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The Forest Society's Board of Trustees. Left to right, front row: Anne Truslow, Elizabeth Salas, Don Floyd, Jason Hicks, Jack Savage, and Janet Zeller. Back row: George Epstein, Allyson Hicks, Tony Cheek, Peter Fauver, Phil Bryce, Andrew Smith, Michael Morison, Bill Crangle, Bill "Tuck" Tucker, Drew Kellner, Patricia Losik, Tom Wagner, Nancy Martland, Deb Buxton, and Brian Hotz.

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^{*} Denotes non-trustee or former trustee

Letter to Members

Fiscal Year 2023 (May 1, 2022-April 30, 2023)

Dear Friends,

On behalf of our Board of Trustees and entire staff, we thank you for the extraordinary generosity that made another successful year possible for the Forest Society. Thanks to ongoing donor support, as this report indicates, we had another strong year financially, placing us in a solid position going forward.

We began FY23 with our board committed to converting the historic 1884 carriage barn at The Rocks to our new Forest Society North program center in Bethlehem. Following the February 2019 fire that destroyed the historic tool building that served as the property's education center, offices, and Christmas Tree Farm headquarters, we stepped back to assess our goals and activities there.

With the planned opening of Forest Society North, we will be better positioned to work with communities, stakeholders, and partners to affect land conservation and stewardship, keeping forests as forests and enhancing the lives of people living in the North Country.

We are equally committed to continuing our popular Christmas Tree Farm and the Maple Museum at The Rocks. We hired a new Christmas tree farm manager after long-time manager Nigel Manley shifted his focus to program delivery, and we will hire a program director to develop mission-oriented activities.

Our investments at The Rocks are part of a broader effort to engage and welcome people who visit our conserved lands. Mount Major, Mount Monadnock, Lost River, and Creek Farm all represent Forest Society properties where collectively hundreds of thousands visit annually, representing a diverse community of recreational users whose help we need to maximize our ability to protect and take care of New Hampshire's forests.

In FY23, our land conservation efforts remained robust. We expanded our fee holdings by 1,194 acres and protected an additional 964 acres through conservation easements. We now own and care for more than 190 properties constituting nearly 60,000 acres statewide, and we hold more than 750 conservation easements on more than 135,000 acres.

In September 2022, we welcomed Dr. Michael Mann, renowned for his climate research, as our annual meeting guest speaker. Climate change is the key challenge of this century, and Dr. Mann challenged us to do more as an organization. In FY23, we worked with University of New Hampshire (UNH) students to calculate the Forest Society's carbon footprint. The report highlighted our remaining fossil fuel heating, our

non-solar electricity use, and our transportation as areas in which we can reduce our emissions. We are committed to doing so.

The Forest Society has long incorporated energy conservation in our larger conservation mission, having been early adopters of passive solar and energy efficient design at our Concord headquarters. Our newly renovated Rocks campus features a large solar array and geothermal heating.

Managing forests sustainably, in ways that make wise use of the locally produced renewable resource that is wood, is also part of meeting the climate challenge. In FY23, the Forest Society conducted 11 timber harvests, treating nearly 600 acres in accordance with management plans for each property. We also partnered with UNH and others to conduct research and assess climate-smart silviculture on some of our forests.

One sad note: we found ourselves celebrating too soon the well-led life of former Board Chair Bill Webb, who died in the spring of 2023 following a significant stroke. Bill's impact on us—and a number of other organizations—was outsized.

We can't thank you, our members, enough for making possible the accomplishments outlined in this annual report. We appreciate your belief in our mission and our ability to achieve it, year in and year out.

Sincerely,



Jack Savage President



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Drew Kellner Board Chair

The mission of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, adopted in 1904, is to perpetuate the forests of New Hampshire through their wise use and their complete reservation in places of special scenic beauty.





Conserving New Hampshire's Forests

he Forest Society prioritizes protecting lands that expand existing conservation areas and connecting protected areas to one another, safeguarding critical wildlife habitat and water resources, and securing forestland that will deliver multiple benefits, from climate change mitigation to wood supply. In FY23, we expanded our fee holdings by 1,194 acres and protected an additional 964 acres through conservation easements.

The 10 projects completed in FY23: further protected water

quality at Lake Winnipesaukee by expanding conservation adjacent to the Morse Preserve in Alton; enlarged the Champlin Forest in Rochester, which provides outdoor opportunities close to urban centers in the Seacoast; added conservation land on the flanks of iconic Mount Kearsarge; secured a small addition to the Hedgehog Mountain Forest in Deering; expanded protection in the Connecticut River watershed adjacent to the Yatsevitch Forest; extended a chain of conservation lands running from Manchester Water Works to Bear Brook State Park in the Merrimack River watershed; and built on a legacy of conservation with the Murray and Mitchell families in Wolfeboro and Gilmanton, respectively. We also had the opportunity to partner with Southeast Land Trust (SELT) by holding a conservation easement on 138 acres they purchased that includes frontage on the Lamprey River, a federally designated Wild and Scenic River.







Top left: Reiner Woodland, 849 acres in Andover and Salisbury. Top right: Derevya Farm, 116-acre conservation easement in Allenstown. Bottom: Addition to the Morse Preserve, 222 acres in Alton.

Property Name	Acres	Location	Grantor/Donor
William H. Champlin Jr. Forest Addition	122	Rochester	Easter Seals of New Hampshire, Inc.
Hedgehog Mountain Addition	1	Deering	Town of Deering
Eliot and Catherine Reiner Woodland	849	Andover and Salisbury	Eliott and Catherine Reiner
Evelyn H. and Albert D. Morse Sr. Preserve Addition	222	Alton	Dana Freese
Total: 4 projects	1,194		
Conservation Easements	Acres	Location	Landowners
Addison Cate Preserve	260	Alton	Monica Green and Richard West
Derevya Farm	116	Allenstown	Laura Bonk and Philip Trowbridge
Murray Easement	197	New Durham & Wolfeboro	Roger and Linda Murray
Paget Farm	214	Cornish	Wally and Jerri Cole
Swett Mountain Forest Addition	39	Gilmanton	Charlie and Nanci Mitchell
Southeast Land Trust	138	Epping	Southeast Land Trust
Total: 6 projects	964		
Fotal Land Conserved:	2,158 acres		

Keeping the Promise of Permanent Conservation

The Forest Society's Easement Stewardship staff oversees more than 750 individual conservation easements that encompass more than 135,000 acres and works with landowners to ensure that the natural values of the places they love are forever protected. In FY23, our Easement Stewards visited with 181 landowners, and monitored 381 properties with ground visits, covering more than 120,000 acres. Volunteer easement monitors also helped immensely: 10 volunteers monitored a total of 13,581 acres.



Roger and Linda Murray (pictured with their dog, Finley) donated a conservation easement on their 197 acres in Wolfeboro and New Durham.



Wally and Jerri Cole donated a conservation easement on their 214-acre property in Cornish, adjacent to the Michael and Claudia Yatsevitch Forest, which creates a nearly 2,200-acre block of protected forestland in the Upper Valley region.



Richard West and Monica Green's conservation easement donation in Alton brought the total land conserved around the Evelyn H. and Albert D. Morse Sr. Preserve to 1,228 acres. Pictured from left, Town of Alton Conservation Commission Chair Gene Young, Richard West, Forest Society President Jack Savage, and Monica Green.

Caring for Land

rith nearly 60,000 acres in fee ownership, spread across more than 100 communities, the Forest Society's foresters and stewardship staff have a lot to take care of, including preparing and managing timber harvests, managing wildlife habitat, fighting invasive species, caring for trails, and ensuring parking areas, signs, and kiosks are in good repair to provide enjoyable visitor experiences.

Forestry

Our working forests provide important habitat diversity, improve the health and resilience of forests, which are a key factor in response to climate change, and they provide sustainably produced renewable forest products that we all use every day.

In FY23, the Forest Society conducted 11 timber harvests, treating nearly 600 acres in accordance with management plans for

each property. These harvests generated 2.3 million board feet of wood and 14,300 tons of low-grade wood, generating just over \$470,000 in gross revenue to the Forest Society.

At the Heald Tract in Wilton, we continued a multifaceted project to restore native pollinator habitat, perform experimental silviculture for New England cottontail habitat, and reduce invasive species. The Forest Society's land managers also collaborate with other groups, state agencies and institutions like the University of New Hampshire to perform specialized management practices like prescribed fire, and to advance our collective understanding about how to manage lands in a changing climate.







Recreation Management

The Forest Society owns two well-known destinations that are leased to operators: Lost River Gorge in North Woodstock (White Mountains Attractions) and much of Mount Monadnock in Jaffrey, Marlborough, Dublin and Troy (New Hampshire State Parks). In FY23, Lost River Gorge welcomed 54,273 visitors while Mount Monadnock averages between 80,000-100,000 hikers annually.

In July 2022, our annual Monadnock Trails Week celebrated diversity on the trails, with affinity crews that brought together LGBTQ+ volunteers, women's crews, and featured a presentation by Earl B. Hunter Jr. of Black Folks Camp Too. Over the course of the week, 42 volunteers dedicated 550 volunteer hours to improve stretches of three main trails and four trailheads.

Overall, 225 volunteers assisted our stewardship staff with projects as diverse as sign-making to mulberry tree planting to trail upgrades and outreach to hikers, dedicating more than 12,744 hours of work. Our Volunteer Trail Outreach Program (VTOP) volunteers welcomed thousands of hikers at Mount Major, where our mobile giving program indicates that visitors hailed from at least 34 states and 3 foreign countries.

Top to bottom: 1) Former field forester Gabe Roxby talks to participants during a timber harvest tour. 2) Trail workers lend a hand, and some muscle, during Monadnock Trails Week. 3) Field Forester Steve Junkin represents the Forest Society on the Prescribed Fire Council, pictured here at a burn to manage blueberry barrens at Joy State Forest in Alton. 4) Volunteers sweep, shovel, and paint as part of a spring cleanup at Lost River Gorge in North Woodstock.

Educating and Engaging the Public to Create Tomorrow's Conservationists

ducation is woven into the fabric of all Forest Society program areas. We aspire to offer lifelong learning opportunities that help us all value and better understand the natural world. From timber tours, to the NH Maple Experience at The Rocks, to partnerships with schools and organizations like The Gundalow Company in Portsmouth, to our revolving lecture series, more than 5,000 people participated in Forest Society outreach programs in FY23.





Top to bottom: In partnership with the University of New Hampshire and the NH Timberland Owners Association, we continued the Women in the Woods program to educate women landowners, a growing demographic in land ownership in the state. Workshops in chainsaw training and logging with farm tractors remain popular and over-subscribed.

Students from Greenfield Elementary School walked from school to a program led by Senior Director of Education Dave Anderson at the Forest Society's Gipson Forest.

Kids get a feel for wood frog eggs at the McCabe Forest in Antrim.

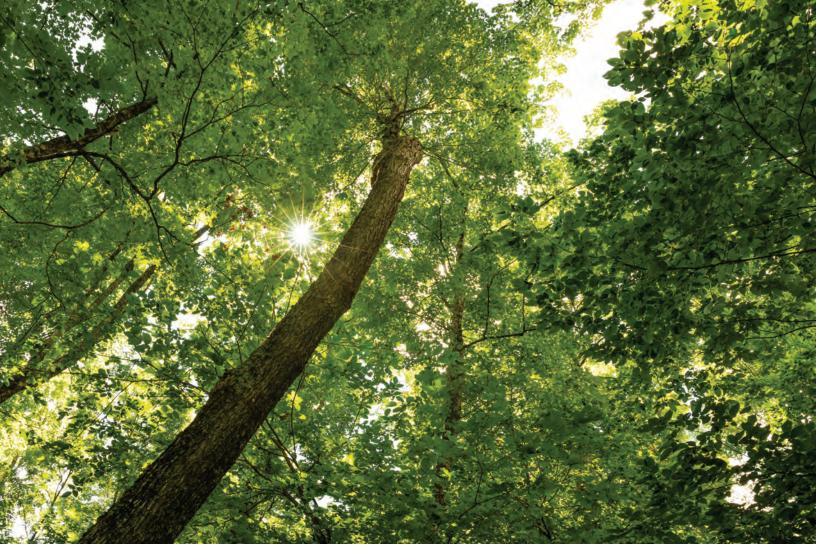
Creek Farm Education Program Coordinator Sarah Kern gets up close and personal with a barn owl during an owl prowl event at Creek Farm.

Chris Martin (left) and Dave Anderson review notes while recording an episode of Something Wild, a partnership of the Forest Society, NH Audubon, and NHPR that celebrated its 25th year in 2023.









The sun pokes through the canopy at the Yatsevitch Forest in Cornish.

Climate, Forests, and Advocacy

prorests play an essential role in offsetting climate change impacts, from storing and sequestering carbon to cooling air and surface waters, all the while providing renewable resources. An initial analysis by the University of Vermont calculated that the Forest Society's protected lands and easements store 12.6 million metric tons of carbon.

Working with the University of New Hampshire's Carbon Clinic, we began an assessment of our operational carbon footprint to assess how we might reduce emissions and improve energy efficiency. Their recommendations will influence our work in FY24 and beyond.

Along with The Nature Conservancy, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, New Hampshire Fish and Game and others, we are developing a collaborative approach to climate-smart forest management across multiple large-scale ownerships over 10,000 acres to align objectives and maximize climate, habitat and riparian conservation benefits.

With UNH, we are performing silvicultural research at the Wilkins-Campbell Forest in Deering to investigate how oak-pine forest types respond to management practices intended to improve forest resources, increase their adaptive capacity to withstand climate change, and sequester carbon.



Inspired by climate scientist and activist Dr. Michael Mann, who was the keynote speaker at the Forest Society's 2022 Annual Meeting, we undertook several carbon assessments in FY23.

Places to Learn, Explore, and Gather

uring FY23, we made capital improvements at all three of our program centers and also worked on significant trail improvements at our two most popular recreation destinations, Mount Major and Mount Monadnock. Renovations of buildings and grounds

at The Rocks were clearly our main focus, but we also upgraded the wood-powered boiler and revitalized the pollinator garden at our state-wide headquarters, the Conservation Center in Concord, and we began construction of new public restrooms at Creek Farm.

Forest Society North at The Rocks

In June 2022, renovation of the 1884 Carriage Barn at The Rocks began (pictured at right). This final phase of renewal at The Rocks following the 2019 fire that destroyed several buildings will transform the barn into a net-zero energy efficient program center with office, classroom, and event space. Over the course of FY23, the barn went through a steady metamorphosis while the Forest Society North at The Rocks Campaign has kept pace, thanks to the generous contributions of more than 300 individuals, foundations, and businesses. We look forward to completing both construction and the capital campaign to raise \$8.5 million by the end of calendar year 2023.



The Conservation Center, Concord

In anticipation of the 2022 Annual Meeting at the Conservation Center, we undertook several updates to the building and, in remembrance of many valued Forest Society staffers who dedicated years of care to the Conservation Center, staff joined together to plant a new pollinator garden at the entrance of our home office (pictured at left). We are deeply grateful to the Benjamin Couch Trust, Brochu Nurseries, J and M Morse Trucking, Northeast Delta Dental Community Care Foundation, and Walmart Community Grant Program for supporting improvements to the pollinator garden.

Creek Farm, Portsmouth

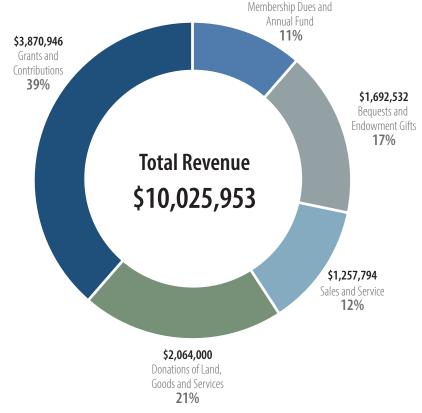
At Creek Farm, we took the next step in improving the visitor experience by beginning construction of public restrooms to serve hikers, paddlers, and summer campers (pictured at right). Creek Farm is thriving as a hub for nonprofit organizations thanks to our partners at GoodWork, and as a green gem in Portsmouth—fulfilling the vision of the property's former owners, Billie and Chet Noel. The Gundalow Company continued its popular summer camps with Creek Farm as its land base, and it introduced a new program geared to adults in FY23. Altogether, 425 kids and 47 adults got on the water, explored the coastal forests, and became better connected to the natural world through these experiences.



Financial Highlights

Fiscal Year 2023 **Operating Revenue**

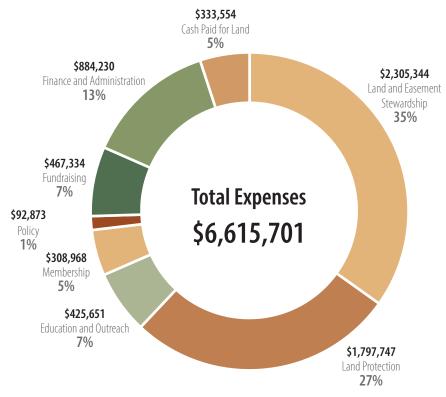
Grants and contributions include funds for operations and for specific projects, including land protection projects.



\$1,140,681

Fiscal Year 2023 **Expenses**

This chart includes the Forest Society's expenses by program (functional expenses) as well as the cash paid for land.



Questions on the financial statements should be directed to Tony Cheek, Vice President, Finance (tcheek@forestsociety.org) or Anne Truslow, Vice President, Development (atruslow@forestsociety.org).

Statement of Operating Activities and Changes in Net Assets from Operations

For the fiscal year ending April 30, 2023

Operating Revenue and Support	Without donor restrictions	With donor restrictions	Total
Annual fund	680,672	_	680,672
Contributions	4,604	2,067,942	2,072,546
Bequests	1,366,132	190,000	1,556,132
Endowment gifts	_	136,400	136,400
Grants	105,775	1,692,625	1,798,400
Contributions of land	_	959,000	959,000
Membership dues	460,009	_	460,009
Rental income	392,210	_	392,210
Forest operations	470,235	_	470,235
Reimbursement for services	79,444	_	79,444
Sale of materials	309,788	_	309,788
Donated conservation easements, goods and services	1,105,000	_	1,105,000
Miscellaneous Income	6,117	_	6,117
Total Operating Revenue and Support	4,979,986	5,045,967	10,025,953
Net assets released from restrictions for satisfaction of purpose Total Operating Revenue, Support,	3,286,308	(3,286,308)	-
and Net Assets released from restriction	8,266,294	1,759,659	10,025,953
Program Expenses			
Land and Easement stewardship	2,305,344	_	2,305,344
Land protection	1,797,747	_	1,797,747
Education & Outreach	425,651	_	425,651
Membership	308,968	_	308,968
Policy	92,873	_	92,873
Total Program Expenses	4,930,583	-	4,930,583
Supporting Services and General Expenses			
Fundraising	467,334	_	467,334
Finance and administration	884,230	_	884,230
Total Supporting Services and General Expenses	1,351,564	-	1,351,564
Total Expenses	6,282,147	_	6,282,147
Increase (decrease) in net assets from operations	1,984,147	1,759,659	3,743,806

Assets

	FY 2023	FY 2022
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	8,879,074	9,744,283
Receivables		
Current portion of contributions receivable	2,587,142	933,600
Other receivables, including bequests	67,066	27,832
Inventories	7,256	7,147
Prepaid expenses	101,987	72,945
Total Current Assets	11,642,525	10,785,807
Property and equipment, net	6,700,309	3,775,174
roperty and equipment, net	0,700,307	3,773,171
Investments and Other Assets		
Investments	15,596,680	15,833,898
Contributions receivable, long term, net	161,107	52,058
Inventories, long term	48,606	49,626
	15,806,393	15,935,582
r 1		
Land	67,265,044	65,972,490

Liabilities and Net Assets

710,554 11,250 20,981 372,035 274,180 1,389,000	11,250 20,154 101,023 210,122 342,549
11,250 20,981 372,035 274,180 1,389,000	20,154 101,023 210,122
20,981 372,035 274,180 1,389,000	20,154 101,023 210,122
372,035 274,180 1,389,000	101,023 210,122
274,180 1,389,000	210,122
1,389,000	
	342,549
75.00	
67,500	78,750
89,261	86,236
156,761	164,986
1,545,761	507,535
6,354,942	7,163,842
7,554,845	4,629,710
3,909,787	11,793,552
19,548,215	19,050,012
66,410,508	65,117,954
5,958,723	84,167,966
	156,761 1,545,761 6,354,942 7,554,845 3,909,787 19,548,215 66,410,508

For details, see the complete audited financial statements at forestsociety.org/annual-reports.

Total Liabilities and Net Assets

Questions on the financial statements should be directed to Tony Cheek, Vice President, Finance (tcheek@forestsociety.org) or Anne Truslow, Vice President, Development (atruslow@forestsociety.org).

101,414,271

96,469,053

Contributed Support

The Forest Society relies on charitable giving to support its operations, for the perpetual stewardship and management of conservation lands, and for the acquisition of land and easements. We are deeply grateful for the diverse support of so many generous donors.

ANNUAL GIVING PHILIP W. AYRES GROUP

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A Legacy Through Philanthropy

Kathy Matthews of Nottingham remembers there was a Forest Society sticker on her husband's truck when they married in 1972. On the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary in 2022, Alan and Kathy made a generous gift to the Forest Society. "We always wanted to own land in order to be able to protect it," says Kathy, "But we don't own a lot of land, so this gift is our way of doing something meaningful and supporting everything the Forest Society does. We're grateful to be able to do it."

We are grateful for donors like Alan and Kathy, who are leaving a legacy across the forests, mountains, rivers and streams of New Hampshire through their philanthropy and longtime support. Thank you!



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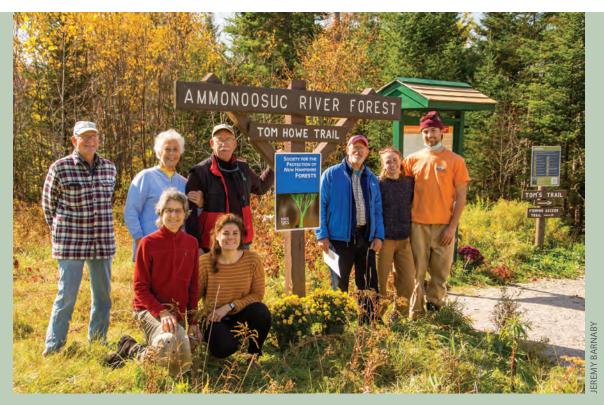
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The angler access trail at the Ammonoosuc River Forest in Bethlehem was funded using, in part, donations made in loving memory of Tom Howe. Tom was a former Forest Society employee and an avid fly-fisherman, outdoor enthusiast, and champion of wild places. Above, Tom's family members gathered to dedicate the new trail in his honor in October 2022.

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More than 41 people and organizations contributed to the Mahoosuc Highlands Campaign in FY23, and the campaign continued into FY24. Working in partnership with the Shelburne Conservation Commission and The Conservation Fund, the Forest Society seeks to purchase 3,700 acres of forestland that includes 1.6 miles along the Androscoggin River. Conserving the Mahoosuc Highlands will advance the Forest Society's vision of expanding our footprint and capacity in the North Country, served from our growing center of operations, Forest Society North at The Rocks in Bethlehem.

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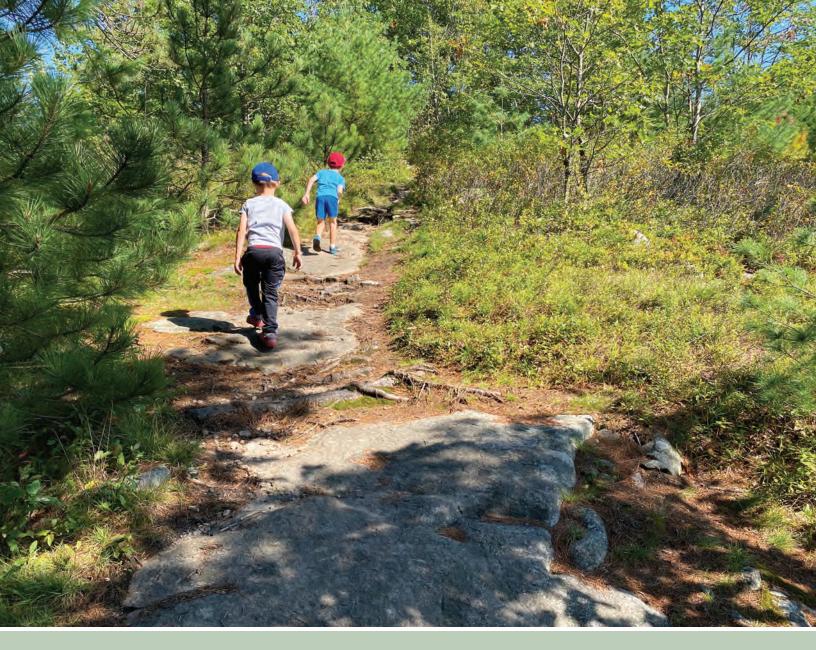
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THANK YOU

Though we count donations to the Forest Society in dollars, their impact is reflected in the acres we protect, the policy goals we achieve, and the passion for conservation we inspire throughout New Hampshire. The Trustees and staff thank all supporters for their dedication to our mission, and we only regret that our space limits our annual listing to those donors who contributed \$250 or more.



Thank You for Helping Us Make a Difference

Since 1901, members of the Forest Society have taken action to protect this land we call New Hampshire. The forests, mountains, lakes, and streams of this state support the health and well-being of our communities, from the Northern Forest to the banks of the Connecticut River to the saltmarshes of the Seacoast.

In a changing world, the Forest Society's conservation work is fundamental to ensuring that New Hampshire continues to thrive with clean air, clean water, vibrant wildlife, and beautiful places that soothe the soul. Caring for these lands in perpetuity is a privilege and a responsibility to future generations. Your membership helps to preserve a way of life that is enriched by the landscape around us—the New Hampshire way of life.

Your membership helps us meet the challenges of today, tomorrow, and beyond.

Thank you for supporting the Forest Society. We can't do it without you.

Top: Anna Berry, director of communications and digital outreach, let her sons lead the way while they explored the Morse Preserve as part of the popular 5 Hikes Challenge. The do-it-yourself program, which encourages participants to visit Forest Society properties, celebrated its third year in 2022. Photo by Anna Berry.

Front cover: In FY23, Monica Green and Richard West donated the 230-acre Addison Cate Preserve conservation easement. Photo by Ryan Smith.



