the Friends of Grafton Pond group, which meets bi-annually to help resolve stewardship issues. Two years later, Linda applied for and received a grant from the N.H. Lakes Association to employ "lake hosts" at the pond for the first time. In just the summer weekends between Memorial Day and Labor Day, the lake hosts conducted over 2,800 boater surveys, inspecting watercraft for hitchhiking invasive aquatic weeds and providing outreach to visitors about respecting loons and other wildlife and packing out trash.

Linda volunteered well over 250 hours in the spring and summer months to coordinate the program, training volunteer and paid lake hosts, arranging schedules, and processing timesheets and boater data.

"One of the great benefits of this (lake host) program is that it has given us concrete numbers on how many people and boats are visiting Grafton Pond on summer weekends," said Linda in a recent summary to participants. "The number of visitors was more than any of us imagined, so our presence was incredibly important."

Linda's work as a land steward for Grafton Pond has changed significantly as the recreational use at the pond has evolved, but her love for this wild place has not. She often refers to Grafton Pond as "a treasure," which is exactly how we feel about her!

*Carrie Deegan is the Forest Society's Land Steward Program specialist.*

*"Apples to oranges: 100 percent "forest" of the Taves Reservation in Roxbury (at left) is not necessarily 100 percent tree-covered. The area north of downtown Keene (at right) has high "tree cover" yet the understory includes homes and roads. Tree cover alone does not necessarily guarantee ecosystem services provided by true forest. Forest soils, hydrology, wildlife habitats and ecological diversity are found on intact forest areas regardless of the overall "tree cover" of the canopy.*

# Second-Most Doesn't Mean Second Best

By Dave Anderson

It appears we still don't always see the forest for the trees. Most people were duped by a flurry of media attention last summer erroneously reporting that New Hampshire surpassed Maine for having the highest percentage of state land area classified as "forest" in the nation. As a result, these same people are now righteously indignant when I tell them "sorry, we remain number two."

Let's set the record straight.

A USDA Northern Forest research study led by Dave Nowak of Syracuse University did indeed determine New Hampshire's ***tree cover*** is 89 percent—higher overall than Maine's tree cover estimate of 83 percent. Yet Maine still has more overall ***forest land***. Maine is 89 percent forested compared to New Hampshire, which remains 84.9 percent forest land, according to Randall Morin of the USDA Forest Service's continuous Forest Inventory and Analysis program (FIA). According to Morin, the FIA program measures land use every five years in New England inventorying 20 percent of each state's land area per year. The Syracuse study measured actual existing tree cover. Thus Maine has areas of regenerating timberland classified as forest by FIA that would not have been counted in the tree cover study.

*There are fundamental ecological differences between areas under tree cover and those that are truly forested.*

FIA defines forest land as land at least 10 percent stocked by forest trees of any size, or land formerly having such tree cover, and not currently developed for non-forest uses. The *minimum* area for classification as forest land is one acre.

Statistical differences are more than mere semantics. There are fundamental ecological differences between areas under tree cover and those that are truly forested.

To understand the ecological distinction, consider the features of a forest understory. Forest soils, hydrology, water infiltration, flood attenuation, biological diversity and wildlife habitat diversity of forests all differ significantly from those in an understory beneath backyard trees or in shopping center beauty strips. The higher percentage of tree cover potentially includes homes, lawns, gardens, picnic tables, and edges of ball fields, golf courses, parking lots or other woodland fringes. Tree cover may not necessarily provide a wide range of tree age classes, sizes and species composition including standing dead "snag" trees and downed, rotting logs. It's also true that a vast interconnected microscopic wilderness of mycorrhizal fungi only thrive in specific forest soils in intimate associations with particular tree species and moisture regimes not well-represented beneath "tree cover." Habitats required by forest specialists like pileated woodpeckers and spotted salamanders are more complex and nuanced than those utilized by grackles and gray squirrels for which trees alone provide sufficient habitat.

It's understandable that people—journalists included—assume the aerial estimate of "tree cover" is synonymous with "forest cover." But this classic "apples to oranges" comparison ignores forest ecosystem services and complex habitat associations not found in suburban backyards and urban fringes.

It's also true that there are New Hampshire residents who would love to claim the superlative distinction held by Maine for having the most forested state. Yet our 89 percent aerial "tree cover" estimate doesn't qualify us to wear the most-forested crown.

When it comes to forest land, at 84.9 percent we are still second to Maine's 89percent forested status. It gives us something to aspire to!

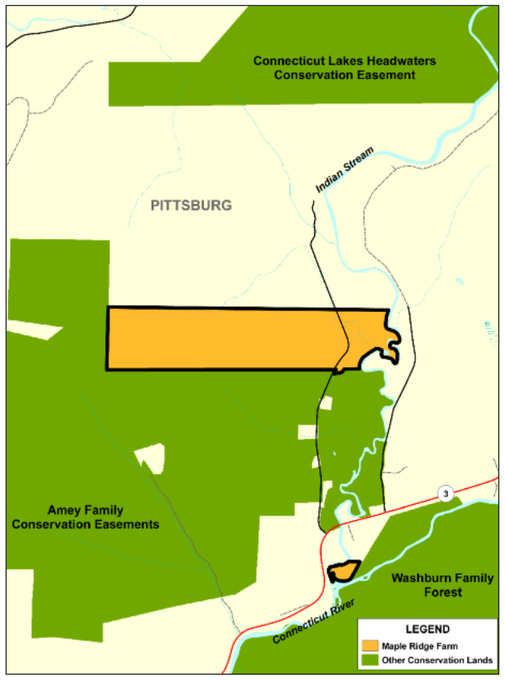
*Conserving the Maple Ridge Farm will preserve this beautiful, wide-open view and the area's rural heritage.* Photo by Chris Borg.

# Help the Forest Society Protect Treasured Open Space in Pittsburg

Whether you live in or enjoy visiting the Great North Woods, chances are you've stopped along some roadside just to take in the view and let the sight of open country renew your spirit.

Maple Ridge Farm along Tabor Road in Pittsburg offers such renewal for all who pass by. The Forest Society needs your help to buy conservation easements on 282 acres of this beautiful property to ensure that it will remain open space forever.

Named a "Farm of Distinction" by the N.H. Department of Food, Agriculture and Markets, Maple Ridge is a noted local community resource. It's an important property not only for its pastoral views, local history, and working agricultural landscape. The farm also has significant frontage along the Connecticut River and Indian Stream, protects local water quality, and supports excellent wildlife habitats for a wealth of bird species, as well as moose, deer, bear, and snowshoe hare.




*A conservation easement would protect Indian Brook, which flows through the property.* Photo by Chris Borg.

Maple Ridge Farm is operated by Roy Amey and his wife Laurel and has been in family ownership for several generations. Maple Ridge is also adjacent to Indian Stream Farm, an already-protected property owned by Roy's brother John. Together, these two farms dominate the viewscape seen from the Forest Society's Washburn Family Forest.

Easements would permanently protect Maple Ridge from future development while supporting its continued use as an organic livestock farm and sustainably managed forest. In fact, more than half of the property is composed of working forest lands. Additionally, the farm boasts 4,300 feet of frontage along Indian Stream and 500 feet of frontage along the Connecticut River at the confluence of these two noted streams. Easements along these reaches would grant anglers continued fishing access.

The New Hampshire Fish and Game's Wildlife Action Plan has categorized more than a third of the property as "tier 1," containing the highest ranking habitats by ecological condition in the state.

With its combination of wetland, forest, and grassland habitats, the farm's countryside supports a wide array of biological diversity. State-endangered northern harriers are known to use the property, as do two species of special concern in New Hampshire, the American kestrel and cliff swallow. Other noteworthy bird species using the property include bobolink, northern goshawk, ruffed grouse, savannah sparrow, Wilson's snipe, and several warblers.

Collectively, these attributes make Maple Ridge Farm a key piece of the iconic Indian Stream valley. Your donation now will help the Forest Society forever keep these lands a haven for both wildlife and people

☐ **YES, I WANT TO HELP THE FOREST SOCIETY PROTECT MAPLE RIDGE FARM**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town/City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

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

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

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

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

**Thank you for your help!**

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## THE MANY FACES OF CONSERVATION

Photo by Al Karevy.

### MEMBERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!

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

# Virginia "Gigi" Schendler

Goshen, N.H.

*Member since 1988*

"I grew up during WWII in an area outside of Philadelphia where there were open fields, thick woods, clean streams, and places to wander. Thirty years later I returned to the area with my children and hardly recognized it. The open spaces were gone and all that seemed familiar were old road signs. It was profoundly unsettling.

I reflected increasingly on the tarmacking of America and the viewing of land as a commodity. It may have been that moment when I decided to personally commit to a conservation ethic.

My husband and I came to Goshen in 1962 and returned each summer while our daughters were growing up. We bought an old farmhouse and 125 acres, and as the years went on, we purchased odd lots of land that abutted ours. The property has grown to about 400 acres, and with planning and constant upkeep, we have created miles of trails, long winding paths along two streams, 15 acres of open fields and ponds that attract much wildlife. The farm has become a rich habitat as well as a source of recreation for people in our community and many friends from afar.

In 2000, I became acquainted with Forest Society staff and consulted with them about how to make sure this land is protected in the future.

It was a perfect fit, intellectually and emotionally. Working together we placed a conservation easement on most of our acreage. I am thrilled with the achievements and goals of the Forest Society and feel privileged to be associated with it."