

WHAT FAVORITE N.H. HIKE IS UNPROTECTED? — SEE PAGE 44

Forest Notes

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S CONSERVATION MAGAZINE

A WALK FOR ALL SEASONS

Exploring Forest Society Lands

SUMMER 2013

SOCIETY FOR THE
PROTECTION OF
NEW HAMPSHIRE
FORESTS



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The White Mountain National Forest coin is the 16th quarter issued as part of the National Park series. This 2010-2021 series honors a national park or historic site in each of the 50 states, D.C. and the 5 U.S. territories. Its quarters make a great way to remember a hike or visit to a national park.



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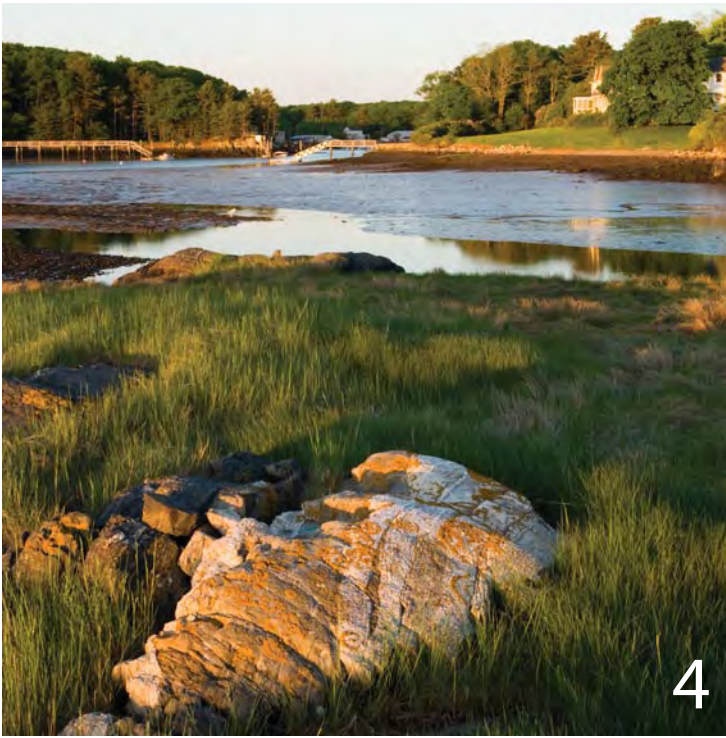


To honor the new coin,
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Society, including 2,000
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the special-edition holders.

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With your help, we can save one of New Hampshire's favorite natural resources: Mount Major and the Belknap Range.



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Quinn Monkman tries out his dad's camera at the Morse Preserve in Alton.

Photo by Jerry and Marcy Monkman, EcoPhotography.

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20 Adieu, Romaine

By Tripp Burwell

If New Hampshire accepts Northern Pass's transmission line, we will support large-scale hydropower in Canada. Hydro-Quebec is damming the Romaine River in Quebec to add its power to the nation's electricity exports. Writer Tripp Burwell eulogizes the Romaine with an essay that questions the need for Hydro-Quebec's hydro-power dominance.

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Land purchase protects water supply for Durham and UNH.



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NEW HAMPSHIRE
FORESTS**

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Life List

I'm not a birder. It's not that I don't appreciate the beauty and songs of our winged friends, but they move too fast for me. As soon as I see them, they fly away and I'm left with the frustration of my lack of identifying skills.

Trees, on the other hand, don't move. I can identify them by bud, seed, leaf or bark. I walk beneath their shade, admire their crowns, look for bear markings or woodpecker cavities on their trunks, size them up for sawlogs (I'm a forester, I can't help it!) and enjoy their quiet company.

But whether you're an avid birder, leisurely tree lover, adventurous hiker, general outdoor enthusiast, fly caster or seeker of wildflowers, New Hampshire's open spaces beckon. And among my favorite places are the Forest Society's reservations. There are 171 of them, so there are lots to choose from! And, taking my clue from birders, I have a life list of reservations that I've visited. I doubt I'll ever get to all of them (has any birder ever seen all the listed species?), but it's fun to add new ones to my list.

The public is welcome on almost all of our reservations (there are a handful with fragile natural features that require special protection) from Mount Monadnock, which

we lease to the state for a park, to Creek Farm in Portsmouth on Sagamore Creek (bring your kayak), to The Rocks Estate in Bethlehem with one of the best views of the Presidential Range, to the Washburn Family Forest in Clarksville where you can snowmobile on a trail that connects Pittsburg with Colebrook or fish the Connecticut River near its headwaters. These are only the more well-known of our forests. You can learn more about them and the adventures that await you at our online Guide to Our Lands (www.forestsociety.org)

So, grab a friend and get out there! Enjoy New Hampshire's outdoors and especially *your* Forest Society reservations.



Jane Difley

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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The Forest Society proudly supports the following organizations:



By Jack Savage

50 Years Ago in Forest Notes

The following note appeared in the Summer 1963 issue of *Forest Notes*:

“Our Society, the N.H. Resources Council, the N.H. Preserves Forum, and the Audubon Society of N.H. appeared at the House hearing on H.B. 252, a bill to allow New Hampshire towns and cities to establish conservation commissions.”

The lobbying efforts were successful in getting into law that year RSA 36-a. The effort to do so was prompted by Leslie Clark, education director of the Forest Society, who had attended the first New England Conservation Conference in 1960. “This grass roots level attempt to promote conservation in local areas is commendable and points to the fact that many of our conservation problems can be approached from the local level,” Clark wrote. It wasn’t until 1965 that the first New Hampshire community established a conservation commission under the new law.

Bridges Honored

The Forest Society honored Charlie Bridges of New Durham in April with the 2013 Sarah Thorne Conservation Award for his effectiveness in helping to conserve hundreds of thousands of acres of land.

Bridges recently retired from the N.H. Fish and Game Dept., where he worked for 25 years. His skills at leading and facilitating collaboration between public agencies and private conservation organizations enabled successful conservation efforts throughout the state.

“One of the first calls made by anyone working on a land conservation project of statewide significance has been to Charlie Bridges,” said Rich Cook, a land agent with Fish and Game who nominated Bridges for the award. “A map of the projects Charlie has helped to complete would stretch from Portsmouth to Pittsburg, Hanover to Hampton and everywhere in between.”

“The Forest Society and other statewide and regional land trusts are really helping Fish and Game achieve our mission of habitat protection,” Bridges said. “Those partnerships are really essential. Land conservation is so expensive and so complex, there is no way we could do it without the other organizations.”



Sarah Thorne and Charlie Bridges.



Where the Birds Are

Birdwatching in New Hampshire by Eric A. Masterson (published by University Press of New England. ISBN 978-1-58465-986-0) is a well-written, informative and beautifully illustrated site guide to “the best birding events” in our Granite State. The book not only suggests where to go, but also when and under what general weather conditions. In

doing so, Masterson draws from a broad knowledge base and succinctly conveys this into easy-to-read lay terms.

The species occurrence charts found in chapter eight offer but one example of Masterson’s due diligence. These charts are easy to interpret, concise and useful to both the novice and expert alike.

The guide does tend to overemphasize the rare and uncommon species of New Hampshire. For the beginning birder or those uninitiated travelers to New Hampshire, our more regularly occurring breeding birds warrant greater attention. Additionally, the guide decidedly favors our state’s southern third as best exemplified by the relative brevity of the White Mountains section in chapter six.

However, coupled with a copy of the DeLorme *New Hampshire Atlas and Gazetteer* and/or your favorite GPS navigation system, this book will undoubtedly prove valuable for those serious about bird finding in New Hampshire!

—Chris Borg

Emerald Ash-Borer Found in Concord

In late March, the emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*), an invasive beetle that has decimated ash trees in the Midwest, was found in Concord, prompting the State to issue an emergency quarantine on the movement of ash materials—including firewood, woodchips and nursery stock—originating in Merrimack County.

The detection in Concord is the first for New Hampshire. When left unchecked, the pest can cause the death of all true ash trees in an area within five to 10 years.

The state-organized Forest Pest Advisory Group (FPAG), a multi-stakeholder organization that includes a representative of the Forest Society, has worked to create a plan for assessment and control of the insect. Using expert volunteer labor, including employees of the Reservation Stewardship Department of the Forest Society, state officials are attempting to ascertain the extent of the beetle’s occurrence.

Visit www.nhbugs.org to learn the signs and symptoms associated with ash borer or to report a suspect ash tree. ♪



The Emerald Ash-Borer was first detected in Michigan in 2002.



*Clockwise from top:
Marcy Monkman and son
Quinn find the ultimate summer
playground, picking wild blueberries
at the Morse Preserve; spring thaw
at Grafton Pond; beaver pond on
Crommet Creek at Dame Forest;
fall descends on Silver Mountain at
Ashuelot River Headwaters Forest.*



A WALK (and one paddle!) FOR ALL SEASONS

Seven featured Forest Society reservations meant to be not only saved but savored—special places for every season. Photographs by Jerry and Marcy Monkman, EcoPhotography

THE FOREST SOCIETY'S 171 RESERVATIONS

are spread across the state, gems of conservation, testaments to the landowners who wanted to secure the land for generations to come. These landscapes are saved for many reasons: their special blend of topography, history, sense of place within a family and community, wildlife habitat. But they are also places for people to explore and escape to for just an hour or an entire day. They're not tucked away like rare books in a library. In particular, the seven reservations featured here invite you to walk, snowshoe, or just amble along one of the inviting trails that locals so often enjoy. And in the case of Grafton Pond, the waterway is another form of trail, perfect for paddling.

Few people know the joys of exploring these paths more than Jerry Monkman. Is he an outdoorsman who is gifted with a camera, or a photographer who has found his calling in the outdoors? His many books and honors and the EcoPhotography business he runs near the Seacoast with his wife, Marcy, attest that he is both. In the pages that follow, Jerry Monkman's photos not only show the sights he sees while walking or paddling through the seasons, but they also place all of us in the scene, close enough to smell the wind, to taste the wild blueberries on a mountain-side, to feel the leaves or snow beneath our feet. Think of these pages as a beginning. The online Guide to Our Lands, on www.ForestSociety.org highlights 35 of our properties, with directions, where to park, and what you'll find there. The call of the wild (and the not so wild) beckons. Just come along with Jerry Monkman and listen.

FEATURED FOREST SOCIETY RESERVATIONS

1. **High Watch Preserve**
Effingham / Freedom
2. **Grafton Pond Reservation**
Grafton
3. **Evelyn H. & Albert D. Morse, Sr. Preserve**
Alton
4. **Ashuelot River Headwaters Forest**
Lempster
5. **Dame Forest**
Durham
6. **Creek Farm**
Portsmouth
7. **Monson Center**
Hollis / Milford



See complete map at www.ForestSociety.org.



**Creek Farm,
Portsmouth | 36 acres**

**WHY YOU'LL LOVE THE WALK:
THE PERFECT PICNIC SPOT**

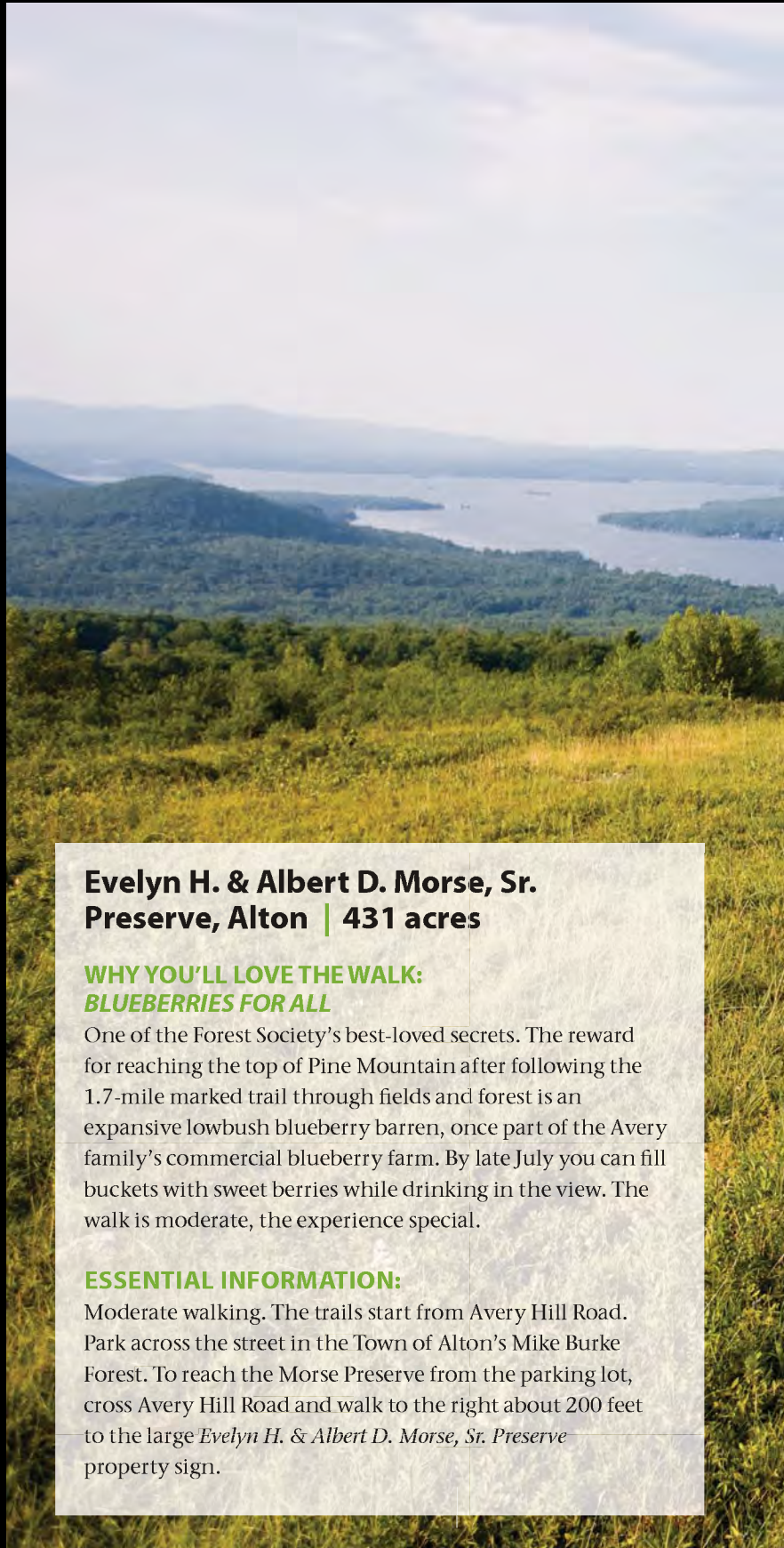
Creek Farm, lying only 1.5 miles from downtown Portsmouth, is one of Jerry Monkman's favorite places to jog. Natural features such as open shoreline on tidal Sagamore Creek and Goose Island provide perfect backdrops for picnicking. For a longer ramble, follow the Little Harbor Loop Trail from Creek Farm to the state's Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion, across a City of Portsmouth parcel (with views of Portsmouth Harbor), and back to the beginning. Last summer a nesting pair of bald eagles made a nearby island their home.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION:

Easy walking. Parking area off Little Harbor Road, with trails and canoe/kayak access to Sagamore Creek. Creek Farm Cottage and other structures are operated by Cornell University's Shoals Marine Lab and are not open to the public.

Top: Creek Farm includes frontage on tidal Sagamore Creek, including Goose Island (foreground).

Right: Hard to know which is sweeter on Pine Mountain at the Morse Preserve—the lowbush blueberries or the stunning view of Lake Winnepesaukee. Acadia and Quinn Monkman, with their friend Nell Webb, would undoubtedly say both!



**Evelyn H. & Albert D. Morse, Sr.
Preserve, Alton | 431 acres**

**WHY YOU'LL LOVE THE WALK:
BLUEBERRIES FOR ALL**

One of the Forest Society's best-loved secrets. The reward for reaching the top of Pine Mountain after following the 1.7-mile marked trail through fields and forest is an expansive lowbush blueberry barren, once part of the Avery family's commercial blueberry farm. By late July you can fill buckets with sweet berries while drinking in the view. The walk is moderate, the experience special.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION:

Moderate walking. The trails start from Avery Hill Road. Park across the street in the Town of Alton's Mike Burke Forest. To reach the Morse Preserve from the parking lot, cross Avery Hill Road and walk to the right about 200 feet to the large Evelyn H. & Albert D. Morse, Sr. Preserve property sign.

**“WHEN I REACHED THE TOP,
I SAW THE BOUNTY OF
BERRIES AND THE BREADTH
OF THE VIEW, LOOKING
INTO MOUNT MAJOR AND
GUNSTOCK, WITH THE
SPARKLE OF ALTON BAY.
I WENT, WOW!”**

— JERRY MONKMAN



“IT’S A WALK AMONG WHAT ONCE WAS ... ARCHAEOLOGISTS CALL THIS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT SITES IN NEW ENGLAND.”

Monson Center, Hollis/Milford | 270 acres

**WHY YOU’LL LOVE THE WALK:
*THE ECHOES OF THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE***

The walk is along former roads that are wide and tree-lined. In fall your feet will kick up red and yellow leaves as you peer through the trees. It’s a walk among what once was, as you pass by cellar hole after cellar hole, and handsome stone walls. Archaeologists call this land one of the most important sites in New England, and all you need is imagination to bring the lives of the early settlers into focus. The walk will be quiet except for the wildlife and the birds and the murmur of leaves. The land was saved from development when Russ and Geri Dickerson gave 125 acres to the Forest Society, and anyone who comes here will give thanks.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION:

Easy walking. Parking for a few cars is provided on Adams Road in front of the gate. A kiosk is located a few hundred yards down the road into the property, where the forest opens up to fields. Trail maps are available in a receptacle on the outside of the Gould House.





Ashuelot River Headwaters Forest, Lempster | 1,826 acres

WHY YOU'LL LOVE THE WALK: **FOLIAGE LIKE A CARPET** **ACROSS THE LANDSCAPE**

Few walks anywhere reward 30 minutes of climbing with the expansive views seen from the top of Silver Mountain (2,160 feet). Look south to Monadnock, west to Ascutney in Vermont. Autumn's colors blaze, with ponds glistening below. The mountain's name hearkens back to the fortune made by a Keene family in the silver-polish business, which continues today. Although only 24 miles north of Keene, on most days the walk will belong only to you.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION:

The Silver Mountain Trail begins on South Road, across the street from the stone pillars and the wooden property sign on the Silver Mountain tract. Follow the yellow trail markers along a well-worn path for approximately a half-mile, past cellar holes and stone walls, to the summit of Silver Mountain.

Top: Thirty minutes of climbing rewards you with a view to remember atop Silver Mountain.

Left: Lise and John Bigl, Forest Society land stewards for Monadnock Reservation, have the woods to themselves in late October.

Dame Forest, Durham | 116 acres

WHY YOU'LL LOVE THE WALK: A WINTER OUTING FOR ALL AGES

Close to people, yet tucked away just enough so that you'll feel you've "gotten away." The walk takes you through a wood that borders one of the world's great estuaries and brings you close to beavers, birds, and, if you follow the trail along its four-mile route from Durham to Great Bay, the scent of the nearby sea. The Forest Society has worked for a decade with partners such as The Nature Conservancy and others to protect Great Bay, and whether you go on foot, snowshoes, or cross-country skis, the marked trail keeps your attention as it cuts through wetlands and forest.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION:

Easy walking. There's no kiosk or parking area directly at the forest, but you'll find parking areas for the Sweet Trail—a portion of which runs through Dame Forest—on Dame Road and Longmarsh Road. It's at least a third-of-a-mile hike to Dame Forest from Longmarsh Road, the closest of these parking areas.




High Watch Preserve, Effingham/Freedom | 2,171 acres

WHY YOU'LL LOVE THE WALK: 360-DEGREE VIEWS OF THE LAKE COUNTRY AND THE WHITE MOUNTAINS

Sometimes you want to test yourself, to work up a sweat in pursuit of beauty, and in winter, snow-covered trails lead to the fire tower on the summit of Green Mountain (1,884 feet) and to its Hanson Top subpeak. When you arrive, the lakes and mountains seem to belong to you in the clear winter air.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION:

Moderate to strenuous, and if hiking through heavy snow, definitely a workout. Depending on trails chosen, from 2.6 to 3 miles round-trip. Park at the end of the maintained section of High Watch Road; then walk down the unmaintained part of the road for about 0.1 mile to a Forest Society sign for High Watch Preserve. Two marked trails lead to the summit, where the state owns the Green Mountain State Forest.



**"SUN SLANTS THROUGH
HEMLOCKS AND OAKS,
A PLAYGROUND
FOR WILDLIFE AND
SNOW ANGELS."**

Opposite, top, and this page: Close to the Seacoast yet off the beaten path, a trek through Dame Forest is a time for exploring varied environments, from woods to marsh—or just for childlike fun.

Opposite, bottom: A winter trek across High Watch, the Forest Society's 100th reservation. When hikers reach the top of Green Mountain, the reward is a view of crystalline lakes, including Ossipee to the north and Province to the south.

Grafton Pond Reservation, Grafton | 933 acres

WHY YOU'LL LOVE THE PADDLE:

A WILD PLACE WITH CRYSTAL-CLEAR WATERS AND WILDLIFE

What announces spring more than finally being able to load your canoe or kayak on the car and find open water beneath a blue sky? Ever since the Forest Society protected Grafton Pond and its surrounding shores in 1984, paddlers soon discover that the deep coves are havens for beaver, mink, herons and turtles. Pull up on shore for a picnic, or simply gaze at the summit of Mount Cardigan. The pond is narrow enough that at no point do you find yourself more than a few hundred yards from shore, so whenever a wind picks up, a landing is handy.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION:

Put in your kayak or canoe by Grafton Pond Dam, just across the unpaved road from the parking area. If you'd like to add a short walk to your itinerary, walk south on Grafton Pond Road for about 500 feet. A trailhead is on the left, marked by a green metal gate. This trail is short (about 0.3 mile, one way) but lovely, with an old stone wall to the north and a variety of young trees throughout. On the ground, you'll often find fresh moose and deer tracks. The trail ends at a point on Grafton Pond's shoreline, where you can see the pond's islands, along with Mount Cardigan. ♪

“DEEP COVES AT BOTH THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN ENDS OF THE POND ARE GREAT PLACES TO WATCH FOR WILDLIFE SUCH AS BEAVER, MINK, HERONS, AND TURTLES.”





With her father in the stern, Acadia Monkman, at the bow, feels the first tug of spring water.

DESTINATION:

Nature

The only things that could possibly divert a hiker's attention from the views atop Gap Mountain Reservation are wild blueberries, as these hikers could attest.

Photo by Jerry and Marcy Monkman, EcoPhotography



Pack a picnic; grab the camera; double-knot the shoelaces. It's summer outings time, and we've compiled this list of Forest Society reservations to make finding a place to go for nature encounters easy. Just pick one you'd like to explore, then go to the online **Guide to Our Lands** at www.forestsofociety.org for maps, directions and more detailed descriptions.

We hope you enjoy the lands you help to conserve. If not for our members, these special places may have been lost forever to development or 'no trespassing' signs. Thanks to you, we can all be refreshed and nourished by spending time in them. John Muir put it this way:

"These beautiful days must enrich all my life. They do not exist as mere pictures—maps hung upon the walls of memory . . . but they saturate themselves into every part of the body and live always."

Happy trails!

SEACOAST

Moose Mountains Reservation, Middleton/Brookfield | 2,325 acres

Explore an eight-mile network of woods roads, footpaths and snowmobile trails. See a heron rookery, fantastic views, the fields of the Old Burrows Farm and two old cemeteries.

William H. Champlin Jr. Forest, Rochester | 185 acres

Fewer than five miles from downtown Rochester and Somersworth, this forest is a perfect getaway for a quiet walk along woods roads. Check out the remnants of an old granite quarry.

Creek Farm, Portsmouth | 36 acres

Walk or paddle along tidal Sagamore Creek at this coastal hideaway that was once part of the 18th-century farm of royal Gov. William Wentworth.

Dame Forest, Durham | 95 acres

Excellent wetlands wildlife habitat provides a chance to glimpse birds, reptiles and amphibians. Hike along the Cy and Bobby Sweet Trail, an eight-mile roundtrip excursion informed by an interpretive brochure.

DARTMOUTH-LAKE SUNAPEE

Hay Reservation, Newbury | 718 acres

History and beauty meet on four miles of trails around the property once owned by American statesman John Milton Hay. Head up to Sunset Hill to take in views of Lake Sunapee. Combine the hike with a visit to Hay's nearby estate, the Fells, to see the gardens and tour the historic home.

Donas J. & Margaret Reney Memorial Forest, Grantham | 413 acres

The 1.3-mile loop trail offers a moderate, pleasant walk past stone walls and lichen-covered boulders through managed mixed woods forests.

Ashuelot River Headwaters Forest, Lempster | 1,750 acres

Set aside at least two days to explore this expansive, wildlife-rich property—one to climb Silver Mountain and another to climb Bean Mountain for spectacular views from both summits.

Grafton Pond Reservation, Grafton | 930 acres

Swim, paddle or fish on the 300-acre lake, then picnic on a flat rock along the shoreline or on one of the peaceful islands.

Punch Brook keeps hikers company with a cheerful banter as it flows through the Cockermonth Forest.

LAKES REGION

Cockermonth Forest, Groton | 1,002 acres

This reservation has it all: Amble along the trail to Little Pond or take the strenuous hike up to Bald Knob and Mount Crosby for views of Lake Winnepesaukee and Newfound and Squam lakes.

Cooper Cedar Woods, New Durham | 133 acres

An ideal spot to experience one of New Hampshire's rare natural communities—an Atlantic white cedar basin swamp.

Merriman Forest, Sandwich | 103 acres

A sweeping view of the Squam Lakes Region rewards sure-footed hikers who are up for a strenuous scramble up the Eagle Cliff Trail, maintained by the Squam Lakes Association.

Weeks Forest, Gilford | 107 acres

With its diversity of fields and forests, Weeks Woods offers rich wildlife habitat. You can walk along wide, flat woods roads for 1.5 miles, or head off onto a footpath trail to extend your outing.

High Watch Preserve, Effingham/Freedom | 2,171 acres

Pick from two hiking paths to the summit and climb the fire tower for 360-degree views or search for blueberries.

Evelyn H. and Alfred D. Morse Sr. Preserve, Alton | 431 acres

Trails loop through fields and forests and up to the top of Pine Mountain for views of the Belknap Range and blueberry picking.



MERRIMACK VALLEY

Paul & Thelma Ambeau Memorial Forest and Hutchins Forest, Canterbury | 108 acres

Choose from several easy, flat, short loops around these two abutting properties that have been actively managed as productive woodlots for decades.

Leslie C. Bockes Memorial Forest, Londonderry/Hudson | 226 acres

Flat, well-maintained woods roads take you through an oak-pine forest that exemplifies sound forest management and serves as an island of wildlife habitat in a suburban area.

Buxton Forest and Elizabeth Simons Preserve, Weare | 227 acres

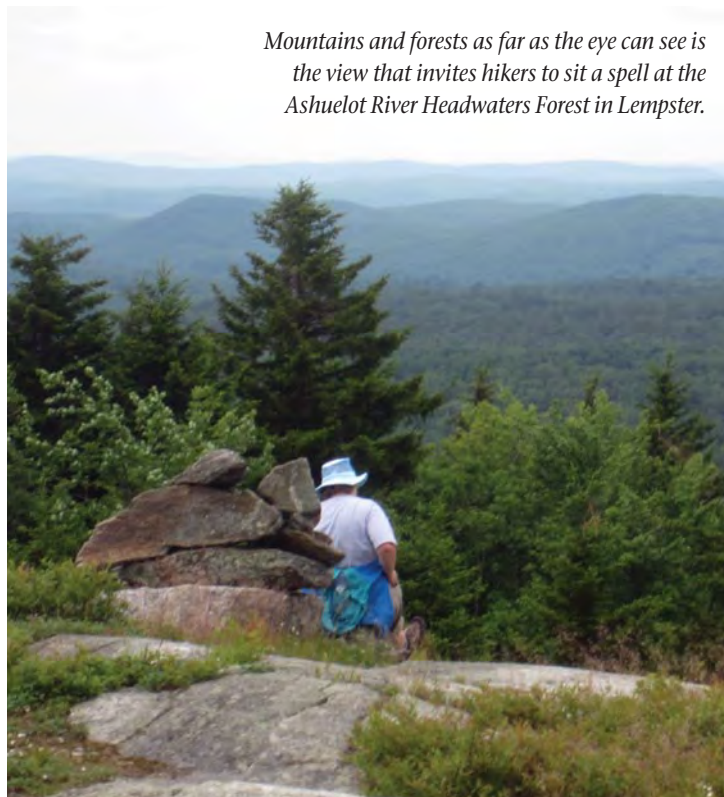
A moderately strenuous, 2.5-mile trail on these two abutting properties leads to the top of Mount Wallingford, affording fantastic views of the surrounding hills.

Merrimack River Outdoor Education & Conservation Area, Concord | 103 acres

Home to the Forest Society's headquarters, this property offers a lovely walk along the Merrimack River, through a pine plantation planted in the 1960s and a silver maple floodplain forest.

Monson Center, Hollis/Milford | 269 acres

An archeological gem awaits you at this historical site of the late 1700s village of Monson. See cellar holes, read about the original inhabitants and walk the three miles of trails.



Mountains and forests as far as the eye can see is the view that invites hikers to sit a spell at the Ashuelot River Headwaters Forest in Lempster.



Volunteer land stewards Jason Morris and Scott Lavoice stand at the top of the Beauty Ledge Trail at the Moose Mountains Reservation in Middleton. They built the trail to get up to a rocky outcropping that offers awesome views. Photo by Brenda Charpentier.

LAND STEWARDS' WORK SAYS WELCOME

If you visit Moose Mountain Reservation in Middleton and Brookfield and happen to see some fellow hikers veer off the trail to clear out a culvert or whip out some loppers to trim an errant branch from the path, you've likely caught up to Jason Morris and Scott Lavoice.

Morris and Lavoice are the volunteer land stewards for this 2,325 -acre Forest Society property. They are among 150 land stewards caring for Forest Society lands, and they exemplify the huge contributions volunteers can make in helping the Forest Society offer outstanding outdoor experiences on our reservations.

Since training to be land stewards in 2011, Morris and Lavoice have built footpaths up to scenic vistas, helped Forest Society staff clean up a former dumping site next to the stream, cleared viewsites, pruned apple trees, built and installed trail signs and led community hikes. They've also encouraged responsible use of an area formerly misused by ATVs and 4-wheel-drives (the area is now gated) by being a watchful and regular presence on the property.

"We're up here all the time. A couple times a week and in summer, every night," Morris said on a recent hike at the property.

The stewards' latest trail building project was a mile-long trek up to an open granite ledge that provides expansive views of Blue Job Mountain and Mt. Agamenticus in Maine. The project started when Morris and Lavoice, both experienced hikers, spotted the ledges from Bowser Pond below and inspiration struck.

"We said, 'We need to have a trail to that ledge.' So we started hunting for it," Lavoice recalled.

After bushwhacking to find the ledge, Morris and Lavoice worked with Forest Society staff to map out a route. They worked through the mild winter of 2012, completing the trail in four months and naming it, appropriately, Beauty Ledge Trail.

Now it's one of many great choices visitors have on the property, including walks along woods roads, up footpaths to other lookouts like Phoebe's Nable, and through the fields of a former farm.

All of it is vigilantly watched over and cared for by Morris and Lavoice.

"The neatest thing is seeing the local people here and just hearing them say how awesome it is that there are trails and signs and blazes. That makes it worth it," Morris said.



Left: You don't see huge stone staircases in just any forest, just the Madame Sherri Forest in Chesterfield (see our online guide for "the rest of the story!")

Right: Flowers, both the wild and garden-tamed variety, grace the grounds of the Rocks Estate in Bethlehem.

MONADNOCK REGION

Gap Mountain Reservation, Troy/Jaffrey | 1,120 acres

Leased to the State of New Hampshire and managed as part of Monadnock State Park, this reservation offers two strenuous, 2.5-mile hikes up to views of Mount Monadnock and surrounding forests.

Heald Tract, Wilton/Temple/Greenville/Mason 1,047 acres

A terrific destination for all ages, including families with young children, to picnic, fish in one of the two ponds or the reservoir, see wildlife and explore miles of trails from easy to moderate.

McCabe Forest, Antrim | 189 acres

Bring the fishing pole for this walk along the quiet waters and rare silver maple floodplain natural communities of the Contoocook River on more than two miles of trails.

Madame Sherri Forest, Chesterfield | 513 acres

One trail takes you past Indian Pond and through a hemlock forest and the Chesterfield Town Forest, while the other leads you up to the summit of Wantastiquet Mountain for views of the Connecticut River Valley and Mount Monadnock.

Monadnock Reservation, Jaffrey/Dublin | 4,047 acres

One of the most-climbed mountains in the western hemisphere for a good reason: jaw-dropping 360-degree views from the iconic bald summit. The Forest Society leases much of this property to the State of New Hampshire to run Monadnock State Park.

John Kulish Forest and Welch Family Farm & Forest, Hancock | 366 acres

Meadows and an old orchard create a lovely setting for a picnic or for some quiet wildlife watching.

WHITE MOUNTAINS

Bretzfelder Park, Bethlehem | 77 acres

Look for education programs here in August and February, and several trails for year-round enjoyment, including a tree-id trail with markers identifying New Hampshire tree species.

Kingsbury Timber-Chippewa Trail Lot, Haverhill | 168 acres

Easily accessible yet remote, this property abuts both the White Mountain National Forest and Black Mountain State Forest. It has extensive frontage on the North Branch of Oliverian Brook, and the trail provides a strenuous trek to some of the best views around.

Lost River Reservation, Woodstock | 157 acres

A steep-walled glacial gorge filled with immense blocks of granite and a disappearing brook that cascades along a subterranean course until it joins the Pemigewasset River. Leased to White Mountains Attractions to provide guests the chance to explore the gorge and caves along a boardwalk.



A fisherman wets a line in the Connecticut River where it flows through the Washburn Family Forest in Clarksville. Photo by Jerry and Marcy Monkman, EcoPhotography.

The Rocks Estate, Bethlehem 1,516 acres

The Forest Society's North Country Conservation and Education Center features 13 buildings on the National Historic Register. Hike the trails and picnic in terraced gardens near the Christmas tree farm.

GREAT NORTH WOODS

David Dana Forest, Dalton | 301 acres

A loop trail meanders through about 2 miles of spruce- fir forest to a filled-in gold mine cut into the cliff face back in the 1800s.

Kauffmann Forest, Stark | 1,919 acres

A combination of wild lands and working forest near Christine Lake—a wilderness lake ideal for fishing or wildlife watching by canoe or kayak.

Washburn Family Forest, Clarksville | 2,128 acres

A popular destination for fishing, hunting and snowmobiling, with six miles of frontage on the Connecticut River. A gated, gravel road system of nine miles provides pedestrian access to the entire property. ♪



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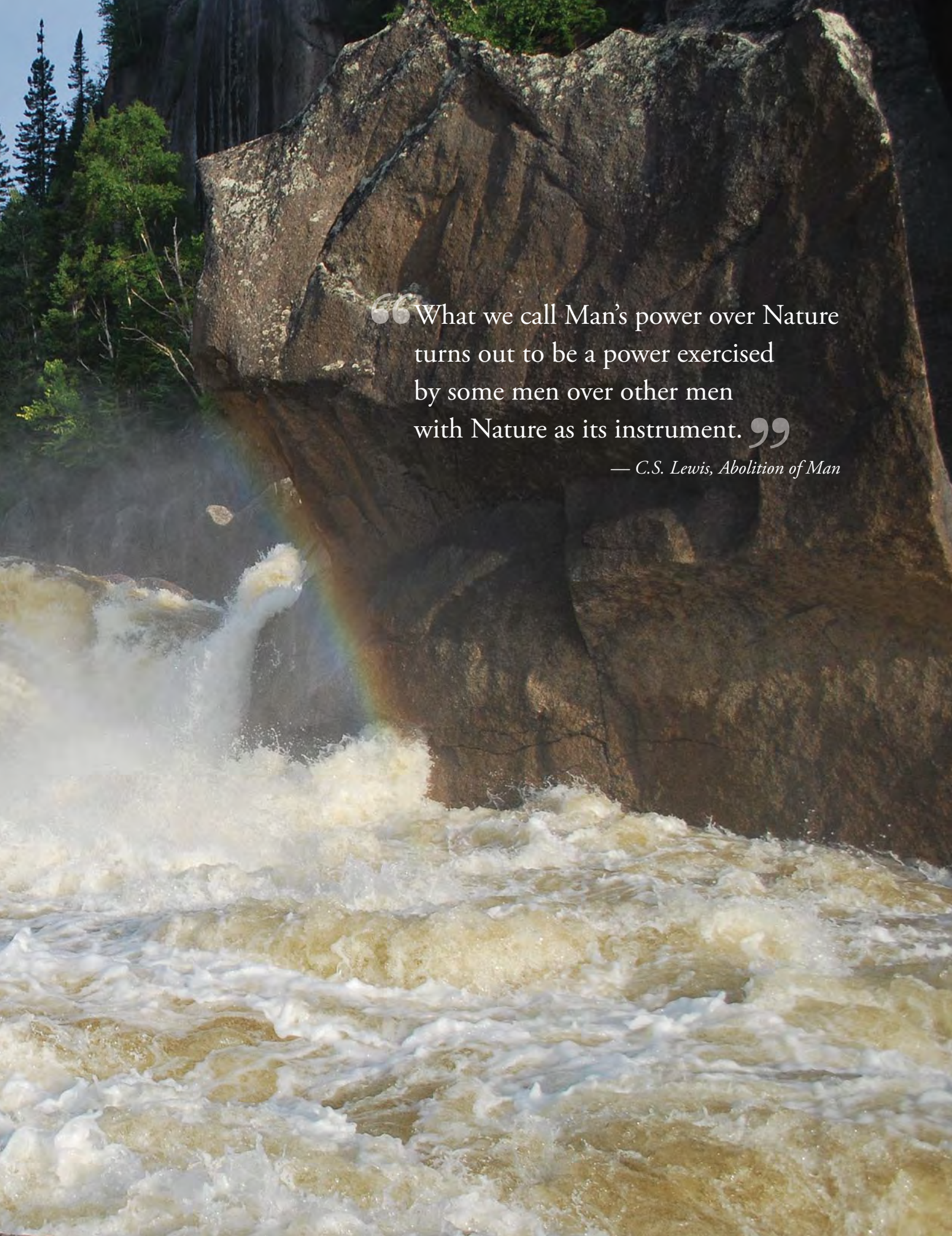


adieu, Romaine

Story, photos and map by Tripp Burwell
Additional Reporting by Christian Woodard

As Hydro-Quebec, the corporation behind Northern Pass, works to dam Quebec's Romaine River, three kayakers paddle it for the last time in its natural state. The power in the water is evident; what's not clear is how Quebec's push for hydropower dominance makes economic, social or environmental sense.

Christian Woodard runs Spike rapid, near the Romaine 2 dam site at dawn. This stretch of the river will be left essentially dry by Romaine 2.



“What we call Man’s power over Nature turns out to be a power exercised by some men over other men with Nature as its instrument.”

— C.S. Lewis, *Abolition of Man*

Dynamite blasts rippled the pre-dawn air as we paddled through the Romaine River's cold, tannic water. Fog and black flies smothered the dense evergreen banks. Three of us, Christian Woodard, James Duesenberry, and I had teamed up for the last descent of this huge and steep river. For three days, we had paddled through the heart of the central Quebec wilderness. That night, we had camped above Romaine 2, one of four Hydro-Quebec dam sites—the future tombstones of a once free-flowing river. A wall of gravel and boulders loomed downstream, diverting the flow into a tunnel punched through a nearby hill. We hoped to sneak through the construction and rejoin the Romaine wherever it returned to its ancient course.

The groan of hydraulic machinery lifting, drilling, and crushing stone joined rhythmic thumps of underground explosions. The air had the sharp, silicate smell of broken rock and blasting mixed with diesel exhaust.

As we floated closer to the construction site, Duesenberry observed that our trip could be ending. Woodard countered that we would have a quick ride to the bottom.

Not as quick as the new electricity Hydro-Quebec hopes to transmit and sell to New England and New York, I thought.

ENGINES OF PROGRESS

Everybody, it seems, wants to “go green.” The states of the northeastern U.S. too have decided to power more of their energy consumption from sustainable sources—goals not lost on their provincial neighbors to the north. Quebec has mastered the art of turning flowing water into power, which many consider renewable.

In 1962, Quebec nationalized its major power corporation, Hydro-Quebec. The company hauled the province into a modern economy. New industrial jobs and affordable energy fostered economic independence and notions of self-rule in largely agrarian Quebec. By the early 1990s, 13 of the province's 17 major river systems were transformed into engines of liberation and progress.

North and east of Quebec City, the capital, the north coast of the St. Lawrence River tilts sharply into its gulf. Powerful rivers spill over steep granite, pounding hundreds of miles down to the sea. The Côte-du-Nord is a goldmine of energy potential. Its rivers are also perfect settings for challenging multi-day whitewater trips.

First paddled in its entirety solely for its whitewater in 2008, the rapids, wilderness experience, and impending damming afforded legendary status to the Romaine in the whitewater community. During a previous trip, Woodard learned that Hydro-Quebec planned to begin turning the Romaine's gorges into reservoirs in late 2010. By spring of 2011, they were a year behind schedule. Three teams had paddled it before us in 2011, the busiest whitewater summer for the Romaine. We were the last trip of the last season; this was the last chance that anyone would ever have to kayak it.

To get to the Romaine 2 dam site, where we hoped to bypass the construction to continue our trip, we had flown 125 miles into the bush from Havre-St-Pierre and paddled 75 miles of river. While



stuffing gear into boats at the floatplane base, one of the pilots had warned us that Hydro-Quebec had been removing paddling groups above the dam and transporting them back to Havre-St-Pierre. With no plan except a burning desire to run the whole river, we had flown in anyhow.

QUEBEC'S ENERGY FUTURE

The Romaine Complex is part of Plan Nord (also known as *Le Nord pour tous*, or “The North for All”), a new energy, mining, and development initiative for northern Quebec. Announcing the plan in May of 2011, then-Premier Jean Charest called it “the most important sustainable development project for the future of Quebec.”

Plan Nord includes three major dam construction projects, the Eastmain 1-A/Sarcelle/Rupert (920 MW - megawatts), the Romaine (1,550 MW), and the Petit Mecatina (1,200 MW). Hydro-Quebec finished flooding the Rupert River in 2010, began construction on the Romaine in 2009, and intends to start on the Petit Mecatina River in 2015. Only two of Quebec's 17 major river systems will remain untouched. Flooded forests in the sparsely populated north will provide a power platform for widespread development, both in Quebec and the Northeast.

The two main political parties in Quebec, the Liberals and the Parti Québécois, both support this ambitious project to open the north to mining and other resource extraction. Quebec's defining political issue is whether Quebec should become independent of Canada. Former Premier Charest's Liberal Government, which favors staying in Canada's federal system and traditionally supports big business, introduced Plan Nord. Parti Québécois's mission is Quebec sovereignty. The party believes that Hydro-Quebec should do what it has always done—push Quebec towards independence.



Above: Christian Woodard paddles Dome Falls on the Romaine River. It is the site of Romaine 3, the dam upstream of Romaine 2.

Left: At the construction site of the Romaine 2 dam, the author and fellow kayakers walked their boats through the gravel where the river used to flow.

SELLING ELECTRICITY AT HALF COST

As Plan Nord ventures deeper into Quebec's geographic margins, Hydro-Quebec pushes farther into its profit margins. Hydro-Quebec expects the fully-completed Romaine Complex will cost \$6.5 billion plus another \$1.5 billion to build power lines to the United States. According to Hydro-Quebec's impact assessment, power produced from the Romaine will cost 9.2 cents per kWh (kilowatt-hour), about 40 times as much as the massive Churchill Falls hydroproject in neighboring Labrador. Any dam on the Petit Mecatina, which has neither a road nor a town at its mouth, would only be more costly.

Hydro-Quebec has committed to sell power from the Romaine Complex to provincial aluminum smelters at 4.2 cents per kWh and to Vermont at 5-6 cents per kWh, approximately half of the generation cost. When asked about the price gap, Hydro-Quebec referred all media requests to the Quebec Ministry of Natural Resources. Nicolas Bagin, a spokesman for the Ministry, commented that Hydro-Quebec "does not sell power to the U.S. at below generation costs." Opponents say otherwise, surmising that since Hydro-Quebec is nationalized, increasing electricity bills for Quebecois will cover the loss in government revenue for selling electricity at half-cost.

A VISION FOR THE NORTHEAST

So far, Vermont is the only state with a power contract for electricity from Hydro-Quebec's portfolio of dams and power plants. Vermont citizens and Gov. Peter Shumlin have long campaigned to replace the output of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant, the state's largest energy provider, with green power. Three years ago, the Vermont Legislature expanded the definition of renewable

hydro power. Previously, only projects generating less than 200 MW fit that designation; now all hydro projects qualify, including those under Plan Nord. Vermont will save its vistas at the expense of pristine forests in Quebec, rather than promoting local solutions to its energy issues.

Hydro-Quebec's U.S. plans do not stop with Vermont. In partnership with Northeast Utilities, Hydro-Quebec wants to construct the "Northern Pass," 180 miles of high-voltage power lines, to transmit 1200 MW through northern New Hampshire into the lucrative southern New England market. In New York, Transmission Developers, Inc. (TDI) plans to implement the Champlain Hudson Power Express, bringing 1000 MW of hydro power from the Canadian border to Queens. As TDI CEO Donald Jessome said on the *Journal News' Editorial Spotlight*, "These generators ... are being built as we speak ... this is a great opportunity to get access to a resource that's being developed and looking for a market." Connecticut is currently considering a change in legislation similar to Vermont, designating any hydropower from Canada as renewable.

Only some Northeasterners share Hydro-Quebec's vision. In New Hampshire, the Society for the Protection of N.H. Forests and its conservation partners are fighting Northern Pass's initial proposal for an above-ground transmission line bisecting the state, arguing that the transmission line would mar the landscape, harm the state's important tourism industry and erode property values, all for corporate gain and little public benefit. Challengers of the Champlain Hudson Power Express point out that New York currently has ample supply and that infrastructure issues pose a greater problem for the state's grid.

"What's the rush for new energy?" asks Paul Messerschmidt, an energy consultant who has worked for the Cree Indians in Quebec.



Left: A map shows the Romaine River from the group's fly-in point to the river's mouth at the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Also shown are the locations of the four dams and the rapids pictured in this article. The inset depicts both the Romaine (on the left) and the Petit Mecatina (on the right) as well as their intended power markets in the Northeastern U.S.

spring of 2010, Hydro-Quebec proposed routing power lines through the village and offered \$4 million in compensation. Uashat-Malietenam refused and the governing Band Council sought an injunction against the Romaine power line project. In the fall of 2011, Hydro-Quebec returned with more money, but again the village refused. The situation is currently in court, even though dam construction continues.

This treatment of First Nations is standard behavior for Hydro-Quebec. In the 1970s, the corporation flooded 4,440 square miles more of Cree and Inuit hunting grounds to build the La Grande Complex (1.5 cents per KWH, 15% of the cost of Romaine power), without consulting the communities beforehand. In 1975, both sides signed the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement that provided \$225 million in compensation for flooding 350,000 square miles of Cree and Inuit lands.

Boyce Richardson, who wrote the definitive account of the Cree and Hydro-Quebec in his book, *Strangers Devour the Land*, remembers that the “Cree were under a lot of pressure to make an agreement. Either they signed it and got something or they didn't and got a project around their neck, because it was already started.” Despite the contract, the Crees have had to go to court to make sure almost every part of the agreement was honored. For the Rupert project, the first 920 MW of Plan Nord, Hydro-Quebec again promised to honor the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, but offered no new compensation.

INEFFECTIVE RESISTANCE

Though First Nations have received economic compensation for their ancestral lands, the cultural result has been a glacial assimilation into Western society. Many semi-nomadic hunting families were pooled and diverted to government-designed towns where they then sought wage employment to pay for their amenities. Richardson feels that “the Crees have fought less as they have become more integrated ... [however,] they have made a fairly successful integration, as best they could.”

“As best they could” may have left both the Crees and the Innu in cultural limbo - too far removed from the land to fight passionately about it, but also too far removed from the mechanisms of Quebec society to fight effectively for it. Chris Scott, spokesperson for Alliance Romaine, a Quebec non-profit, remains hopeful that growing awareness and political activism, particularly among the Innu along the Côte-du-Nord, will result in the Cree and Innu reclaiming more ownership of their future.

“It's not over until all the dams are built,” said Scott.

Meanwhile, Hydro-Quebec labors on. Sam Howe Verhovek, who has written about Hydro-Quebec for the *New York Times Magazine*, told me, “Hydro-Quebec, as an entity, is hugely confident in what it does. They think they're doing the Lord's work.”

“In 2013, we have lots of surplus capacity in both the Northeastern U.S. and Southeastern Canada. There is currently no need for new capacity, and little, if any, in the next 10 years. Even if there were, natural gas is abundant, cheap, and will be for years.”

THE SOCIAL COST

The Romaine Complex's unnecessary new capacity comes at significant social cost for Quebec's Innu peoples, who have called the Romaine and its forests home for a thousand years.

Innu poet Rita Mestokosho said, “I am convinced that making a dam north of our land will destroy a lot of dreams. It will destroy our culture, our language, Innu-aimun. It will destroy our medicinal plants, it will poison the animals, it will pollute the air we breathe.”

At a meeting with Hydro-Quebec representatives in her village of Ekuanitshit (Innu-aimun for “take care of the place where you live”), Hydro-Quebec employees told Rita and other village leaders that power lines would go through their lands whether or not they signed an agreement with the utility. Feeling they had no choice, Ekuanitshit signed to receive what they could out of the deal. As Rita later explained to me, “The dam project has always existed in the minds of engineers at Hydro-Quebec. They are waiting for the right moment to create division within the Innu Nation, and even within our community.”

Many other towns have signed agreements to allow power lines on their land; only Uashat-Malietenam has held out so far. In the



*Christian Woodard and James Duesenberry
soak in the scenery on the Romaine River.*

'WHILE I STILL COULD'

Woodard and I had decided before climbing into the plane that we would portage *Le Maudite*. Translating roughly to “The Devil,” the rapid spreads over a series of angled shelves, creating chaotic waves at the top of the chute and finishing with two big holes at the bottom. Recirculating features of that size can stop a paddler and hold him for several minutes.

But knowing that once built, Romaine 3 will turn *Le Maudite* into a placid lakebed, Duesenberry had decided to fire it up. The width and power of the river dictated that he would be alone, amidst a giant series of turbulent, crashing waves. He thought that he would be able to make it through the rapid, but he could not see exactly how.

Woodard launched into the pool below the rapid, offering token clean-up support in the darkening evening. A very small Duesenberry ferried out to the center of the river, angling left through the first drop, dropping awkwardly into the second. He flipped, rolled, and flipped again while sliding down the third. In the fourth, he fought his way out of both holes, tweaking his shoulder. Woodard, though glad to see him upright at the bottom, remarked that it had not looked smooth.

Duesenberry replied, “No, but it’s the last time anybody will run it. It was something I needed to do while I still could.”

By damming the Romaine and the Petit Mecatina, Hydro-Quebec would essentially close their hydropower frontier. This may have led to myopic decision-making on their part, offering cures for which there is no disease and ignoring other possible solutions for a truly green energy future. What happens when Hydro-Quebec dams the last wild rivers in the province?

Messerschmidt lays out an alternate vision to the continued damming of Quebec’s major rivers. “The optimal strategy for Quebec would be to develop their wind resources (estimated at over 15 gigawatts) to work in conjunction with their existing hydro

resources, which would serve as storage for intermittent wind resources.” He notes that expanding wind capacity is far cheaper than building new dams.

“It’s a mystery why they keep throwing up dams,” Richardson said.

A BLIND EYE

Dawn at the Romaine 2 dam site eased into morning. The blasting quieted down and banks of halogens flicked off down the riverbed. We shouldered our boats and walked over the rocky fill, hoping to look purposeful. Around the corner, we were shocked to see the river returned to its ancient course. Instead of flowing through turbines at the end of a dry canyon, it was diverted for only a few hundred yards. We could keep paddling if Hydro-Quebec did not stop us.

On a higher road a man stepped out of a modular building and pointed at us. Another joined him, and they walked to a pickup truck. Two other men leaned on a backhoe, drinking coffee.

“Bonjour,” Woodard said.

They both nodded and turned away. Taking an “if we build it, they will come” approach, Hydro-Quebec has ignored First Nations, energy economics, and actual renewable solutions to finish damming the rivers in Quebec. Many in the Northeastern U.S. have been happy to follow their lead. As Hydro-Quebec turned a blind eye to us, like so many others, we slid back into the water under the redoubled cacophony of construction.

Editor’s note: The Romaine Complex 2 dam is still under construction. The company’s website indicates the first of the four Romaine River dams will be commissioned sometime next year, and the full project is slated to be completed by 2020. When this project is complete, Hydro-Quebec will have flooded 6 million acres. The state of N.H. is 5.9 million acres. ♪

This story is dedicated to Boyce Greer, who belonged to the Romaine more than most.

THE FOREST SOCIETY'S ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH ANNUAL MEETING



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2013

Chase House, the Inns at Mill Falls, Meredith, N.H.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: P.J. O'ROURKE

Humorist and author

Life as a Failed Country Gentleman



New Hampshire landowner and self-described 'failed country gentleman' P. J. O'Rourke insists that there is little difference between being a Certified Tree Farmer and being lost in the woods. O'Rourke's astute powers of

observation over the course of several decades of forest management on his own farm provide him with a satirist's perspective on what it means to live on the land, where, as he has noted, "I get to deduct what I spend on growing trees (nothing) from what I earn selling timber (nothing)."

Known for his appearances on National Public Radio's "Wait Wait . . . Don't Tell Me!" and as a prolific author of books such as *Don't Vote, It Just Encourages the Bastards* or his more recent *Holidays in Heck*, O'Rourke's talk is likely to entertain and enrage in equal measures. A vote will be taken after his presentation on whether or not to thank him.

Photo of P.J. O'Rourke by James Kegley.

FIELD TRIPS: *Before the meeting, Forest Society members are invited to join us on one of these field trips to experience the scenic landscapes that epitomize land conservation and forest stewardship in the Lakes Region. Each trip starts at a separate location, so please get directions when you register. The field trips are free, with the exception of the Squam Lake boat tour, which will cost \$25. For updated information visit www.forestociety.org or call (603) 224-9945.*

1 Hike Mount Major 9 AM to 3:30 PM

Mount Major, the eastern peak of the Belknap Range southwest of Lake Winnepesaukee, is one of the most heavily hiked peaks in New Hampshire. The Forest Society, Lakes Region Conservation Trust, and other partners in the Belknap Range Conservation Coalition are working to purchase key tracts to protect significant natural resources and perpetuate traditional recreational access to the network of hiking and snowmobiling trails extending to all parts of the range. You'll learn more about this project, enjoy spectacular views and see unusual natural communities.

Difficulty: *Strenuous, full-day hike, with steep and rocky terrain; 4 miles roundtrip.*

2 Newfound Lake Watershed Tour 11 AM to 3:30 PM

The Newfound Lake watershed has benefitted from a comprehensive land conservation plan resulting in the protection of more than 1,000 acres in the last two years. This field trip hike to the 486-acre Butman family conservation easement in Alexandria overlooking Newfound Lake provides one example of landscape-scale conservation success where the Quabbin to

Cardigan region initiative overlaps the Lakes Region conservation plan. We'll hike to great views, look for signs of wildlife and explore historic foundations.

Difficulty: *Moderate; 2.5 miles round trip.*

3 Hike Morse Preserve Noon to 3:30 PM

The 431-acre Morse Preserve was protected by the Forest Society in 2008. The hike to the open summit of Pine Mountain will reach fantastic views of the Belknap Range, Mt. Major and Lake Winnepesaukee. Along the way, you'll learn about a unique habitat management project, trails and forestry. Learn about emerging land conservation opportunities and the extensive recreational trail network of the Belknap Range.

Difficulty: *Moderate; 1.7 miles round trip.*

4 Squam Lake Boat Tour Noon to 3:30 PM

This special scenic boat tour aboard the Squam Lake Science Center pontoon boat will feature spectacular islands, coves and open water views of the Sandwich Range peaks. The Forest Society's Coolidge Tree Farm and Eagle Cliff properties are located on Squam. Other

natural areas include the UNH "Five Finger Point" and a network of protected lands under the stewardship of the Squam Lake Conservation Society and the Squam Lake Association. Learn about proactive land conservation efforts and the close relationship between forests and the health and water quality of New Hampshire's second-largest lake. Limited registration.

Note: *Additional cost: \$25 per person. Inclement or windy weather may force cancellation.*

5 Liz and Dennis Hager Easement Property Tour 1 to 3:30 PM

Landowners Liz and Dennis Hager are planning to place a conservation easement on their scenic farm to protect its open fields and forest habitats in New Hampton. Several historic structures have been moved, rehabilitated and lovingly-restored there, including the Eliza Remmick farmhouse formerly located on the Forest Society's Cockermouth Forest in Hebron. The property features expansive views of the Lakes Region.

Difficulty: *A short, half-mile hike to a hilltop cabin includes a fairly steep grade. One mile roundtrip.*

See back cover for registration options.

Help Clear the Way During Monadnock Trails Week

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events

Go online. Get outside. Visit our website at www.forestsociety.org/thingstodo for a complete and up-to-date list of field trips and special events.



Volunteers remove a boulder from a trail during last year's Monadnock Trails Week.

Not all jobs are so strenuous, we promise!

JULY 12-16 | 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Monadnock Trails Week

Monadnock State Park, Jaffrey

Join conservation professionals and other volunteers from the Forest Society and N.H. State Parks in restoring hiking trails on Mount Monadnock! Come for one day or several, alone or with friends. Prior trail maintenance experience is welcome but not necessary. Tasks for the week will include restoring and re-marking trails, building waterbars, improving trail tread, and constructing footbridges.

Meet at Mount Monadnock Park Headquarters at the end of Poole Road in Jaffrey at 9 a.m. Bring old clothes, work gloves (if you have them), a bag lunch and plenty of water. Trail tools will be provided. Sign up by emailing Carrie Deegan at cdeegan@forestsociety.org or call (603) 224-9945.

JUNE 14 | 9 a.m.-noon

Tree Identification Field Workshop

Conservation Center, Concord

Join Forest Society staff foresters Gabe Roxby and Wendy Weisiger to learn some tips and tricks for identifying many common trees in our New Hampshire woods. This workshop will take place on our Merrimack River Outdoor Education and Conservation Area, where we find a good diversity of tree species. Come prepared to be outdoors, with appropriate footwear and water.

Cost: \$10 for non-members; free for members, land stewards and other volunteers. Sign up by contacting Tina Ripley at signup@forestsociety.org or by calling (603) 224-9945.

JUNE 25-26 | 7-8:30 p.m.

Wooden Sign-Making Workdays

Conservation Center, Concord

Learn the steps involved in creating and/or refurbishing the beautiful routed wooden property signs that grace our Forest Society reservations! We are looking for some handy and energetic folks to help stencil, route, plane, sand, stain, varnish and paint signs during this workday blitz. There is something for all interests and abilities. We will bring the music and spring for a pizza lunch—you just need to bring enthusiasm and your work clothes!

Bring old clothes and work gloves. If you have a belt sander or router you're willing to bring, that would also be helpful! Sign up: email Carrie Deegan at cdeegan@forestsociety.org or call (603) 224-9945.

JULY 6 | 2-4 p.m.

Herbert Welsh Trail Dedication

Dewey Marsh, Jobs Creek Road, Sunapee

Join members of Sunapee Conservation Commission and Sunapee Historical Society for a dedication of the newly-designated Herbert Welsh Trail on Garnet Hill in Sunapee. Herbert Welsh was an early advocate and leader of the conservation efforts for Mount Sunapee in Newbury and The Dewey Woods in Sunapee. Welsh was a Forest Society vice president at large and staunch campaigner. A dedication ceremony will be followed by a short hike to the summit of Garnet Hill.

No registration is required.

JULY 13 | 9 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Farnsworth Hill Forest Hike and Celebration

Farnsworth Hill Reservation, Washington

Join us to celebrate and explore the Forest Society's newest reservation on Farnsworth Hill in Washington, N.H. Learn how a committed group of local residents surrounding Millen Pond partnered with the Washington Conservation Commission and the Forest Society to create a 313-acre permanent forest reservation.

To sign up contact Tina Ripley by email at signup@forestsociety.org or by calling (603) 224-9945.

JULY 15 | 7-8:30 p.m.

Exemplary Country Estates of N.H.

The Rocks Estate, Route 302, Bethlehem

Art historian Cristina Ashjian of Moultonborough will present some of the great country estates of New Hampshire, such as the Forest Society's own Rocks Estate, The Fells on Lake Sunapee and Saint Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish. She'll also delve into the architecture and fate of other significant private estates showcased in the state's promotional literature in the early 20th century.

This free presentation is sponsored by the N.H. Humanities Council as part of the Humanities to Go Program. For more information, go to www.the.rocks.org, email us at infor@therocks.org or call (603) 444-6228.

THURSDAY JULY 18 | 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Field Trip 101:
YOU Can Lead a Guided Hike!**

Conservation Center, Concord

Learn the basics of how to lead a guided hike or nature walk on conservation land in your community. Contrary to popular belief, you don't have to be an "expert" to lead a hike. We'll teach you how to plan, advertise and pull off a successful, fun and safe walk that will leave you wanting to do it all over again! Leading hikes and other forays is rewarding and a great way to contribute to the conservation effort in New Hampshire (the more people know about conservation land, the more likely they are to support conservation efforts.) Give it a shot!

Bring a bag lunch and water, and be prepared to go outside. Sign up by contacting Tina Ripley at signup@forestsociety.org or call (603) 224-9945.

JULY 24 | 1-3 p.m.
(Rain date: July 25)

Dragonfly Walk at Heald Tract

Heald Forest, Wilton

If you have ever wondered what dragonflies look like up close? Here is a chance to find out! Join Land Steward Program Specialist Carrie Deegan on a walk to learn about dragonfly biology and see which species we can find at the Heald Tract. This walk is appropriate for children and families. Come prepared to be outside, and to potentially get your feet wet!

Sign up: email Carrie Deegan at cdeegan@forestsociety.org or call (603) 224-9945.

AUGUST 11 | 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Hazelton Farm Hike and Celebration

Hebron

Explore the rich mosaic of natural resources and wildlife habitats of the recently conserved Hazelton farm and forestlands with the Forest Society in Hebron. Learn how a local group of conservationists around Newfound Lake and natural resource agencies and funders came together to help the Forest Society purchase a conservation easement protecting the 272-acre scenic property at the north end of Newfound Lake.

11 to 12: Ecology walk around the open fields and Cockermonth River habitats

ART EXHIBIT

The Conservation Center Conference Room is open Monday-Friday, 9 to 5 p.m. Please call ahead at 224-9945 to make sure the conference room isn't being used for a meeting.

JULY – AUGUST

Birds, Birds and More Birds!

Conservation Center, Concord

Close-up photographs of birds in New England and beyond, by Udo Rauter, a member of the N.H. Society of Photographic Artists who lives in Chichester.



As seen in his photos of a great blue heron and a vermilion flycatcher, Udo Rauter specializes in capturing magnificent detail.

THE BRETZFELDER PARK FAMILY EDUCATIONAL SERIES

Bretzfelder Memorial Park, Prospect Street, Bethlehem, 7-8 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 7

Search and Rescue in New Hampshire

Matt Holmes, a N.H. Fish and Game Dept. conservation officer and member of the department's Advanced Search and Rescue Team, will share his experience gained from assisting in dozens of search and rescue missions.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 14

Aquatic Critters

A Squam Lakes Natural Resource Center naturalist, with help from three animal ambassadors, will unveil the myths and facts about N.H.'s aquatic species.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 28

Barb's Nature Songs, with singer/songwriter Barbara Desroches

Nature-inspired music and puppetry for kids ages 3 and older.

12 to 12:30: Presentation by Jane Difley, President/Forester of the Forest Society

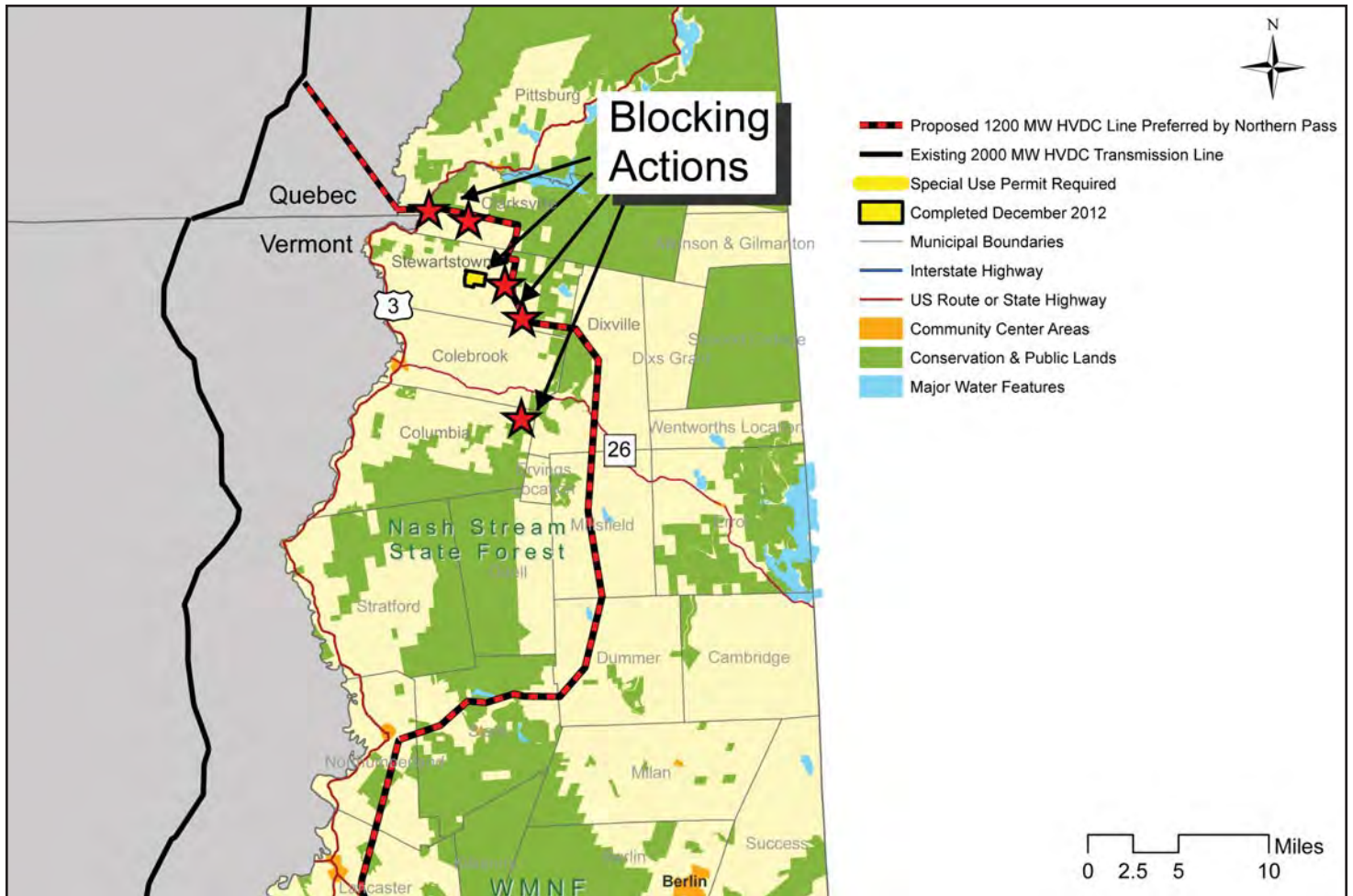
Optional: more strenuous afternoon hike along upper Wise Brook

To sign up, contact Tina Ripley by email at signup@forestsociety.org or by calling (603) 224-9945.

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The Forest Society has blocked the intended route of the Northern Pass transmission corridor, and is working to make that block permanent. The recently completed Lewis conservation easement (southernmost star) prohibits the line from potentially squeezing through south of the Balsams. The black line on the Vermont side is an existing transmission corridor in use by Hydro-Quebec.

Trees Not Towers Update: Columbia Easement Links Conserved Lands and Blocks Northern Pass

By Jack Savage

At the end of April the Forest Society closed on a conservation easement on 295 acres owned by the Lewis family in Columbia, N.H. The wooded acreage along Roaring Brook was an ideal candidate for permanent protection, creating a connected conserved ecosystem of more than 65,000 acres by connecting land surrounding The Balsams Grand Resort to the Nash Stream State Forest. As is so often the case, the project was made possible by the combined generosity

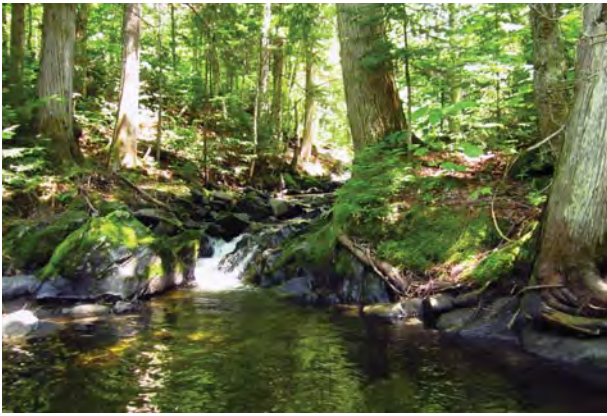
of landowners with a strong conservation ethic and generous donors.

But there is more to the story. The Lewis easement was one of five parcels the Forest Society initially set out to conserve last summer as part of a larger goal: to stop the private Northern Pass transmission line proposal from completing an intended route that would despoil northern Coos County, the White Mountain National Forest, and other conserved and private lands across

180 miles of New Hampshire.

To date the Forest Society's Trees Not Towers campaign to block the Northern Pass route has been one of the most successful in our history, with gifts from more than 3,000 donors—including key landowners who have donated easements. The effort has grown to include 15 landowners representing more than 1,800 acres.

With the intended route blocked by virtue of completed conservation easements



The Lewis property, including frontage along Roaring Brook, left, supports a wealth of flora and fauna. In one informal survey, more than 40 bird species—including more than a dozen neotropical migratory warblers—were observed.
Photo by Chris Borg.

and options for additional easements, we are working to raise the final \$750,000 needed to make that block permanent.

For its part, Northern Pass—a proposal backed by Hydro-Quebec and Northeast Utilities—has spent some \$40 million attempting to acquire a completed route for an overhead transmission line. Despite repeated promises to announce the route, NU executives extended their own deadline once again this spring, saying then that they expected to reveal it by mid-summer.

Any route the project pursues would require a federal Presidential Permit to cross the international boundary, a Special Use Permit in order to cross through 10 miles of the White Mountain National Forest, and permitting by the state Site Evaluation Committee.

“It’s clear that Northeast Utilities and Hydro-Quebec have not yet given up their goal of building a private overhead transmission line,” said Jane Difley, president/forester. “The Forest Society’s concern is that while their intended route is blocked, the long-term threat to New Hampshire’s landscape remains. We will continue to pursue our goal to compel these corporations to consider the viable alternatives to overhead lines.”

“There may someday be a compelling public benefit to importing more electricity from Quebec,” Difley said. “If that day ever comes, we need not and must not sacrifice New Hampshire’s scenery, property values, and conserved lands in order to transmit that power from one place to another.” ♧

NO LOOPHOLES IN HEADWATERS EASEMENT

More than a decade ago, a task force led by then-U.S. Sen. Judd Gregg and then-Gov. Jeanne Shaheen enabled the permanent conservation of 146,000 acres surrounding the headwaters of the Connecticut River that were once owned by International Paper. A perpetual conservation easement held by the State of New Hampshire allows the land to continue as working forest and provides for recreational use while prohibiting other commercial uses.

The intended route of Northern Pass is blocked in part by the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters easement. Amid widespread speculation that Northeast Utilities and PSNH would approach the current landowner (Forestland Group) and the easement holder (State of New Hampshire) in an attempt to site the transmission line across land under easement, the Forest Society commissioned a thorough legal review of the easement document.

“We conclude that the express terms of the Conservation Easement Deed prohibit the penetration of the Northern Pass project into, on, or under the land protected by the conservation easement, and there is no easement provision which would allow the State to consent to utilizing any portion of the land subject to the easement with the Northern Pass project,” wrote attorney Tom Masland of Ransmeier & Spellman. “Moreover, the State of New Hampshire, as the easement holder, has the duty and responsibility to defend and enforce the easement.”

A copy of Masland’s memo can be accessed and read via the Forest Society’s website, www.forestociety.org.

State Should Set Boundaries for Wind Farms

Communities need to retain their right to say ‘no’

By Will Abbott

The energy future of New Hampshire and New England is bumping against community cornerstones that make New Hampshire the distinctive place it is. Left unaddressed, this conundrum between feeding the energy beast and conserving a vibrant sense of place may force changes that greatly and permanently alter New Hampshire as we know it.

In 2007 New Hampshire enacted—with strong support from the Forest Society—the Renewable Energy Act. With great fanfare we as a state committed ourselves to generating 25% of all our electricity from renewable sources by 2025. The new law provided a subsidy financed by ratepayers to renewable electricity generating facilities that helped New Hampshire meet the 25 by 2025 goal.

We at the Forest Society still believe there is a place for appropriately sited wind farms in the state, and that there remains a public good served by offering such facilities a ratepayer subsidy to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels for electricity. However, we think the State needs to place some boundaries on the siting of commercial wind farms, boundaries that protect natural landscapes from degradation and that give local communities a more direct role in the regulatory review process that permits such projects. If we are going to subsidize renewable energy projects, we should retain the right to say “No” to projects that harm our greatest natural assets.

Two bills working their way through the New Hampshire legislature in the 2013 session would help New Hampshire get a grip on the conundrum between the need for new clean energy and the needs to conserve our natural landscapes and protect private property rights. SB 191 introduced by Senator Robert Odell would create a

THE ENERGY REALITY

- New Hampshire is part of a six-state New England regional electric grid. On any given day, New Hampshire exports as much of the total electricity it generates to the grid as we consume ourselves. Most new electric generating facilities built in New Hampshire over the next 20 years will be adding power to the New England grid above the needs of New Hampshire consumers, and most new electric transmission lines will be built to carry electrons through or out of New Hampshire.
- We often fail to pay the true cost of generating energy until many years after the energy is consumed.
- Energy efficiency investments save money, save energy and save capital investment in new generating and transmission facilities.

requirement that the State adopt a comprehensive energy plan to guide our energy future. SB 99 introduced by Senator Jeannie Forrester would require the State to conduct a full review of the process by which New Hampshire permits new energy facilities (as enumerated in RSA 162-H) to assure that the public interest is being well served. SB 99 would also require the Site Evaluation Committee to adopt comprehensive siting criteria for new wind farms, a process the Legislature started seven years ago but never completed. The goal of these new rules is to assure that the public interest in protecting landscapes and private property values is appropriately balanced with the incentives to build more wind energy facilities.

The choices for our energy future belong to us. ♪

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

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



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





Above, from left to right: Farley Lewis, Brad Butman, Nancy Butman, John Butman, Toby Sackton and Marcia Butman decided that donating a conservation easement on their land in Alexandria would be the best way to keep the 486 acres intact.

Right: Bob Butman, the father of Marcia, Brad and John Butman, plants white pine seedlings on his land in Alexandria. He contributed to an experimental project in the 1980s that would ultimately bring more than 5,000 seedlings to the property. Photos courtesy of the Butman family.



An Explorer of Forests, Creator of Trails

Siblings honor dad's engagement with the land by donating easement in Alexandria

By Brenda Charpentier

Soon after buying 700 acres of land in Alexandria in 1964, Bob Butman started to get to know it.

At first, it was walks with his wife, Olive, and hunts for Christmas trees with their kids, Marcia, Brad and John, on visits from their home in Concord, Mass. Later, it was bushwhacking to find the highest points, creating hiking trails, tucking thousands of pine seedlings into the dirt and working closely with foresters and loggers to harvest trees.

Later still, when he was in his 80s, it was long forays into the forest, leaving only a map with an X on it to show his kids where he was spending his afternoon.

"He was always going off into the woods. He really loved this land a lot," said daughter Marcia Butman. "He really appre-

ciated the peace and beauty of the forest."

To honor that memory, Marcia, Brad and John Butman and their families have permanently conserved 486 acres they inherited from their parents by donating a conservation easement on the land to the Forest Society.

The easement also satisfies the siblings' own conservation ethic.

"We didn't want to see it broken up into different pieces," said Marcia's husband Toby Sackton. "It was very important to us that it remain a big, continuous piece of land."

Keeping it intact will help to conserve the excellent wildlife habitat the land provides. In just one tracking workshop Marcia and Toby hosted for the Newfound

Wildlife Trackers, they found evidence of bear, moose, coyote, deer and turkeys, and they enjoy seeing hawks, owls, warblers and many other birds passing through. They plan to keep the land in current use and unfragmented to allow wildlife to come and go, and to honor New Hampshire's tradition of open land.

"We respect that tradition; we won't post our land," Toby said.

The Butman siblings also felt it would be easier for them to put permanent protections in place, rather than pass that responsibility on to the next generation.

"We wanted this to be one thing we have finished for our kids," Marcia said. "It felt like a gift to ourselves that this land is to be safe and preserved."



STRATEGIC CONSERVATION

The scenic Butman property contains approximately a mile of undeveloped road frontage on Washburn Road in Alexandria and includes the peak of Hutchins Hill. Its conservation will help to protect the water quality of Newfound Lake by conserving sections of several streams that drain into Patten Brook, a tributary of Newfound Lake. The Lakes Region Conservation Plan identifies it as having high natural resource values, and it is within the focus area of the Quabbin-to-Cardigan Initiative (Q2C), which seeks to conserve ecologically significant forests in the Monadnock Highlands.

Conserving this property is also strategically important because it abuts and enlarges the 990-acre N.H. Department of Resources and Economic Development Forest Legacy easement (on land owned by New Forestry LLC) completed in 2004 with aid of the Forest Society. It is also near conserved lands on Mt. Cardigan.

This is another great project that came to the Forest Society through its involvement in the Newfound Land Conservation Partnership (NLCP). Made up of three partners—the Newfound Lake Region Association, The Lakes Region Conservation Trust and the Forest Society—the NLCP works to conserve land and water quality in the Newfound Lake region. The NLCP is an advisory committee to the Newfound Lake Regional Association's Land and Water Committee and has been a great help to us to develop projects in the region. Expenses for the project were covered by a grant through the John Gemmill Newfound Lake Fund.

— Brian Hotz, senior director for strategic projects and land protection

Toby and Marcia live in Lexington, Mass., but built a home on the Alexandria property in 1989. John and Brad and their families spend time there as well, and John may build a camp nearby. Marcia and Toby now enjoy bringing their grandchildren

out on the trails first bushwhacked by their great grandfather.

Bob Butman drew detailed maps of the trails that are still used by family members today. The trail names are like titles, each with many stories within. There's Founda-

The Butman land in Alexandria features a system of trails through woodlands and up to the top of Hutchins Hill.

tions, which leads to an old foundation on the top of the ridge; Birches, leading to a beautiful birch forest; and Pines, which leads to the place where Bob experimented with pine tree seedlings—planting and hiring others to plant more than 5,000 of them—in the mid-1980s.

The planting experiment was backed by Grafton County Extension, and the goal was to convert an area of lower quality hardwoods to a pure stand of white pines. An electrical engineer by trade, Bob approached the project with scientific zeal. He devoted himself to planting seedlings and researching the best nursery stock, fertilizers, herbicides and the best time to plant.

All the while he advocated for careful forestry that showed respect for the land in the plots that were cleared for planting.

His meticulous notes, saved by his daughter Marcia, reveal just how challenging the endeavor was. They detail competing hardwoods, outmatched herbicides and too much slash covering planting areas.

“Found an incredibly dense growth of pin cherry from five to eight feet high,” notes one entry.

It foretold the future. Most of the pine trees ended up pine-weeviled or out-competed. (The 20 or so other landowners who took part in the project got similar results, and nowadays foresters don't recommend such wholesale hardwood-to-white-pine forest conversion.)

For Bob, it was one more way to engage with the land he loved, no matter how willful it may have seemed at times, and he kept planting other kinds of pines in his ongoing stewardship of the land.

Marcia, Toby and their three children have since added to the trails he built, as is fitting for a hiking family. Marcia has climbed all 48 of New Hampshire's 4,000-footers, and her family is not too far behind her lead. Bob and Olive, called Oggy

by family and friends, were hikers as well, conquering 42 of the 4,000-footers. They spent many days hiking the Alexandria land, searching for boundaries and the highest point, Hutchins Hill, which provides views of Mount Cardigan, a favorite family destination.

After Oggy passed away, Bob continued exploring the land well into his 80s. “He was skilled with a map and compass and always knew where he was as far as I could tell,” Marcia said.

The way Bob actively engaged with the land, whether through trail building, hiking or experimenting with white pines, made a lasting impression on his family, resulting in the land’s permanent protection. Even his passion for planting seedlings, it seems, has been passed down.

“Our son Tim, his wife Kate and their 2-year-old, Isaac, recently planted 20 Christmas trees on the property,” Marcia said. “So we are continuing Dad’s love of trees and the land.” ♣

Partnership Yields Another Win for Great Bay Protection Area

The Forest Society has acquired 34 acres of land in Durham through the Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership Project. The Nature Conservancy purchased the land with North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) funding and then transferred the land to the Forest Society to manage for public access and conservation of wildlife habitat and water quality.

The property occupies a strategic position between the Forest Society’s Dame Forest and the Chase and Durham Point sedge meadows, on which the Forest Society holds conservation easements. It is part of the Great Bay partnership’s Crommet Creek focus area and contributes to a growing block of unfragmented, protected land between the Oyster and Lamprey rivers. ♣

Family Strengthens Conservation Gift in Bartlett

A conservation-minded family has added 7 more acres of scenic, highly desirable land in Bartlett to the 195 acres it had previously conserved nearby, by donating a conservation easement on the land to the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.

Jeanne LaCroix Crocker, with help from her son Todd Crocker, has donated the easement on 7 acres located on the west side of Thorn

Hill Road. In 1989, the family conserved an abutting 22-acre parcel and a 173-acre parcel nearby in Bartlett and Jackson.

“While 7 acres statistically is not a huge chunk of land in comparison to the hundreds of thousands of acres protected in this area by the White Mountain National Forest and others, the development pressures on this incredibly scenic, highly desirable land are immense,” said Joslin

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Bennett, an easement steward with the Forest Society. "Additionally, this productive lowland spruce-fir and northern hardwood conifer forest offers valuable habitat for wildlife." ♧

Easement Supports Dairy Farming, Protects Lamprey River, Great Bay

The Forest Society has acquired the conservation easement on a 93-acre dairy farm in Lee that was protected through the Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership (GBRPP), the Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee and the town of Lee at the end of last year.

The farm includes highly productive agricultural soils, a picturesque vista and 1,630 feet of frontage on the federally designated wild and scenic Lamprey River. That frontage features a silver maple floodplain system on a section of the river well-known for its excellent paddling.

The easement was sold to the GBRPP by the then-owners of the land, which was being operated as the Ath-Mor Dairy Farm. The sale reduced the purchase price of the farm itself, which enabled the current owners, Lorraine and Nathan Merrill, to purchase the land and continue its historical agricultural use.

The Lamprey River feeds directly into Great Bay, so protecting it was a major goal of the conservation easement.

"With an agricultural operation, the trick is to have a healthy buffer along the river, and this project guarantees that there is a vegetative buffer that will always stay there, and that improves the water quality of the river, which in turn improves the water quality of the bay," said Mike Speltz, the Forest Society land agent involved in the project. ♧

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Public Access Secured for Two of N.H.'s Top Trout Ponds

By J.T. Horn, The Trust for Public Land

Two of New Hampshire's best trout ponds will be protected in the latest effort to ensure outdoor recreation and timber jobs in the Androscoggin River Headwaters.

The ponds are in a 934-acre property that The Trust for Public Land bought for \$2.475 million and then sold to the state.

"Greenough Pond and Little Greenough Pond are two of the only three remaining wild trout ponds in the state, and they offer some of the best trout fishing in New Hampshire," said Rodger Krussman, New Hampshire director of The Trust for Public Land.

The state will make the property open to the public for fishing and hunting. The property is also popular for snowmobiling, with more than three miles of state-maintained snowmobile trails.

The ponds were purchased from Plum Creek as part of an overall effort to protect 31,000 acres of land in the Androscoggin Headwaters in the northern end of the state. "The goal is to ensure sustainable working timberlands, protect water quality and wildlife habitat, and expand access to public recreation lands—benefiting not only the local communities in northern New Hampshire, but the thousands of visitors to the region every year," said Krussman.

The Trust for Public Land, a national conservation organization, has been working with Plum Creek since 2007 in the Androscoggin region. The 934 acres will create a new Greenough Ponds State Wildlife Management Area. Earlier, 7,400 acres had been purchased by the federal government for additions to the Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge. Still under discussion are another 23,000 acres of conservation easements on Plum Creek land, meaning the company could own it and produce timber



The protection of Greenough Pond and Little Greenough Pond secures access for anglers, hunters, snowmobilers and paddlers. Photo by Jerry and Marcy Monkman, Ecophotography.

The 934 acres will create a new Greenough Ponds State Wildlife Management Area.

from it, but the land couldn't be developed.

"Protection of the Greenough Ponds is a high priority because it secures access for anglers, hunters, snowmobilers and paddlers in one of the most pristine locations in the state," said Glenn Normandeau, executive director of N.H. Fish and Game.

"Plum Creek has helped conserve more than 1 million acres nationwide, and we are pleased to partner to conserve this New Hampshire land that has exceptional ecological, wildlife and recreational values," said Paul Davis, vice president of Plum Creek's Northern Hardwood region. "We recognize the efforts of The Trust for Public Land and the State of New Hampshire in making this

conservation project successful."

The \$2.475 million to pay for the land came from a variety of sources, including \$650,000 from the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program; \$600,000 from the Open Space Institute; \$300,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Acres for America Program; \$100,000 from the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation; and other public and private money. N.H. Fish and Game contributed \$675,000 to the acquisition from the department's fisheries and wildlife habitat accounts and the Granite Reliable Power wind farm mitigation fund. ♪

Decades-Long Effort Adds High-Value Habitat to Piscassic Greenway

59 Acres Will Protect Wetlands and Water Quality in Great Bay Estuary

By Jim O'Brien, The Nature Conservancy

The Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership and Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire have acquired 59 acres of valuable wetland, stream frontage and wildlife habitat in Newmarket as an addition to the popular Piscassic Greenway. The Greenway is a part of an assemblage of more than 760 acres of protected land in Newmarket and Newfields with more than 3 miles of trails that are enjoyed by the public for its recreational and wildlife viewing opportunities.

The newly acquired Tucker tract, located off Neal Mill Road in Newmarket, boasts a large complex of beaver impounded wetlands, and nearly 3,000 feet of frontage along Piscassic Stream, which flows into the Piscassic River. The Piscassic River is a tributary to the Lamprey River which flows into the Great Bay estuary. The permanent conservation of the Tucker property contributes to the protection of water quality in the estuary.

The entire property is designated as “highest ranking habitat in New Hampshire” in the N.H. Fish and Game Department’s Wildlife Action Plan and provides high quality, diverse wetland habitat for waterfowl, migratory birds and other local wildlife. The open marshes are ideal for several turtle species of conservation concern, including wood, Blanding’s and spotted.

“This is an important investment for water quality protection, but as important is the quality wildlife habitat found on the property,” said Duane Hyde, Director of Conservation Programs for The Nature Conservancy. “Because of its value, we and our partners have been working to conserve this parcel for more than a decade. We are extremely proud and excited to be able to stand side by side with Southeast Land Trust and announce its permanent protection for the residents of Newmarket and for the entire region to enjoy.”

The Nature Conservancy (TNC), on behalf of the Great Bay Resource Protection partnership, negotiated with the landowner, Donald Tucker of Newmarket, on the sale of the 59 acres and directed the deed at closing to the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire (SELTNH) which will own and manage the land into the future. The Nature Conservancy holds a conservation restriction on the property ensuring its permanent protection from development.

“The addition of the Tucker tract to the Piscassic Greenway will strengthen our management opportunities for wildlife and provide for the option to expand our trail network to Neal Mill Road,” explained Brian Hart, Executive Director of the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire. “As owner of the adjacent 385 acres known as the Piscassic Greenway, the Southeast Land Trust has initiated a series of management activ-

ities in the past year to diversify wildlife habitat and to create sustainable, interconnected trail system for passive recreation. These activities include maintaining open field habitat and creating early successional shrub and brush habitat.”

Conserving land like the Tucker property has an impact on the health of the natural systems that wildlife and people enjoy. The Great Bay region provides a variety of wildlife habitats that support more than 150 rare species and 55 exemplary natural communities and ecosystems. Encompassing the outflow of five rivers to the Atlantic Ocean, the area is known for providing North American waterfowl breeding, migration and wintering habitat for more than 20 species of migratory waterfowl species. It is widely recognized as an ecosystem of local, regional, state, national and international significance. ♪



The wetlands on the conserved land in Newmarket provide high-quality, diverse habitat for waterfowl, migratory birds and other local wildlife. Photo courtesy of The Nature Conservancy.

Sprucewood Forest Purchase Protects Water for Durham and U.N.H.

By Jessica Ingram-Bellamy, The Trust for Public Land



Three generations enjoy Sprucewood Forest in Durham. The conservation of 171 acres of the forest will protect the Oyster River and provide critical wildlife habitat. Photo by Jerry and Marcy Monkman/Trust for Public Land.



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The successful purchase and conservation of 171 acres in Sprucewood Forest along the Oyster River in Durham will permanently protect drinking water for the town and for the University of New Hampshire.

“The Oyster River is one of the primary sources of drinking water for both residents of the town and students at the university. Protecting Sprucewood Forest will also help safeguard the Spruce Hole aquifer—a future source of water for Durham and UNH—resulting in a clean water supply for almost 16,000 people on the municipal water system,” said Gregg Caporossi, Project Manager for The Trust for Public Land. “This effort fits clearly with our mission of protecting land for people and is reflected in the way that this community responded to the opportunity to protect their most valuable resource—water.”

“The purchase of this property builds on Durham’s long history of protecting land around the Spruce Hole bog and aquifer. The future well site and the majority of the aquifer will be on properties now owned and/or controlled by the Town of Durham. It’s been a terrific project, whose success reflects the extraordinary coordination, creativity, and dedication of our partners, The Trust for Public Land and the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service. We count ourselves very fortunate,” said Robin Mower, Durham Town Councilor.

In addition to protecting water, Sprucewood Forest provides excellent wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities. The property contains suitable habitat for New England cottontail, a state-listed endangered species.

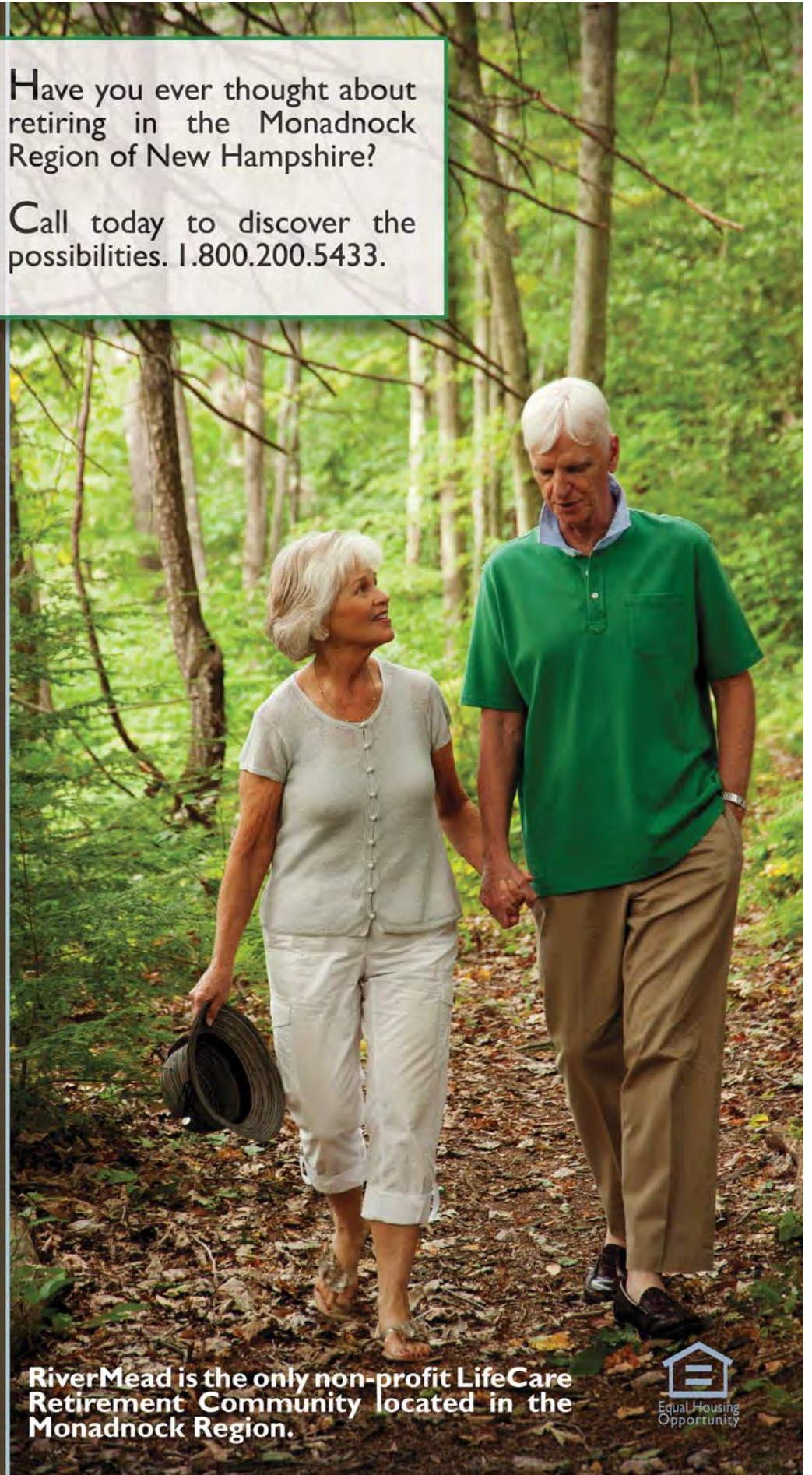
The Trust for Public Land raised more than \$4 million to buy the land, and is selling it to the Town of Durham. Money for the purchase came from a variety of federal, state, local and private sources. The major portion, \$2.46 million, was funded through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service’s Wetlands Reserve Program. ♪

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When in Rome ...

To see more wildlife, learn to enjoy the journey as much as your destination

By Dave Anderson

“How come we never seem to see many animals when we’re hiking?” It’s a familiar lament from those who wish to get more out of precious free time enjoying the peace of the forest and freedom of the hills. I’ve got a few time-tested and simple tips to help maximize your chances to encounter wildlife, find wildlife signs and experience more when you take to the woods.

Shhhh

Your chances of experiencing wildlife go way up if you walk softly and refrain from talking. We tend to rely heavily on sight. Try really listening. Tune in to the sounds of water, birdsongs, woodpeckers drumming or leaves rustling. You’ll likely need to stop hiking entirely to listen well.

Slow down

While you’re at it, sit down. Take a page from the still-hunter’s book and stop moving. Sitting still with eyes closed will heighten your other senses and awareness of sounds and smells around you. When you blend into the forest rather than stand out, birds or mammals moving nearby are less likely to detect your presence, and you’ll become more adept at both seeing and hearing them. Practice your observation skills when watching a backyard bird or chipmunk. Are they aware you are watching?

Get off the beaten path

Since you’re not moving fast and possibly meandering off trail on a random bush-whack, you might as well ditch the whole destination thing entirely. The very best walks in the woods are often open-ended exploration where the journey itself becomes as important as any destination goal. Be safe and tell others where you’ll be hiking



Top: A moose emerges momentarily from the woods at the Cockermonth Forest in Groton.

Photo by Wendy Weisiger.

Left: A red-tailed hawk surveys its hunting grounds near the Forest Society’s Conservation Center headquarters in Concord. Photo by Frank Allen.

Right: You never know when you might catch up with a wood turtle. Photo by Lauren Kras.

and when you expect to return, but remain open to exploring short side-trips. Even hiking a hundred feet off-trail to sit quietly beneath a tree to eat lunch can be a very different experience than dining at a popular summit or along a busy trail.

Leave your dog at home this time

I rarely see the wildlife my dog scares off with barking when she picks up a scent. Leaving your dog at home better equips you to remain both quiet and motionless. Of

course those who hunt game birds will say the reverse is true. Dogs have finely adapted the ability to sense the unseen.

Seek the edges

Pick destinations that are likely to host more overall species. Not all landscapes you visit are equally endowed with key resources wildlife need to survive: food, water, cover and space. Find the edge or the “ecotone” where two distinct areas of different habitat overlap. These areas contain



Remember to look up while hiking. You might see a porcupine in a tree. This one was spotted at Black Mountain Reservation in Sutton.

Photo by Dan Richardson.

afford great views into the surrounding woods but are less likely to host foraging wildlife.

Seek water

On the contrary, linear “riparian” corridors of wetlands, stream edges and pond shores feature higher densities of wildlife. A quiet beaver pond offers an excellent opportunity to see a wide suite of wetland species. You may find turtles, frogs, ducks, herons, flycatchers, moose, muskrats, beaver, otters and bats as well as mayflies, caddis flies and dragonflies. Other perhaps less exciting species of insects include biting blackflies, ticks, mosquitoes and deerflies. In order to remain comfortable while sitting motionless, be sure to bring insect repellent or a head net.

Timing is everything

Speaking of bats and beaver ponds, evening hours and the early morning hours are often the very best times to see wildlife. “Crepuscular” species are those active at both dawn and dusk as opposed to the “diurnal” species active in daytime. The nocturnal species active only at night may be creatures you only hear rustling in leaves, the “things that go bump in the night.” Try sitting at a beaver pond just after sunset. Remember to bring a flashlight so you can find your way back to your car at the trailhead. Weather considerations also play a part in wildlife activity. Few animals are active in mid-summer during the hottest part of the day. When the weather is rainy or windy, most animals seek shelter to conserve energy. You should, too.

Expect the unexpected

Once while standing stock still in May at the base of a large tree along a woods road, I heard the rattle of dry leaves as an animal approached, bounding downhill at high speed. I remained motionless as a fisher ran

more wildlife species. A stone wall bordering woods and an open field or brushy wetland will contain the denizens of all three habitat types.

Consider forest types

Look at any aerial photo or Google Earth image. Conifer woods of pine, hemlock and spruce will host different suites of species than deciduous forests of maple, beech, birch and oak. For example, red-breasted nuthatches are generally found in and near

conifer woods while white-breasted nuthatches are generally found in deciduous woods. Other species are considered “habitat generalists” found at edges of mixed woods and even in suburban backyards. A white-tailed deer or gray squirrel might be found anywhere, while pine martins and spruce grouse require more specialized habitat. And while the open and airy, yet barren understory of pure pine and hemlock offers little in the way of food or cover, people tend to visit these sites because they

downwind to my position nearly crossing my feet before detecting me. I've had similar good luck in a close encounter with a black bear in my orchard when I was both motionless and positioned downwind so that my scent did not betray my position.

More telltale signs

Even if you do not see or hear birds or mammals in dramatic fashion in the summer woods, you should be alert for telltale signs of wildlife. When you see mud or sand while following aforementioned riparian corridors along brooks and ponds, inspect the ground for tracks. Other signs of wildlife include browse where ragged twigs were nipped by passing deer or neatly clipped by the sharp incisors of rabbits, hare or porcupines.

Scent marking and scat

Wildlife feces, or "scat," is particularly diagnostic of species. There are even field guides and online resources to help you



A red eft stalks the leaf litter hunting for worms and insects at a Forest Society conservation easement property in New Hampton. Photo by Chris Borg.

identify wildlife scat. A common example is coyote scat containing fur and bones of smaller mammal prey or coarse deer hair intentionally deposited along prominent high spots: on top of stone walls, along ridge-line trails and at open ledges. Air currents help broadcast the scent-based chemical messages from canine anal scent glands to declare territorial imperative to interlopers entering occupied territory. Similarly, bears bite and rub on red pine trees, using the aromatic sap of the bite wounds to fix their

scent and fur to create a forest equivalent of social media. Beaver scent mounds deposited along dams convey the presence and reproductive status of resident family groups with multiple generations of offspring. Wild animals learn a lot from finding scat. You may learn some too, but for your safety do not handle any wildlife scat.

Encountering wildlife is often a simple matter of good luck—being in the right place at the right time. It helps to slow down and tune in to your surroundings. Ditch the Discovery Channel dramatic wildlife documentary expectations. With busy, fast-paced lives, it's always good to recalibrate to the slower, quieter pace and the daily and seasonal rhythms of the forests around us.

Have fun. Stay safe, warm and dry; and enjoy your precious time in the woods. ♪

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

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Using It Without Losing It

Managing land for recreation can be tricky

By George F. Frame, CF

In the early days of my forestry career it was called Multiple Use Management (MUM). I'm not sure what it's called these days, because I never left MUM behind. It's what we do at the Forest Society; we try to figure out what the resources are that can be managed for and then develop a plan that protects those resources at the same time they're being used.

For timber we inventory and prescribe treatments; for wetlands and water quality we usually protect by using buffers and limitations on access. For wildlife, we look at habitat distribution and quality and, if needed, call in the experts to help us enhance the habitat features we find. We know in this process that not every acre can provide multiple outcomes, but over all we can do some good.

When it comes to managing a property for recreation, our job can sometimes be pretty basic but other times kind of tricky. Previous uses of the properties we acquire can be good or bad. When we acquire a new property, we inventory it and develop a plan of actions that enhance the good things and limit or mitigate the bad. Through this inventory and prescription process we identify sites that may offer vistas, areas of cultural interest, good fishing spots or just places that make you feel good by being there.

Using this appreciation of the wonders our forests contain, we categorize the properties from "just a woodlot" to "pretty cool." The real rating system is a bit more academic, but you get the drift.

For most landowners, there is a tension in allowing some things while discouraging others. We want to be open and welcoming, but at the same time we have concerns for the resources. We want the woods and soil and quality features to be treated well and last decade after decade.



Sometimes, properties come to us damaged by careless ATV or truck use. In such cases, our management plans may include restoration as well as encouraging wiser use and enjoyment of scenic views and other recreation features. Photo by Wendy Weisiger.

Hedgehog Mountain in Deering is a good example of a property that came to us with historic uses that were not focused on enjoying the resource over the long term, but instead focused on vehicles, sort of a man and machine against the world. Our inventory showed miles of unmaintained roads that were heavily eroded in areas of slope, went through or too near wetlands and other fragile ecosystems, and were not located to take advantage of some of the outstanding features of the property.

Our vision for Hedgehog Mountain is to take advantage of the recreational resources, bringing to the foreground the spectacular views and the varied landscape, while over time reducing the impacts

caused by the past misuses. The hope is to provide future users with adventures, wonder, and a new sense of place that they are prevented from receiving now because of the condition of the land.

Planning for and executing the needed changes will be a gargantuan feat. It will require the work of many volunteers, much staff time, input from town officials and user groups, and, of course, dollars. Actually, that describes most of our land-related projects. ♣

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



Above: The summit of Mt. Major, a 60-acre state forest, is conserved, but much of the surrounding land that hikers must cross to get to the summit is privately owned and unprotected. Photo by Tom Howe.

Below: A hiker takes in the view of Lake Winnepesaukee from the summit of Mt. Major. Photo by Brenda Charpentier.

Everybody Hikes Mt. Major: Conserving the Belknap Mountains and Trails

The Forest Society has helped to protect some of New Hampshire's most iconic and popular recreation destinations: Mount Monadnock, Mount Sunapee, Mount Kearsarge, Franconia Notch. We now have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to permanently protect another state treasure: Mount Major and the surrounding Belknap Range.

Mount Major rivals Mount Monadnock in its popularity as a hiking destination. On any summer day, you'll find Scout troops, kids' camps, young families and retired people all enjoying the trails. At the top, the rocky summit invites you to sit awhile and marvel at the sight of Lake Winnepesaukee glistening below.

Most hikers probably have no idea they travel across mostly private, unprotected land to get to the top.

The Forest Society, in partnership with the Lakes Region Conservation Trust (LRCT) and other participants in the Belknap Range Conservation Coalition, has an opportunity to purchase four tracts of land on or near Mount Major to conserve key



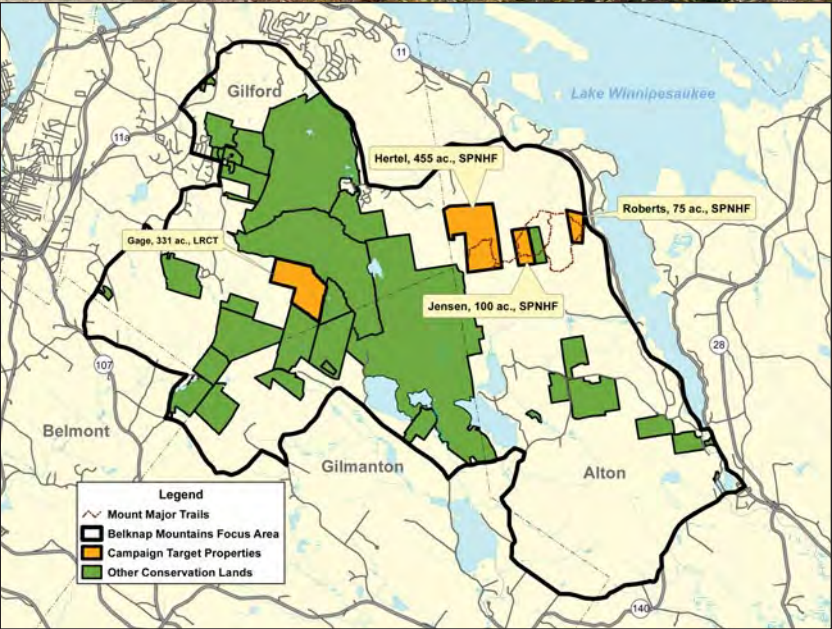
hiking trails, amazing views and wildlife habitat.

We need your help to make it happen. We must raise \$1.8 million by Dec. 1 to purchase the four properties, which total 950 acres.

Purchasing these lands will enable us to protect key portions of the trails network and the hiking experience, and will serve as a foundation in our long-term commitment to conserving more lands in this

important region. The state owns the Route 11 trailhead, parking area and summit (the 60-acre Mount Major State Forest) but those areas are surrounded by unprotected lands, creating many opportunities for landscape-scale conservation.

The Belknap Range is a recreation destination for both residents and tourists alike who are looking for day hikes close to the boating, fishing and other recreational



opportunities found in the Lakes Region. On the eastern end of the range, Mt. Major in particular beckons people looking to enjoy the outdoors. A survey of 675 hikers last fall revealed that at least 24 organizations and six camps regularly send groups to the mountain and that for many hikers, the mountain is a beloved mainstay, hiked again and again.

The four tracts are separately owned by landowners who have agreed to work with us and our partners. With your help, the Forest Society can purchase these lands to conserve an iconic New Hampshire landmark and ensure its continued accessibility, beauty and natural resource value. Please join our campaign today!

For updates on this project, go to www.forestsociety.org.

Yes, I want to help the Forest Society and Lakes Region Conservation Trust Protect Mt. Major/The Belknaps

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For more information, contact Susanne Kibler-Hacker at 603-224-9945
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- Hager family conservation easement tour, New Hampton

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- Awards and keynote address by P.J. O'Rourke, humorist and author

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Final registration deadline is September 21.

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

See page 26 for field trip options!