

INTRODUCING THE FOREST RESERVATION CHALLENGE

# Forest Notes

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S CONSERVATION MAGAZINE

Nature through  
the eyes of a child

Enter our  
photo contest

SPRING 2015

SOCIETY FOR THE  
PROTECTION OF  
NEW HAMPSHIRE  
FORESTS



[forestsociety.org](http://forestsociety.org)



# Locate Your Organization Here

Convenient access to the water & Portsmouth Harbor

## The Historic Creek Farm

The Forest Society is looking for a partner with similar stewardship interests to lease the buildings and 35-acre coastal property at Creek Farm in Portsmouth.

### Available in 2017

- *Suitable for nonprofit organizations or institutions*
- *Historic, 19,460 sq. ft. cottage with 2-story utility building and garage*
- *1,125 feet of frontage on Sagamore Creek*
- *Dock and access to Portsmouth Harbor*

## Contact

Jane James  
150 Mirona Rd  
Portsmouth, NH 03801  
Cell: (603) 817-0649  
[jjames@marplejames.com](mailto:jjames@marplejames.com)



Historic, 19,460 sq. ft. cottage with 2-story utility building and garage





## FEATURES

### 4 Nature Through the Eyes of a Child

*Remember feeling joyful just watching a wriggly worm or walking, arms outstretched, along the length of a fallen log? Amy Manzelli, an attorney who specializes in conservation law, writes about getting some help in this area from her young son.*

### 8 Introducing the Forest Reservation Challenge!

*Be among the first to complete the Forest Reservation Challenge by exploring the Forest Society's most hiker-friendly and beautiful properties.*

### 12 N.H.-Inspired Philosophy

*An essay by Czechoslovakian-born writer and philosophy professor Erazim Kohák tells how the woods of Sharon, N.H., have been the source of both healing and inspiration.*



## DEPARTMENTS

### 2 THE FORESTER'S PRISM

### 3 THE WOODPILE

### 16 IN THE FIELD

*Educational series, field trips and workshops*

### 18 CONSERVATION SUCCESS STORIES

*The stories behind seven projects in seven towns that yielded a total of 1,124 more acres of conserved land across the state.*

### 28 PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

*Mount Sunapee expansion update*

*What's next for Northern Pass?*

*Sticking up for public funding of conservation*

*N.H. energy: Plan now or pay later*

### 34 NATURE'S VIEW

*The return of the tuneful thrushes*

### 36 WOODS WISE

*Sometimes, the best-laid plans don't go astray at all.*

### 37 PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

*A chance to conserve more Moose Mountains land*



*On our cover:*

*A jack-in-the-pulpit blooms in a New Hampshire woodland in spring.*

*Photo by Jeremy Barnaby / picturenh.com.*



**SOCIETY FOR THE  
PROTECTION OF  
NEW HAMPSHIRE  
FORESTS**

#### **CHAIR**

William Webb, *Holderness*

#### **VICE CHAIR**

Bill Tucker, *Goffstown*

#### **SECRETARY**

Deanna Howard, *Etna*

#### **TREASURER**

Bill McCarten, *Lancaster*

#### **PRESIDENT/FORESTER**

Jane A. Difley, *Webster*

#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Charlie Bridges, *New Durham*

Malin Clyde, *Durham*

Margo Connors, *Sugar Hill*

Stephen Froling, *Hancock*

Pamela Hall, *Portsmouth*

Karl Heafield, *New Boston*

Andy Lietz, *Rye*

Jack Middleton, *Freedom*

Rebecca Oreskes, *Milan*

Barbara Russell, *New Boston*

Lorin Rydstrom, *Hollis*

Andrew Smith, *Littleton*

William H. Smith, *Center Harbor*

#### **STAFF**

##### **EXECUTIVE**

Jane A. Difley, *president/forester*

Maria Stewart, *executive assistant*

##### **FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION**

Rebecca Darman, *receptionist*

Michelle Morse, *human resources specialist*

Amy Nichols, *finance specialist*

Tina Ripley, *administrative assistant*

Denise Vaillancourt, *vice president of finance*

##### **MEMBERSHIP/DEVELOPMENT**

Linda Dammann, *development assistant*

Heidi DeWitt, *data processor*

Diane Forbes, *senior director for development*

Susanne Kibler-Hacker, *vice president of development*

Allan Krygeris, *senior technology specialist*

Sara Krzyzoniak, *data processor*

Margaret Liszka, *director of membership*

Ann McCoy, *development specialist*

Meredith Reed O'Donnell, *development associate*

Martha Twombly, *capital campaign specialist*

##### **COMMUNICATIONS/OUTREACH PROGRAMS**

David Anderson, *director of education and volunteers*

Brenda Charpentier, *communications manager*

Carrie Deegan, *land steward program specialist*

Jack Savage, *vice president of communications/outreach*

##### **POLICY/RESERVATION STEWARDSHIP**

Will Abbott, *vice president of policy/reservation stewardship*

Frank Allen, *building and grounds assistant*

Clare Brown, *volunteer coordinator*

Daniel Butson, *Christmas tree farm manager*

Rita Carroll, *reservation stewardship and policy coordinator*

George Frame, *senior director of forestry*

Steven Junkin, *field forester*

Matt Leahy, *public policy manager*

Nigel Manley, *director of North Country property*

Carleen Quinn, *retail and events manager*

Gabe Roxby, *field forester*

Jason Teaster, *property manager*

Wendy Weisiger, *lead forester*

##### **LAND PROTECTION**

Joslin Bennett, *easement steward*

Reagan Bissonnette, *director of easement stewardship*

Paul Gagnon, *easement steward*

Leah Hart, *easement steward*

Brian Hotz, *vice president of land conservation*

Tom Howe, *senior director of land conservation*

Lauren Kras, *easement steward*

Karen Rose, *land protection department administrator*

Ryan Young, *strategic projects manager*

## The Question

"So what's going on at the Forest Society?" I am asked. I hesitate, considering where to begin. First my mind goes to the questioner. Is she most interested in land protection? I could tell her about the project we're doing to protect 35 acres of farmland in Durham along the Oyster River, or the easements just completed in Stewartstown that block Northern Pass. Or the projects we're working on in a dozen different towns across the state.

Or, if she is a forester, she might be interested in the ongoing research on emerald ash borer (EAB) on the floodplain below the Conservation Center, or the red pine scale that's motivating us to cut the trees in the plantation there. Or the great prices we got for oak on several of our harvests this year.

If he's an easement donor, I might mention our high-tech aerial monitoring of easements or the thinking we're doing about training volunteers to help with certain parts of easement monitoring.

If she asks about statewide conservation issues, I might tell her about the latest efforts to protect the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program's (LCHIP) dedicated fund or the latest bill to encourage energy developers to locate facilities along transportation corridors.

He might ask me about Northern Pass. "What's happening with that?" We're preparing for the Department of Energy's release of the draft environmental impact statement. We're readying our legal team to present the best possible case to the N.H. Site Evaluation Committee to defend the state from the scar the proposed project would create across our landscapes.

To a person interested in education, I'd talk about the volunteers we trained to teach others in their communities how to identify ash trees affected by the emerald ash borer (EAB). Or the program to engage school and camp groups on how to have fun learning (as well as hiking) on Mt. Major. Or I might mention the recent lecture series at Bretzfelder Park in Bethlehem or the Cottrell Baldwin series at Fox Forest in Hillsboro.

What's going on at the Forest Society? A lot!

*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 \$40 and includes a subscription to *Forest Notes*.

**Executive Editor:** Jack Savage

**Editor:** Brenda Charpentier

**Design & Production:** The Secret Agency

**Printing:** TDS Printing

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

Permission is required for reproduction of any part of this magazine.

Copyright 2015 SPNHF. US ISSN: 0015 7457.

54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301 | Phone: (603) 224-9945 | Fax: (603) 228-0423

E-mail: [info@forestsociety.org](mailto:info@forestsociety.org) | Internet: [www.forestsociety.org](http://www.forestsociety.org)

The Forest Society proudly supports the following organizations:



Cosponsor



Underwriter



Member



### Celebrating Volunteer Land Stewards

The Forest Society honored volunteer land stewards on Feb. 11 at the annual Land Steward Appreciation Potluck Dinner at the Conservation Center. And in April, we welcomed 21 new stewards at the Core Land Steward Training in Greenfield. The Forest Society's Land Steward Program is now 160 volunteers strong. Members of this amazing group care for Forest Society reservations across the state. They're visiting properties, maintaining trails, monitoring boundaries, cleaning up litter and spiffing up signs and infrastructure. They epitomize the kind of commitment that makes our Forest Society a strong and effective force for land conservation and good stewardship in the Granite State.



*Volunteer land stewards Bart Hunter and Stefan Pouliot help mill white pine at the Conservation Center.*

### Sweet Maple Season at the Rocks

The Forest Society's Rocks Estate in Bethlehem hosted 700 visitors to its annual N.H. Maple Experience tours, offered over several early spring weekends.

"This has been our best year for the number of guests, which is great as it was possibly the worst weather ever," said Nigel Manley, manager of The Rocks.

Stubborn winter temperatures may have slowed the sap run, but it didn't chill the enthusiasm for seeing how sap becomes syrup, taking wagon rides and exploring the N.H. Maple Museum.

In addition to the weekend public tours, The Rocks offers private tours, and this year groups visited from as far away as Texas, Florida and the Philippines.

"One tour was for a group that meets once every two years, and they included us as part of their bucket list. Some of the kids were home schooled, and the parents really liked the educational side of the program," Manley said.



*Tapping maple trees at The Rocks.*

### From Pines to Signs

The Conservation Center in Concord became a mini-urban forestry showcase during the late winter months. The trees surrounding the building and the parking areas were thinned in order to maintain safety around the center and to increase the amount of sunlight reaching the building. Then the white pine logs were milled into boards onsite. The boards will be used to build Forest Society reservation signs. Thank you to volunteer land stewards Bart Hunter and Stefan Pouliot for helping out with the milling.



### Follow us on Facebook!

Go to [www.facebook.com/ForestSociety](http://www.facebook.com/ForestSociety) and like our page to see the latest events, news, updates and find out more about things to do and places to go!



### Red Pine Scale, EAB Work Continues on Floodplain

Visitors to our Merrimack River Outdoor Education and Conservation Area in Concord (next to the Conservation Center) may notice several activities related to infestations of invasive bugs.

The Forest Society is cutting down several rows of red pines planted in the 1960s because they are either dead or dying from an attack of red pine scale. Red pine scale is an exotic bug with no known predators in the U.S. In order to help limit its spread and improve hiker safety, the Forest Society is cutting the affected red pines, which kills

the insects quickly.

Red pine scale was discovered in New Hampshire in 2012 and has spread to 10 towns throughout the state. The bugs kill red pines by piercing the thin bark along the branches and sucking out the nutrients that flow along the inside cambium. The trees eventually succumb to the tens of thousands of feeding bugs.

As you have probably heard, our Merrimack River floodplain property has also been affected by the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), a beetle that kills ash trees. The state

Division of Forests and Lands is using the Forest Society's property as a research site to try out several experimental control methods that may help slow the spread of this insect. The Forest Society is also using this unfortunate situation as a teaching tool. We have trained a dozen volunteers to lead field tours of the EAB infestation with the goal of teaching others to identify affected ash trees and report their findings to [www.nhbugs.org](http://www.nhbugs.org). If your group would like to schedule an EAB tour, please email Carrie Deegan at [cdeegan@forestsociety.org](mailto:cdeegan@forestsociety.org).





# SEEING NATURE

• Through the Eyes of a Child •







Something washes over Henry when he's outdoors. He's ultra-observant about everything. He soaks in the calm. He sees all facets of life. He is very happy. He questions. He learns. And when it happens to him, it happens to me too . . .



## An attorney specializing in conservation law gets a reminder from her young son | Story and photos by Amy Manzelli

Nature is best viewed through the eyes of a child. I think we all know this intuitively. But my busy life makes me frequently forget this basic, but important, idea.

My son Henry is a VERY rambunctious 5-year-old. If you've ever known such a child, you know how important it is to get outdoors as soon as humanly possible when the weekend finally hits. There's no other way that my family has found to outlet Henry's seemingly boundless energy.

On a Saturday last summer, Henry, my husband Chad and I were all awake by our usual weekend sleeping-in time of 6:30 or so. Henry was raring to go. I remembered the email that had come across my desk a week or so back from Five Rivers Conservation Trust announcing an 8 a.m. hike at the Marjorie Swope Park in Concord. Even though the new park had been open a while, we hadn't been yet. And even though we had what seemed like a million things to

do around the house, our need to fruitfully direct Henry's high-spiritedness made the hike the perfect opportunity to explore the park.

The hike was fabulous for all of the usual reasons. Given the early summer timing, the scenery was just dripping with lushness and vitality. The other people on the hike were warm, friendly and fun. And it was late enough in the year that there weren't too many biting bugs buzzing us. But, more so than all of that usual fabulousness, the most gratifying part of the hike for me was seeing Henry in the forest, and seeing what he did to all of us "grown-ups."

Something washes over Henry when he's outdoors. He's ultra-observant about everything. He soaks in the calm. He sees all facets of life. He is very happy. He questions. He learns. And when it happens to him, it happens to me too, and to Chad, and I could see it happening to the others, too.

As we hiked along, Henry befriended many of the hikers. He always had lots to say. He eventually ended up picking



Henry and his friend Max Buckland have some fun along the trail. Hiking buddy Sadie is at right.

Henry loves telling people all about oak galls.

up one of those small ball-shaped puffy things that seem to fall off of trees every now and again. I had always thought these balls were a fungus. But, after Henry asked several people, finally someone knew that it was a gall.

I'm no expert on galls, but what we learned that day is that gall wasps somehow induce a tree to make the gall so the wasp larvae can grow inside it in relative safety. All of this was so fascinating to Henry, who took it all in very matter-of-factly.

Since then, Henry is always on the lookout for galls when we are outdoors. He usually finds one, and always makes sure to tell everyone who will listen what they are and what they do. And whenever we see a wasp, he makes the connection that they may have been born from a gall on a tree, and then he talks about how important he thinks trees are.

What he learned has stuck with him so closely. The impact of this one hike has really blown my mind to see how Henry applies what he learned across nature, to see how easy and effortless this experience was, and to acknowledge what it did for me.

Henry forces me to get outdoors more than I would on my own. But when I am outdoors with Henry, I also do things I have sadly fallen out of the habit of doing when I'm with only adults. I get down on my hands and knees and look at the lichen, the duff, the ice crystals, the mushrooms, the blades of grass, and all the things moving down there. I get dirty and wet. I think less about how much time until I have to be doing the next thing. I slow way, way down, even while my heart rate and my spirits climb high. And we have the best conversations. Nature is best viewed through the eyes of a child.

Now, my family and friends have a ton of outdoor fun on our .49 acre property. And there are lots of "nature" moments. Henry has reminded me that we don't have to be in wild places to experience nature. He finds nature at the playground, on the street, even right outside the grocery store, where he once found a praying mantis.

Just last week, on the way to drop Henry at school, we got down on our bellies to check out a humungous nightcrawler working its way from the garden side of the driveway to the front lawn side. And when our dog, Sally the boxer, nosed the worm and it contracted to half its size, Henry exclaimed, "Mom, it's shrinking!" I overheard him telling his friends upon arrival at school that he "was startled to see a shrinking earthworm in his driveway today." But, these "nature" moments in places more touched by humankind pale in comparison to being with Henry in more wild places. Places like what New Hampshire's conservation community works to protect.

Thousands of children like Henry depend upon the conservation community's work. And we all depend on those children to help re-reveal the wonder of nature to us each time we go outdoors. Nature is best viewed through the eyes of a child. ♪

---

*Amy Manzelli, Esq., co-owns and practices law at BCM Environmental & Land Law, PLLC. She and her family live in Pembroke. Manzelli first shared this essay as an op-ed article in the Concord Monitor and then as a keynote speech at the N.H. Association of Conservation Commissions' annual meeting.*











TAKE THE

# FOREST RESERVATION CHALLENGE

*Fun for  
all ages!*

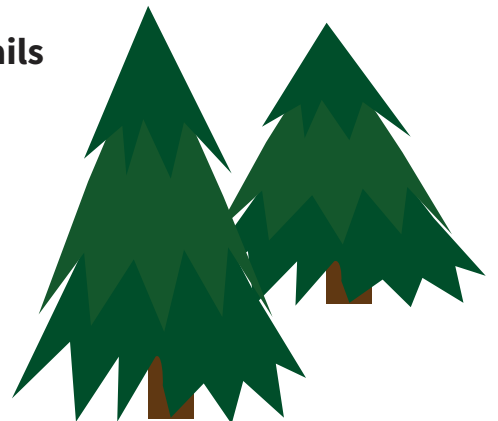
Looking for a fun activity that will get you and your friends and family outdoors? **The Forest Society's Forest Reservation Challenge is for you!**

Be among the first to earn a limited edition, embroidered "Forest Reservation Challenge" patch and decal.

There are two ways to earn your Forest Reservation Challenge patch, and many ways to explore and enjoy all of the forest reservations within the state.



**Get all the details  
on page 10.**







## Gap Mountain Reservation

### About the Property

Gap Mountain is so-named for a prominent saddle or “gap” between its twin summits as seen from the west in Troy.

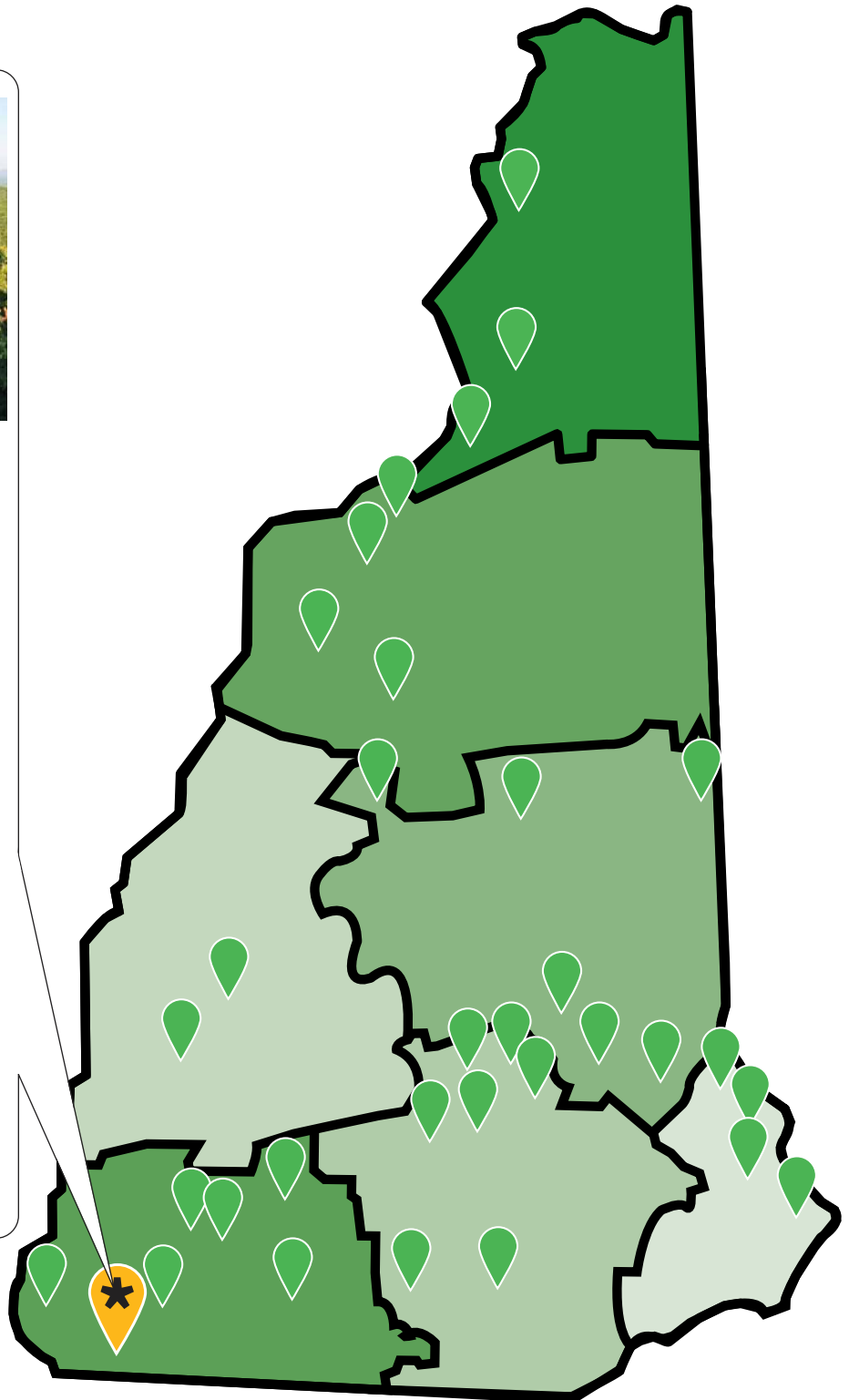
The key attractions at Gap are the stunning vista of Mt. Monadnock looming just to the north and the summer high- and low-bush blueberry crops ringing the open ledges of the north summit. Volunteer land stewards from the Forest Society periodically maintain the openings along the upper reaches of the trail to help sustain the blueberries.

### Recreational Opportunities

- Blueberry picking
- Dog-walking
- Hiking trails
- Snowshoeing

### Amenities

- Kiosk
- Portable restroom in summer months
- Trail markers



**Go to [www.forestsociety.org](http://www.forestsociety.org) to learn about all of the Forest Reservations.**



# TWO WAYS TO PLAY

1

OR

2

**Visit all 33 of the featured reservations in our online Forest Reservations Guide.**

*Ideal for all ages.*

**Visit a smaller subset of these reservations within a particular region and look for answers to our discovery questions about land-use history, forest ecology, wildlife and forest management.**

*Ideal for families, youth groups, school groups and anyone interesting in learning more about conservation.*

## HOW IT WORKS:

- 1 Go to [www.forestsociety.org/challenge](http://www.forestsociety.org/challenge)**  
Click on the **Tier 1 map** to find the 33 featured properties. Use the Reservations Guide to find directions and hiking trail maps.
- 2 Visit each property**  
and document your visits by taking a self-photo at one of the recommended locations.
- 3 Share your photos**  
by emailing 1 or 2 of them to the address: [ForestReservationChallenge@forestsociety.org](mailto:ForestReservationChallenge@forestsociety.org).

## HOW IT WORKS:

- 1 Go to [www.forestsociety.org/challenge](http://www.forestsociety.org/challenge)**  
Click on the **Tier 2 map** to find the featured properties in the region you decide to explore. Use the Reservation Guide to find directions and hiking trail maps.
- 2 Visit each property**  
and document your visits by taking a self-photo and answering one of the discovery challenge questions found online for the properties in your region.
- 3 Share your answers and a photo taken at the property**  
by emailing [ForestReservationChallenge@forestsociety.org](mailto:ForestReservationChallenge@forestsociety.org).

## THE DETAILS:

The Forest Society will create photo galleries of images submitted by FRC participants for each property page. See your photos and those of others on our website and through social media!

The Forest Reservation Challenge is intended to encourage our members and friends to enjoy the treasury of beautiful natural areas that the Forest Society has conserved all across the state. **Have fun!**

*Note: Photos submitted by participants become the property of the Forest Society. The Forest Society reserves the right to post photos on its website, electronic newsletters and Facebook page.*

**Complete the Challenge to Earn a Patch!**



## Up for the Challenge!

Bailey Grotton takes a selfie to document her visit to the Forest Society's Heald Tract. Bailey, a senior marketing major at Southern New Hampshire University, helped to create the Forest Reservation Challenge during her internship with the Forest Society's communications department last summer. She visited many reservations and helped to write the questions for Tier 2 of the Challenge.

Because of her work, she is well on her way to completing the Challenge herself and sees it as a great way for people to develop a deeper connection to nature.

"I love to learn the secrets of the forests, and the Forest Reservation Challenge lets you in on all of those mysteries," Bailey said. "As you go to each reservation, you will learn something new about the nature and history of our beautiful state."



Illustrations this page and page 8 inspired by graphics found at Google Images.



# FOREST SOCIETY PHOTO CONTEST

Enter your best shots taken on a Forest Society reservation by July 1 for a chance to have your photo published in the autumn issue of *Forest Notes*, and win free passes to Lost River Gorge and Boulder Caves or a Forest Society hat or t-shirt.

## The top three winners will be chosen in these categories:

**Lovely Landscapes** — your best shot highlighting the forest, fields, waters and mountains you find on any of our reservations.

**Having Fun Outdoors** — people enjoying one of our reservations.

**Wildlife in its Habitat** — any wild creature you encounter on our reservations.

**Natural Resource CU** — a close-up of the plants, animals or natural features on our reservations.

**Young Shutterbugs** — photos of any subject taken on our reservations by anyone under age 18.

The contest will be judged by a panel of Forest Society staff members based on creativity, technical ability and engaging subject matter. Prizes will be awarded as follows:

**First place winners** in each of the five categories described above will win publication in *Forest Notes* plus four free passes to Lost River Gorge and Boulder Caves.

**Second place winners** in each of the five categories will win publication in *Forest Notes* and two free passes to Lost River Gorge and Boulder Caves.

**Third place winners** in each of the five categories will win publication in *Forest Notes* and a Forest Society t-shirt or hat.



*Lost River Gorge and Boulder Caves, North Woodstock.*

## CONTEST RULES

1. Each photographer may enter up to four unpublished photos.
2. Photos must be taken on one of the Forest Society's 178 forest reservations. See [www.forestsociety.org](http://www.forestsociety.org) to find destinations and directions to a reservation near you in our Forest Reservations Guide.
3. Photos must be high-resolution originals at least 1 MB but not more than 10 MB.
4. By participating in the contest, the entrant certifies that his/her entry is original, has not been previously published and does not contain any material that would violate or infringe upon the rights of any third party, including copyrights, trademarks or rights of privacy or publicity.
5. By participating in the contest, the entrant gives permission for submissions to be published in *Forest Notes* magazine and used in online Forest Society promotions.

## HOW TO ENTER

Attach your photo(s) as a jpeg file and email to: [photos@forestsociety.org](mailto:photos@forestsociety.org). Put **Photo Contest** in the subject line. Each entry must include:

1. The name of the Forest Society reservation where the photo was taken
2. Photographer's name and mailing address. Entrants in the Young Shutterbugs category must include your age and the name of your school.
3. A brief description of the subject. If there's a story to tell, we'd love to hear it!

**Deadline for submissions is July 1.**



# *Refuge, Inspiration in the Forest*

A Czechoslovakian-born writer is sharing his N.H.-inspired conservation philosophy with his homeland

**By Brenda Charpentier**





Erazim Kohák remembers the night when, as a teenager, he fled with his family from his native Czechoslovakia. The Communists had taken over the country by a coup in 1948, and his father, a newspaper editor who supported social democratic ideals, had already been arrested once.

"He had to get out fast. One night we simply marched over the mountains in the south into what was then the American-occupied part of Germany. We sat in a refugee camp because no one knew what to do with us," said Kohák, who is now 81.

They traveled to the U.S. as "displaced persons." His parents worked at first on a farm near Rochester, N.Y. Later, they were invited to Washington, D.C., where his father helped organize what was called The Voice of Free Czechoslovakia, essentially a Cold-War American radio station that broadcasted into Czechoslovakia.

Kohák finished high school in New York, then went on to college. With the intent to one day return to Czechoslovakia, he studied philosophy and theology, earning a doctorate from Yale and becoming a professor of philosophy at Boston University.

In subsequent years, Kohák married, raised three daughters and came to love the small towns where he lived while working as a college professor. That happy period ended in a divorce from his first wife. Though difficult, the divorce led him to the experience that would shape his thinking as a philosopher and turn him into an ardent conservationist who would one day influence the homeland he left long ago.

Broken in spirit and in finances after the failure of his marriage, Kohák came to live on 11 acres of forest in Sharon, N.H. At first, this self-described "city boy" lived in a tent and warmed himself by campfire until he built a rustic cabin along the Gridley River. He explored up and down the river in all seasons, and during solitary tromps through the woods found all the wet spots, the boulders, and the apple trees. He decided which maples and oaks blushed the most beautifully each fall and which trees he should cut for his firewood and which he should leave to grow. It was a time of healing.

"I learned to love the land by living with it," he said. "But living here I could not simply admire nature, how wonderful it is... I had to manage it if I was going to survive the winters. I had to have 4½ cords of wood bucked and split and seasoned before winter."

The relationship with New Hampshire land became the basis for one of his books, *The Embers and the Stars, a Philosophical Inquiry into the Moral Sense of Nature*, published in 1987.

But his burgeoning conservation ethic was pragmatic, too. His neighbor and friend Lenna Perry, who owned large tracts of land in

the area including one next to his, came over often for coffee and, Kohák said, to argue perpetually about property lines. She maintained that his boundary line encroached three feet onto her land. Apparently theirs was a case of good neighbors made without good fences. It wasn't until after she died that a survey proved her right.

"I went to the cemetery and apologized to her," Kohák said with a gentle smile. "She loved coming here and having coffee and complaining, and I loved having her here."

The two often also spoke about wanting to protect their land, something they both did through the Forest Society. Lenna Perry bequeathed multiple tracts of land in Sharon, Jaffrey and Rindge to the Forest Society, and 948 acres of that land is protected forever as the David Wilson Land, named for Perry's great grandfather. Kohák gave his 10 acres to the Forest Society in

---

*I could leave the United States,  
but I could not leave New Hampshire.*

---

1999, reserving a "life estate" that allows him to use the house he had built there for as long as he chooses.

Kohák had remarried and was happily living in Sharon with his wife Dorothy and teaching at Boston University when the Soviet Union broke apart in 1989, opening the way for him to keep his pledge to serve his homeland. Kohák started teaching at Charles University in Prague but also continued to come back to the woods of Sharon for part of the year.

"I could leave the United States, but I could not leave New Hampshire," he said.

He now advocates conservation in Czech Republic, where in 2013, Czech President Milos Zeman presented him with the Order of Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, the nation's second highest decoration given to war veterans, human rights activists and distinguished personalities. He is also working on publishing a Czech version of *The Embers and the Stars*, the philosophical book based on his years in the woods of Sharon. Post-Communist Czech Republic is focused on industrial growth and progress, Kohák said, and so the task of environmentalists there is to counter the prevailing consumerism.

"We work with young people to tell them that there are other values, other uses for trees other than felling them," Kohák said. In a culture focused on consumption, "the main task of conservation is to make young people aware that there are other ways of living."

It was time spent in the woods of New Hampshire that led to Kohák's own awareness of another way of living. But what was it about these woods that proved to be such an inspiration? How did they speak to a man in emotional pain? Why then give that land away to the Forest Society? What follows on page 14 is an essay Kohák wrote to answer these questions after returning to Czech Republic last fall from a visit to Sharon.





# When Nature Heals:

## A memoir of New Hampshire woodlands

— To Dorothy —

By Erazim Kohák

### *Vis medicatrix naturae...*

That lingering echo of my school-boy Latin will for me ever evoke the sound of Gridley River cascading over boulders, downstream from the tumbled dam. *The healing power of nature.* That was the presence I felt long ago when—in distress with fortune and men's eyes—I sought refuge on a forest clearing in Sharon that was to become my home for many years. By my time, only remnants of the old dam and odd parts of cast iron machinery testified that once upon a time the Preston-Emory saw mill stood here. When I came here in my turn, that memory seemed as present as the cellar holes that served to remind me that I was neither the first nor the last dweller on that land.

New Hampshire woodlands are like that. Their solitude is pregnant with memories. When, many woodchuck generations ago, the mill wheel fell silent, the sound of stillness still preserved those memories. Successive generations of porcupines became their custodians, they, the beavers and the occasional fisherman wading into the pool downstream from the long-ago dam. By my time, rising acidity brought by distant smoke stacks put an end to fishing here. Still, I needed but suspend my preoccupations for those memories to return. As those memories became mine, I was a stranger no longer; I too became a dweller on the land.

Less poetically, when first I came to that land, I did *own* it, legally at least—entitled to use or abuse, to destroy or alienate it. Really? That is hardly the living bond that grew from seasons lived close to that land. It is not a bond of *owning*. It is a bond of *belonging*, in an intensely personal sense that grows from honoring the integrity of the land. *Owning* is a list of claims and demands on the land. *Belonging* is a state of intimate recognition that the land has not only uses, but also an intrinsic value, an integrity of its own, as worthy of respect as a person I love.

That is not theory. It is a lived experience. It comes to a dweller on the land together with the recognition that the land has not only its uses but also its claims and its needs—and my own relation to it is one not only of rights, but also of obligations. Belonging means honoring the needs of the land in its integrity.

That is how I came to realize that I do not own that land but belong to it. On long autumn evenings as I watched sparks rising from my fire, turning into stars, I came to realize that while owning is a formal relation between an *I* and an *it*, belonging is a personal relation between two equals, between an *I* and a *Thou*. For an Other, human or not, can become a *thou*, a fellow being, when a dweller on the land is willing to give up the arrogance of mastery and take a place as an equal in the community of all being.

Being is not only good when it is “good for us.” It is good, deeply good, of itself, simply because *it is*. We can be that, too. Here another bit of schoolboy Latin comes handy, this time St. Augustine’s dictum that *Esse quae esse bonum est*: that whatever is, is good simply because it is. It is never “worthless,” free to be idly destroyed. It is worthy of respect.

Honoring the integrity of the land—that is what conservation is all about. It is not merely a matter of transferring the title to the land from one owner to another, from Boston Keene and Gravel to the Forest Society. Most of all, it is a change of posture from mastery to fellowship.

That was the great gift of my solitary years beneath the old dam on Gridley River. With it, I could have lived out my life in peace on the land I loved, teaching my classes at the university, writing my books, tending and cherishing my forest. Belonging to it. If only... but alas, I am human. I have

“promises to keep and miles to go before I sleep.” I came to this land burdened, a refugee from my Czech homeland. On that dark night when, as a lad, I stood over one of my homeland’s boundary stones, I swore I would return to serve my sorely tried homeland.

It was 42 years before I could return. A lifetime. By then, my refuge by Gridley River had become my home. I had found, lost and found a love in the shelter I built there. I had written books there, including a confession of *The Embers and the Stars*. I came to belong. How could I leave my land when my homeland called? And how could I ignore that long awaited call?

I could not. That land needed to *belong*. I could not leave it for someone to own, use or abuse, destroy or abandon. It would have been a heartbreak... but for the Forest Society. The Forest Society does not “own” the land, to use or abuse. It belongs to the land, the land belongs to it, to care and cherish. When I return to visit it, the land welcomes me. It is not abandoned and owned. It belongs. It is the Society’s land. My land. Our land.

New Hampshire woodland can heal when it is itself not wounded. When it belongs, when it is cherished. Because that is what conservation is all about. Because that is what the Forest Society is all about. ♪



**Above:** A long friendship between neighbors Lenna Perry, who bequested The David Wilson Land in Sharon to the Forest Society, and Erazim Kohák formed over many coffee chats about land conservation... and boundary lines.

**Opposite page:** Erazim Kohák sits near the Gridley River during a visit to Sharon, N.H., last fall. The photo on Page 12 shows the breached stone dam near Kohák’s cabin. The dam was once used for the Preston Emory saw mill.



# Mark your calendars for these upcoming events.

See more at [www.forestsociety.org](http://www.forestsociety.org)

## ENJOY NATURE OUTINGS AT THE FELS / HAY RESERVATION

Each year, the Forest Society teams up with The Fells Historic Estate and Gardens to offer a series of fun and educational nature outings on and around the Forest Society's C.L. Hay Forest Reservation in Newbury.

This year's theme is "The Natural and Cultural Land Use History of Sunset Hill." All outings begin at The Fells Gatehouse, 456 Route 103A, Newbury. Each outing costs \$5 for members of the Forest Society or The Fells, and \$10 for non-members. To register, call The Fells at 603-763-4789, ext. 3.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 4–7 p.m.**

### Sunset Hill Hike. Readings from the works of naturalist John Hay

Join us for a special evening hike and see how forests have reclaimed stonewall-bound, former sheep pastures and hay fields. Learn the history of land use on the upper slopes of Sunset Hill. Enjoy views of Lake Sunapee from the summit. Naturalist Dave Anderson will read from works of the late naturalist John Hay, who explored Sunset Hill as a boy spending summers at the Hay family's summer home, The Fells. 2-mile hike.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 4–6 p.m.**

### Old Farm Road Trail to Beech Brook's Hidden Beaver Ponds

The "Old Farm Road Trail" accesses a wetland complex created by a series of beaver dams. What are the important wildlife and waterfowl habitats, species present and forest features of this remote, interior portion of the Forest Society's Hay Forest Reservation? Come find out on this 1.75-mile hike.



See the widespread results of engineering beavers on the Hay Reservation.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 4–6 p.m.**

### The Lost Farms of Sunset Hill

U. S. Secretary of State John Milton Hay acquired seven tracts of farmlands to assemble his summer home on Lake Sunapee. Today several historic cellar holes remain from the 19th-Century family farms that predate The Fells. This hike will share some of the acquisition history, local family names and N.H. agricultural census farm production statistics for the hill farms of Sunset Hill. This 2.5-mile hike includes some off-trail exploring.

## ART EXHIBIT

**MAY AND JUNE**

The photographs of Ken Harvey will be on display at the Conservation Center during the months of May and June.



*Mountains at Dawn, by Ken Harvey.*

The exhibit, *An Eclectic Focus*, features photos that show Harvey's eye for composition and color but also his skill in the darkroom and with digital editing. His work tends to concentrate on landscapes and wildlife photography, but his images also include portraits, action and creative images.

Harvey's award-winning work has been featured in many venues, newspapers, magazines, and multiple solo exhibits. In addition to presenting his work at art shows, he also gives lessons and conducts photo tours. He lives in Merrimack. You can see more of his work at [www.kenharveyphotography.com](http://www.kenharveyphotography.com).

**SATURDAY, MAY 30 | 10 a.m. to Noon**

### Guided Spring Hike

*Addition to Moose Mountains Reservation, Middleton*

Tour the proposed 150- acre addition to Moose Mountains Reservation in Middleton with Forest Society naturalist and Director of Education Dave Anderson. Learn about the natural history of this tract, part of a 22,000-acre forested area within N.H.'s coastal watershed region. This tract contains diverse habitat for wildlife populations, from the frogs and salamanders that breed in vernal pools to the roaming moose, bobcats and bears that require contiguous larger, intact tracts of forest.

Co-sponsored by Forest Society and Moose Mountains Regional Greenways (MMRG). To register, email [signup@forestsociety.org](mailto:signup@forestsociety.org) or call 224-9945.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 6 | 2 to 5 p.m.**

### Flowers, Birds and Heritage Tour

*The Rocks Estate, Bethlehem*

Take a behind-the-scenes, guided tour of The Rocks Estate, the Forest Society's North Country Conservation and Education Center located on 1,440 beautiful acres. Your tour guides will discuss the plants growing in the gardens and elsewhere on the property, bird species using the area and the history of the country estate given to the Forest Society by descendants of the Glessner family.

\$10. For more information, visit the calendar page at [www.therocks.org](http://www.therocks.org), e-mail [info@therocks.org](mailto:info@therocks.org), or call 444-6228.

**FRIDAY-TUESDAY, JULY 17–21 | 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

### Monadnock Trails Week

*Mt. Monadnock State Park, Jaffrey*

Join 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. We will restore trails, build drainage waterbars and construct footbridges and stone staircases.

To sign up, contact Carrie Deegan at [cdeegan@forestsociety.org](mailto:cdeegan@forestsociety.org) or 224-9945.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5 | 7 p.m.**

**Concert: Strawberry Band**

*Bretzfelder Memorial Park, Bethlehem*

This concert by the well-known Strawberry Band is part of the Bretzfelder Park Family Educational Program Series. Celebrating its 30th year of entertaining audiences in the Northeast, the Strawberry Band has a unique and instantly recognizable sound, playing a unique blend of progressive bluegrass, blues, rock and original music.

Free. For more information, visit [www.therocks.org](http://www.therocks.org) or call The Rocks at 603-444-6228.

**Save the Date for Annual Meeting!**

**The Forest Society's 114th Annual Meeting is Saturday, Sept. 26**, at The Rocks Estate in Bethlehem. More details to come in the next issue of *Forest Notes*!

# stewardship is

*caring for our lands forever through ...*



Wild Apple Tree Pruning Workshop

## Community Outreach and Education

- Trails Access
- Field Trips to our Reservations
- Timber Harvest Tours
- Trainings in Trails, Pruning, Tree Identification and more

## Stewardship Matters!

Find out how you can help, contact:

Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests  
54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301  
Call: 603-224-9945 Visit: [www.forestsociety.org](http://www.forestsociety.org)

SOCIETY FOR THE  
PROTECTION OF  
NEW HAMPSHIRE  
FORESTS



# 10 WILD YEARS!

It's the 10th WILD YEAR of  
WINDOWS TO THE WILD!

Join us for a new season with host Will Lange.  
Explore New England's wild places and meet  
people who share your love of the outdoors.

**WINDOWS to the WILD**  
WEDNESDAYS 7:30 PM  
NHPTV PRIME

**NH**  
NEW HAMPSHIRE  
PUBLIC TELEVISION

[nhptv.org](http://nhptv.org)





*Heald Pond is one of four ponds on the Heald Tract.*

## Trails to a Legacy: The Heald Tract

Bequest of 430 acres continues a family's dedication to stewardship and sharing

By Brenda Charpentier



Lucille Heald's obituary in the June 22, 2014 *Union Leader* lists her many contributions to her community of Wilton, and shares that the love of her life was her late husband Philip Heald, Jr. and that she was a wonderful aunt and godmother. It ends with this invitation:

"You may want to visit Phil and Lucille's home, now called The Heald Tract, a natural area of ponds, streams, fields and forests. Go hiking, bird watching, take a nature walk, cross-country ski and snowshoe."

The Heald Tract is a nearly 1,500-acre reservation in southern N.H. donated to

the Forest Society over many decades by members of the Heald family. The most recent donation was of 430 acres and a monetary bequest from Lucille Heald's estate. These fields, forests and trails through old apple orchards are part of a system of nearly eight miles of much loved trails on the Heald Tract. Now they are a permanent part of a stronghold of natural beauty—a living memorial to a family's extraordinary land stewardship and generosity.

Ross Heald, Phil Heald's brother who is 90 and lives in Jackson, traces the beginnings of that legacy back to his grandfather, who started collecting farms as they came up for sale in the Wilton area and holding onto them to pass down to his son, Phil

Heald, Sr. Phil Sr. trained in forestry and ran an apple orchard there. Phil Jr., Ross and their sister Helen grew up on the farm, surrounded by horse-powered lumbering and apple farming.

"We walked all over that land. We all just really loved it," Ross Heald said.

Conservation, he added, "was sort of driven into us, I would say."

When the three siblings inherited the land, it was Phil, the eldest, and his wife Lucille who lived on the farm and managed the apple orchard. Phil also served 11 terms in the N.H. House and as chairman of SPACE, the Statewide Program of Action to Conserve our Environment. He strongly supported Current Use and other conserva-



Three generations of Healds: Adults seated from left to right: Phil Heald, Helen Rader, Ross Heald and Lucille Heald. Adults standing: Sam Heald, Marianne Heald and Martha Heald (Ross's son, wife and daughter); Children sitting on the ground in front are Isaac Rader and Grace Heald; in back are Karah and Julia Heald.

tion legislation and was active in the Forest Society. Concerned about the development he saw transforming southern New Hampshire, Phil, his brother Ross and sister Helen Rader, who lived in South Carolina, determined that the Heald land would remain unspoiled. Beginning in the mid-1980s, they gave the Forest Society several pieces of the family land totaling nearly 1,000 acres. Later, Phil and Lucille Heald gave additional parcels. Brian Hotz, now vice president of land protection at the Forest Society, was one of the land agents who worked with Phil Heald on the donation logistics.

"He was all about the trails," Hotz said. "When he would call you to say they were giving more land, he would always talk about the section of trail that was on that land. He was a great caretaker of all of his land, but his real love was for trails, and he created a fantastic network of them."

Sometimes, the phone call wasn't about trails or land at all. "Phil had a great sense of humor. He would call you up just to tell you a joke," Hotz said.

He also would call about demolition projects. The Healds had such high regard for the land that they made certain that the house, barns and other structures used on their once-thriving apple farm would be removed. In fact it was a condition of donating.

"Phil called it 'putting the land back,'" Hotz said.

Trails were another matter entirely. Heald definitely wanted those to be permanent.

Phil Heald's zeal for trails ran the gamut from laying them out to clearing them with chainsaws, handsaws and pickaxes for as long as he was able. He got help from his late nephew Phil Rader, known as "Young Phil," local trails groups and Forest Society volunteer land stewards. Land Steward Ray Jackson, now president of the trails and hiking group Trailwrights, worked with Heald out on the trails for 18 years, much

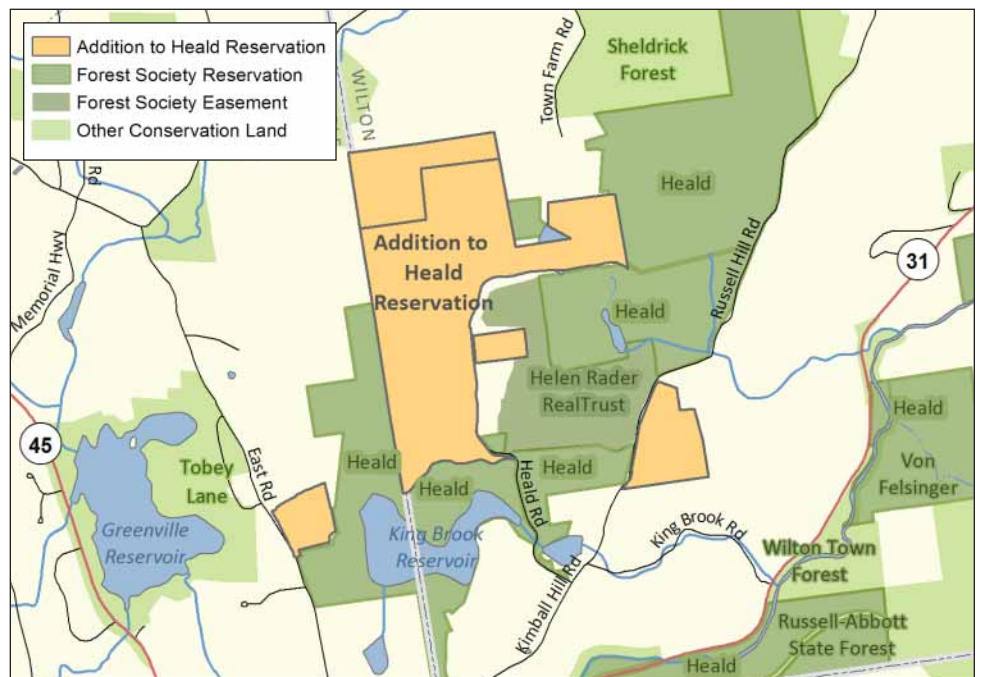
of that time with other volunteers who called themselves the Not Yet Over the Hill Gang. Jackson still enjoys using the hand-made bow saw Heald gave him.

"It cuts through limbs like butter," he said. "I lost my father when I was 14, so to me he was like a father figure. He used to tease me, because I live in Townsend, Mass., and he'd say, 'Did you get a permit to come up to New Hampshire?'"

Besides state politics and the country music that Phil Heald loved, conservation also came up in their conversations along the trails, Jackson said, and it was clear that Heald often thought about how his family's land could be a help to others.

"He thought it was important that people be able to enjoy the land and see nature, to go down by the pond to see the flowers that bloom in the spring," Jackson said.

An article in the *Milford Cabinet* and *Wilton Journal* dated Aug. 13, 1970, pulls from a *Forest Notes* story on Heald, in which







*Left: Heald Tract volunteer land steward Bart Hunter and his daughter Skyler snowshoe along the "Camp Trail."*

*Right: Phil Heald, Jr., lived on family land in Wilton for most of his life, and kept it open for the public to enjoy.*

*Bottom: A memorial bench inscribed with the names of Phil and Lucille Heald offers a quiet place to rest and enjoy one of the Heald Tract's wildlife ponds. Plaques on stone markers elsewhere memorialize Helen (Heald) Rader and two of her children, Phil and Betsy.*



Courtesy photos.

he explained his strong feelings about how keeping private land open to the community is a two-way path.

"Owners of large tracts of land have a responsibility to share this with other people if proper rules and regulations are observed, but a greater responsibility must be borne by the users of the land whether it be hunting, fishing, skiing, snowmobiling or hiking and etc., to assure that the land will not be defiled by vandalism, littering and general disregard for the landowner's rights," Heald said. "If a proper balance can be achieved in these areas, it would go far in providing needed open space areas which are so badly

needed by today's society for their relaxation and enjoyment."

Before his death in 2007, Phil Heald continued his personal stewardship of the Heald Tract.

"He'd drive around every day in his truck and see what was going on and who was out there. He pretty much knew everything," said Sam Heald, Phil's nephew and Ross Heald's son who lives in Bedford.

His uncle had spent his entire life on that land and it bothered him to have to leave New Hampshire, Sam Heald said: "He felt there was never any reason to leave the farm or the general area. The only time he

ever left New Hampshire was to go to our wedding in Weston, Mass., and the next time was to have knee surgery in Boston."

Today Forest Society land stewards carry on Phil Heald's passion for the land and trails, led by Bart Hunter, who is also the chair of the Wilton Conservation Commission.

"Bart would be one of Phil's favorite people, because Bart is out there keeping up the trails," Hotz said.

Indeed, Hunter put in about 500 hours last year maintaining the trails, greeting visitors and caretaking, often accompanied by his daughter, Skyler.

Hunter said he has recruited a crew of about 25 local people on his Heald Tract email list who are willing to come over to help on workdays. Many on the email list are people he's met on the trails who are only too happy to give back to the land they enjoy.

"Whoever can make it just shows up. Sometimes it's four or five, sometimes it's a couple, sometimes it's just me," he said.

Hunter said plans are in place for trail work on the latest 430-acre donation from the Heald family.

"In North Orchard we are reopening the view shed of the Lyndeboro Hills. We are reopening the trail across the orchard on Kimball Hill Road that allows access to the trail to Pratt Pond," he said.

One can't help but to imagine the satisfaction that such words might bring to Phil Heald, as his family's legacy is appreciated by all who visit the Heald Tract, and the family's model of stewardship carries on still today. ♡





Photos by Jeff Sluder.

*Inland Atlantic white cedar swamps are among the rarest types of wetlands in much of their range along the East Coast.*

## Rare Cedar Habitat Added to New Durham Reservation

By Brenda Charpentier



Ron Gehl had recently moved to New Durham when he noticed the Forest Society's Cooper Cedar Woods sign off of Route 11 and decided to stop and explore. He wasn't expecting anything like what he found there. The path led into a shady, cool forest of Atlantic white cedars whose gnarled trunks rose up out of swampy soil. Decaying fallen trees, carpeted with green moss, crisscrossed the forest floor.

"I remember thinking, 'Wow, this is really something special,'" said Gehl. "It doesn't take too long to get into a completely different world in there."

Gehl, who has since become the chair of the New Durham Conservation Commission and has served as a selectman and planning board member, was appreciating a rare type of natural community and habitat called "Inland Atlantic White Cedar Swamp," of which there are only some 500 acres left in New Hampshire. White cedar swamps were once common along the East Coast, but so many have been filled in or cut that they are among the rarest types of wetlands in much of their range.

Thanks to a great partnership between the Town of New Durham and the Forest Society, 38 more acres of this habitat have been purchased from a private landowner and added to the Cooper Cedar Woods Reservation, which has grown to 170 acres.

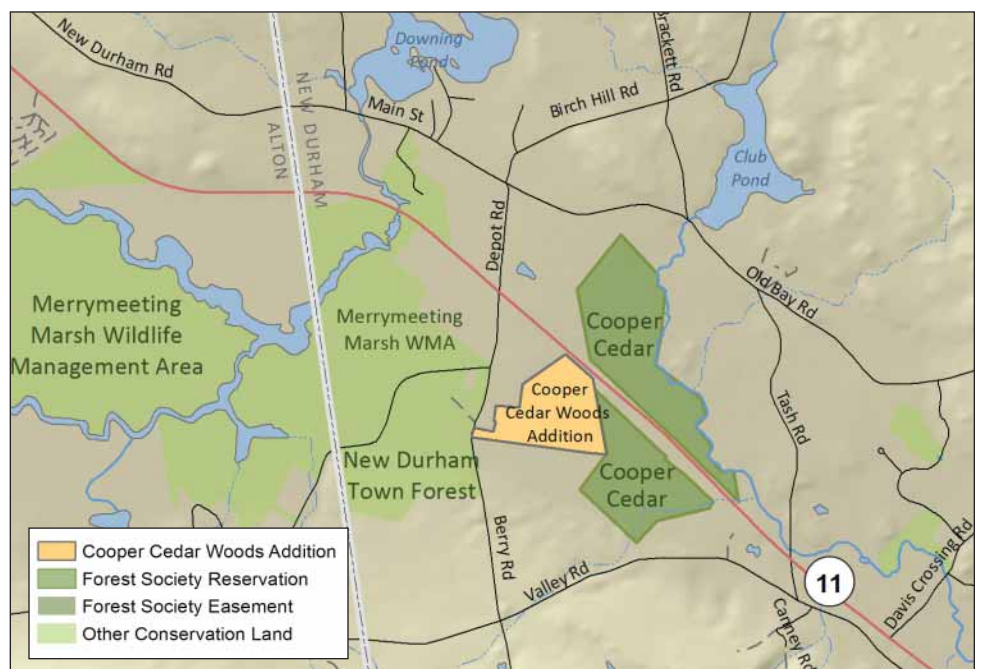
The addition offers more than some rare habitat. It connects Cooper Cedar Woods to the New Durham Town Forest and the state's Merrymeeting Marsh Wildlife Management Area, creating a contiguous 830-acre conserved area. It also fronts Rte. 11, protecting the scenic value of that stretch of road. And it sits above a large aquifer, a source of freshwater that is tapped by homeowners and businesses and could also serve other uses if a future need arises, Gehl said.

"This project keys in just perfectly with some of our town's master plan," he said.

Funds from New Durham's Conservation

Fund covered about 80 percent of the total project costs—purchase cost, transaction expenses, and stewardship—with the Forest Society raising the rest of what was needed from individual donors. The Forest Society will manage the addition the same way it has managed the original reservation, as an "ecoreserve." Ecoreserve status means that it will be managed to maintain its unique attributes while being open to hunting, hiking, wildlife watching and other pedestrian recreation.

With its easy access off of Route 11, the expanded reservation is in an ideal spot for a walk along its 3/4-mile trail. ♪





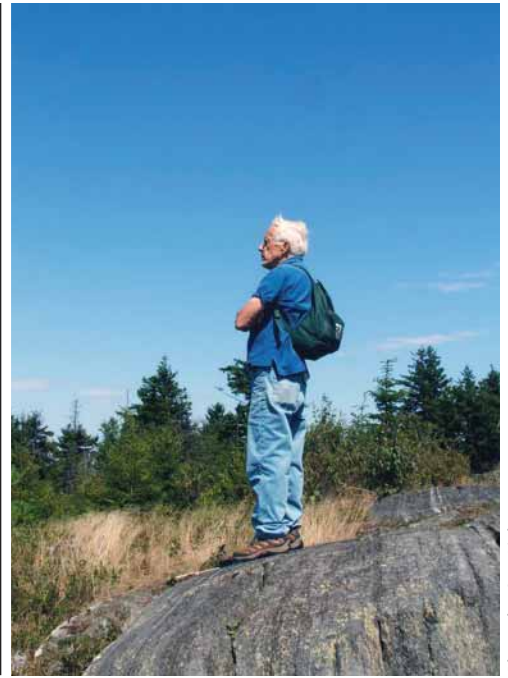
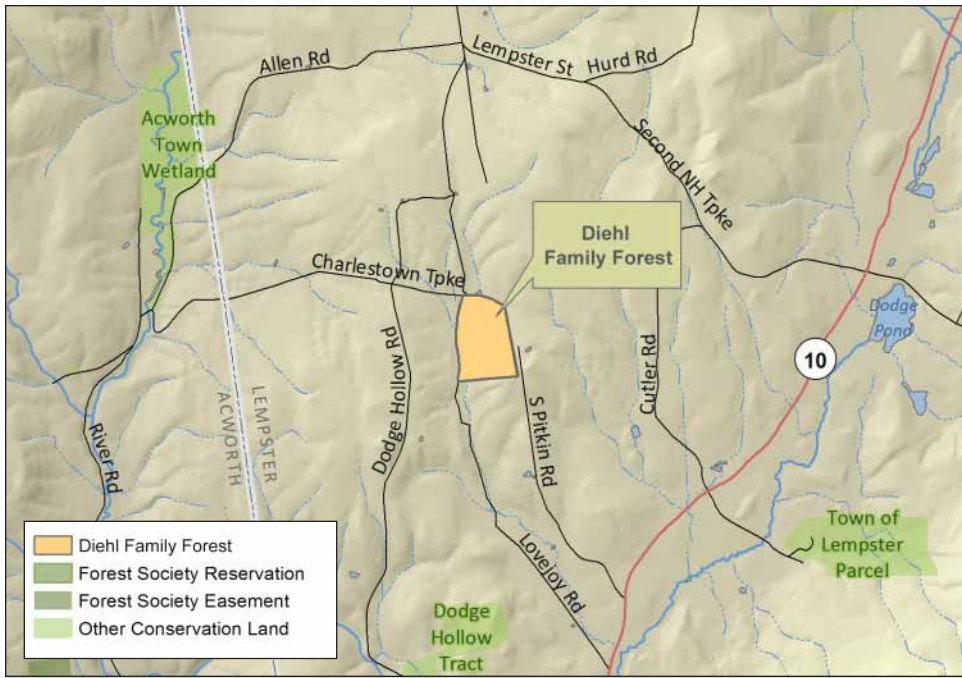


Photo by Sue Lichty.

David Diehl takes in the view from Lempster's Silver Mountain, part of the Forest Society's Ashuelot River Headwaters Reservation. Diehl hiked all over the world but particularly enjoyed explorations of more local woods and waters.

## Joyful Return to the Woods of Lempster

David Diehl's bequest of land pays homage to a cross-generational delight in the outdoors

By Brenda Charpentier



After spending most of his career in New Jersey and raising a family there with his late wife Catherine, David Diehl knew just what he was looking for when he decided in 1997 to quit city life and spend the rest of his days back in his hometown of Lempster, N.H. His house-hunting strategy reflected his priorities.

He bought the first place he was shown, with hardly a look at the house, said his sister, Emily Fairweather, who has lived in Lempster for most of her life. "I said, 'Don't you want to look at the house?' He said, 'No, look at the barn and the fields and the woods!'"

It was the forests and rural life that called him back to Lempster, along with family ties. From then until the day he died in 2013 at age 83, he spent as much time in the woods as he could, shared his delight in them with family and friends, and worked to conserve the best of them as a member of

the Lempster Conservation Commission. And then he took his conservation commitment even further by making sure the forest he had inherited, 40 acres off Lovejoy Road, would be conserved forever by bequeathing the land to the Forest Society.

This 40 acres of woods, wetlands and granite ledges was part of the farm where he lived until he was 10, before the Hurricane of '38 toppled his parents' sugar bush and helped convince them to move to Pembroke. But they held onto their 200 acres in Lempster. Donating his portion to the Forest Society has much to do with their father Richard Diehl's involvement in the organization, Fairweather said.

Richard "Dick" Diehl was a forester. He served as forestry foreman with the Civilian Conservation Corps from 1933 to 1942, then served the rest of his career as the state's forest fire control chief for the N.H. Div. of Resources Development. The subject of a *Forest Notes* "Conservation Profile" in 1973, he was a longtime Forest Society member.

The Lempster farm had been a wedding present from Richard's wife Madeleine's foster parents. David's childhood was surrounded by maple syrup and hay production, talk of forest management, fresh butter from the cow and eggs from the chickens, and the sound of the two-way radio his father kept on whenever he was home to keep in contact with fire towers around the state. David quickly followed in his father's outdoorsman footsteps, hiking with him to fire towers and fishing down at Dodge Brook. It was a truly rural life—electricity didn't come to Lempster until David was about 9 years old.

"Our father had to sell a cow to pay the electricity man," recalled Fairweather, who would have been about 8 at the time.

An interest in electrical engineering took David first to UNH and then, after two years in the Army, to New Jersey where he worked for RCA and with his wife Catherine raised their two children, David Jr. and Lisa. New Hampshire remained a favorite



Photos this page courtesy of the Diehl family.

*Above: A young David Diehl fishes in Dodge Brook, not far from his boyhood home in Lempster.*

*Below: Richard "Dick" Diehl, David's father, started his career in forestry cruising timber for private companies, then spent 39 years in public service with the Civilian Conservation Corps' Pillsbury State Camp in Goshen and then the State of N.H.*



get-away destination. When he finally moved back to the stomping grounds of his youth, he was quick to jump into volunteering, joining his sister Emily on the conservation commission and working with the historical society and cemetery committee.

"He always said, 'Oh, I should have come back sooner!'", Fairweather said.

Lisa Sheffield, David's daughter who lives in Virginia, said her dad's enthusiasm for nature was fueled by an insatiable curiosity and appreciation for natural beauty.

"He taught that to my children," she said.

Walks with him up Pitcher Mountain to pick blueberries or through the woods were full of observations and questions asked out loud of his grandchildren. "He had an interest in everything. He loved to observe... take photos, notice the seasonal changes, ask why, why why... what animal made those marks on that tree?" Sheffield said.

That enthusiasm was caught by her daughter Natalie, who is studying environmental science in college in part "because

she spent so much time outside with my dad," Sheffield said.

Though his adventurous spirit took him all over the world to go hiking, it was the local woods and streams and lakes he particularly enjoyed, said fellow commission member and hiking buddy Sue Lichty, a Forest Society volunteer land steward for the Ashuelot River Headwaters Forest.

"Through the years we explored close to every inch of Lempster, with time spent hiking in Washington, Stoddard, Goshen and more. Most of the time, although not intentional, we ended up on conservation land. We attended any conservation related event we could," Lichty said. "And each October, when the days were warm and trees in full autumn splendor, we'd venture to Grafton Pond for a paddle."

Lichty said the value of conservation land was a frequent theme in conversations with David, and his goal for his own land was clear: "He always said he wanted his land to go to the Forest Society." ♯





Photo by Ken Stern.

*The Robert S. Fife Conservation Area features a large field as well as wetlands, including this beaver marsh.*

## It's for the Birds... and the Kids and the Snowmobilers and the Wildlife and... Forest Society helps Canterbury protect a community resource

By Brenda Charpentier



When Yogi Berra said, “It ain’t over ‘til it’s over,” he meant baseball’s 1973 National League pennant race. But the same could be said for conservation projects involving town land.

In 2008, Canterbury residents rallied to support buying a 49-acre piece of scenic recreation land close to the town center. But members of the Conservation Commission were well aware that buying the land did not mean the

field, forest and meadow there were yet fully protected. This spring, members and the community celebrated the final step in the protection process—the donation of a conservation easement on the land to the Forest Society.

“We’re taking the final step of donating an easement to the Forest Society so that we can be sure the property will always be conserved. Without the easement, there would always be the possibility that the property could be sold and developed in the future,” said Kelly Short, Canterbury Conservation

Commission chair.

Canterbury has been working for many years to permanently conserve land in the Kimball Pond area close to the town’s center. This latest project brings the total acres conserved there to 90. The Forest Society already held two easements on parcels around Kimball Pond, and the additional 49 acres were folded into one of them.

The recently protected parcel, along Kimball Pond Road, has been named the Robert S. Fife Conservation Area in honor





Photos by Molly Sperduto.

**Left:** Bob Fife and Nick Sperduto check on a nest box in the field of what is now called the Robert S. Fife Conservation Area in Canterbury.

**Right:** Alice Riley checks a nest box for bird activity during one of the first years of the project. In five years of monitoring, at least 17 bluebirds and 14 tree swallows have fledged from the field's boxes.

of Bob Fife, longtime member and former chair of the Conservation Commission. "Bob was involved in the first conservation work around Kimball Pond and has been a strong advocate for conserving this latest parcel for decades," Short said.

The land provides a scenic gateway into the town. On its northern side, a snowmobile trail also offers a walking or skiing route.

"We manage the property primarily for wildlife, water quality and to preserve the great view," Short said.

Close to the town's elementary school, the land's diverse mix of habitats made it ideal for an educational bluebird project that started several years ago. Canterbury resident Molly Sperduto, a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, involved schoolchildren to build and put up nesting boxes, some on school property and some in the newly conserved field.

Sperduto has been monitoring the boxes for the past five years and has noted both bluebirds and tree swallows putting them to use.

"Habitat for eastern bluebirds has declined over the years as old fields have

turned back to forest. We wanted to increase nesting opportunities for bluebirds and other species while exposing children to a new experience, to get them outside observing wildlife and learning about habitats," Sperduto said.

One more thing the kids of Canterbury may appreciate in the future is the foresight of those who not only supported and worked for the purchase of town land but also took the steps to finish the work and permanently conserve that land. ♪







Photo by Martha Twombly.

*The Frazian conservation easement protects rich and diverse wildlife habitat: deep forests, streams, wetlands and rocky cliffs.*

## Donors Protect Forest Near Newfound Lake

By Martha Twombly



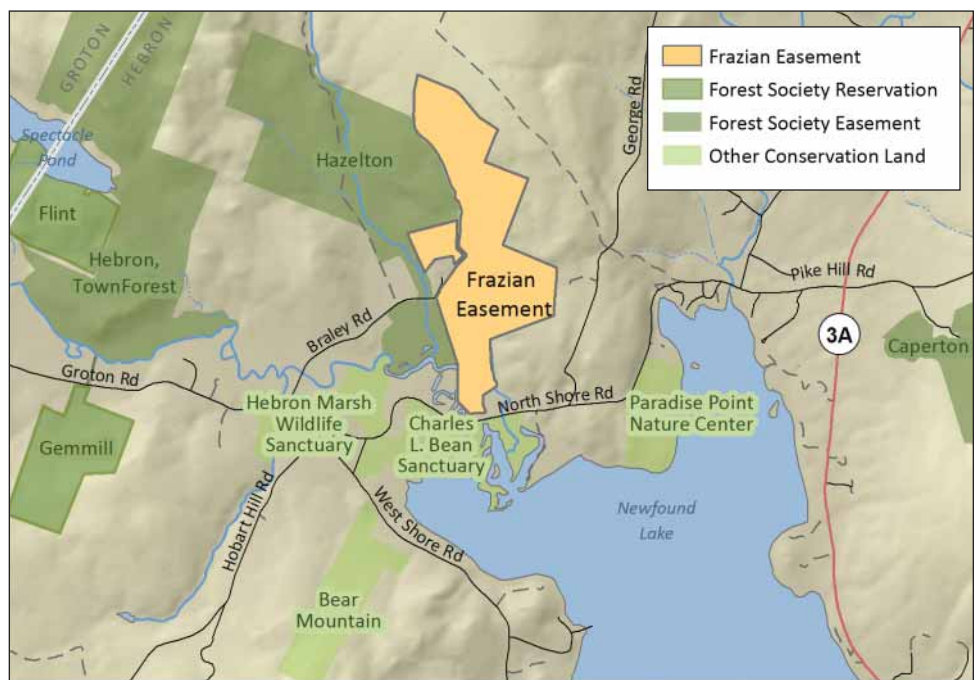
A large chunk of the picturesque, forested northern end of Newfound Lake will remain beautiful and intact now that the Forest Society has acquired a conservation easement on 189 acres in Hebron owned by the Frazian family.

This land sat quietly next to the excitement and activity surrounding a major campaign to conserve the abutting Hazelton Farm in 2013. Located at the end of Braley Road, the Frazian land shares a long boundary with the Hazelton land along Wise Brook. The easement will help to protect the water quality of Newfound Lake by conserving undeveloped frontage on the Cockermouth River, which drains into the lake. It also overlies an aquifer.

When you explore the Frazian land, you find that one stream was made into a straight canal at one time to drain the floodplain. Remnants of a rusty, old farm implement remind us of the farming heritage on the lower fields, which are now returning to wetlands with practically impenetrable shrubs. Narrow trails and

deep round footprints indicate this has become a favorite habitat and smorgasbord for moose. Because the land has so many diverse habitats, from streams to wetlands to deep forests and rocky cliffs, it also has particularly high quality wildlife habitat.

A major grant from the N.H. Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund made this project possible, along with donations from individuals and grants from the John Gemmill Newfound Fund and the Quabbin-to-Cardigan Initiative. ♪



# How Members Stepped Up to Protect their Neighborhood Forest in Stoddard



It was always a pleasure for June and Bill Congdon to see the scenic woods along their road in Stoddard. Seeing “For Sale” signs suddenly appear there among the hemlocks and pines was another story.

Would the forest along that stretch of Shedd Hill Road disappear, and more buildings pop up in its place? What would that mean for Highland Lake, downhill from the land? When that topic came up at a birthday party the couple attended in town, they heard an intriguing idea.

“It’s too bad that doesn’t become part of the Peirce Reservation...,” someone mused, meaning the Forest Society’s Peirce Wildlife and Forest Reservation that connects to the property that was for sale.

“June and I went home and said, ‘You know something, that might be a good thing for us to do,’” said Bill Congdon at the couple’s home recently.

The couple, longtime Forest Society members who retired to their Highland Lake vacation home in 2001, acted on the idea. They gave a targeted donation enabling the Forest Society to buy the 28-acre property that was for sale and add it to the Peirce Reservation. The reservation is now 3,604-acres strong—one of the biggest tracts of land under Forest Society ownership (second only to the Mount Monadnock Reservation).

The forested addition is not only viewed from Shedd Hill Road, but also from Highland Lake. Its high-quality wildlife habitat is well known by the Congdons and neighbors who often spot tracks of wildlife while

taking walks along the road.

Geoffrey Jones, the chair of the Stoddard Conservation Commission, said the Congdons’ action is important for the town.

“Shedd Hill Road has been hammered with development for the last 20 to 30 years,” he said, adding that it’s zoned residential and the 28-acre tract likely would not have remained a forest for much longer had it not been protected.

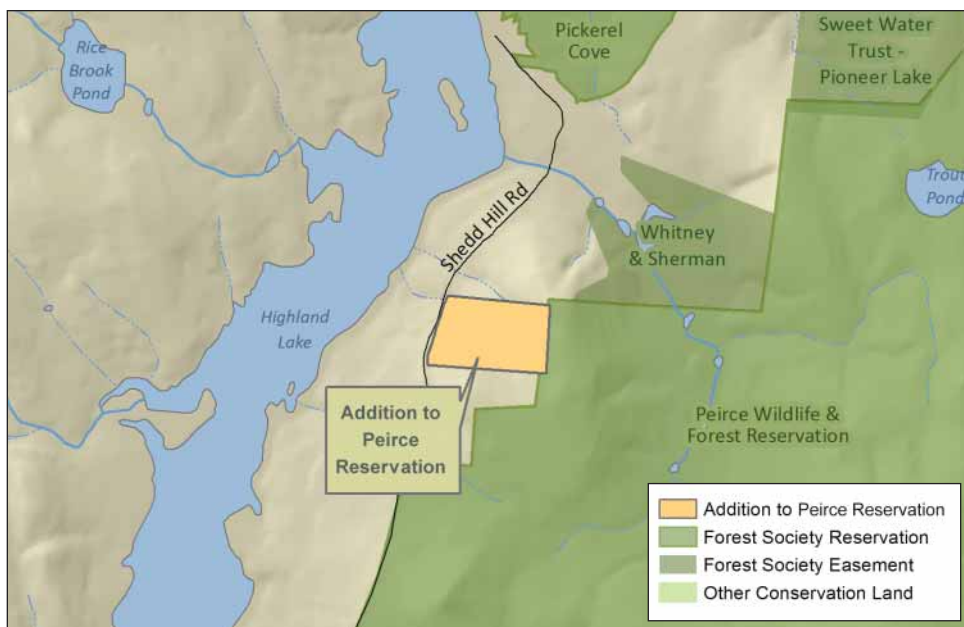
The Congdons join an effective group of other conservation-minded landowners in Stoddard, which has the distinction of being 66 percent conserved. Enabling the parcel on Shedd Hill Road to be added to the Peirce Reservation made sense at this time of their lives, June Congdon said. “It was an opportunity,” she said, to give back to the community they love being a part of.

Those “For Sale” signs are gone for good. ♪



Photo by Brian Hotz.

*Thanks to June and Bill Congdon, this forested property has become part of the Charles Peirce Wildlife and Forest Reservation in Stoddard and Windsor.*



## Forest Society Assists Harris Center to Conserve 360 Acres in Stoddard

The Forest Society has assisted the Harris Center for Conservation Education in the purchase and conservation of a 360-acre property in Stoddard called Wilson Tavern, named for the inn that was once located there. Using funds restricted for just such a purpose, the Forest Society

purchased a conservation easement on land the Harris Center purchased, thereby lowering the amount the Harris Center had to raise for the project.

The forested land was added to the 1,170 acres of contiguous conserved land in Nelson and Stoddard on either side of

Bailey Brook Road.

The land is within a priority focus area of the Quabbin-to-Cardigan Conservation Initiative (Q2C). Grants from Q2C Initiative and NH Department of Environmental Services’ Aquatic Resource Mitigation Funds helped make the project possible. ♪



# Forest Society Advocates Caution on Mt. Sunapee Expansion Proposal

The N.H. Dept. of Resources and Economic Development is considering a proposal from CNL Properties, Inc. to expand the ski area at Mount Sunapee State Park. The Forest Society, as a member of the Mount Sunapee Advisory Committee and as the organization responsible for

the original conservation of lands that make up today's Mount Sunapee State Park, has submitted both written and oral comments on the issue. We are advocating that the State answer a host of questions to better inform its response to CNL's proposal.

In late January 2015, at the request of

DRED Commissioner Jeff Rose, DRED's Natural Heritage Bureau released an addendum to an earlier report on the state of natural communities within the State Park. The Bureau's report prompted a letter from the Forest Society to Commissioner Rose on February 23. The letter is excerpted below.

Dear Commissioner Rose:

This letter is to supplement the Forest Society's written comments of Sept. 22, 2014, concerning the proposed ski expansion at Mount Sunapee State Park. Since September there have been two new developments that inform our thinking on the proposal.

The first new development concerns the lease reformation ordered by the Merrimack County Superior Court in April 2014. The second development is a new report from the DRED Natural Heritage Bureau that depicts a system of ecologically significant natural communities within the State Park.

The significance of the court ordered lease reformation is that it adds 167 acres to the original 968 acre lease area, acreage directly abutting private land owned by Resort operator Tim Mueller through a limited liability corporation known as Sunapee Land Holdings LLC. This new, larger lease area eliminates the buffer zone that previously existed between the original lease area and the State Park boundary. Some believe this opens the State Park to expanded skiing far beyond the intent and scope of the State's original lease with the Resort.

We applaud you for asking the Natural Heritage Bureau to complete the analysis it started in 2004 on the ecology of the West Bowl area. Our review suggests that the Resort's expansion proposal directly conflicts with the State's legal obligation to protect exemplary natural communities.

The significance of the Natural Heritage Bureau addendum to its 2004 survey of the west bowl area is that for the first time it delineates a 486-acre Exemplary Northern Hardwood-Conifer Forest Natural Community System. The proposed ski expansion appears to directly encroach upon this system. Furthermore, it appears that the existing ski operation has already encroached upon the exemplary natural community system as delineated.

In addition, ecologists we have consulted advise that the sustainability of this exemplary natural community system within the state park is directly linked to what happens on

land within the larger landscape. The larger landscape includes thousands of acres of conserved land within the Pillsbury-Sunapee Highlands region that has taken more than a century to establish. In part, these lands were protected to further enhance the forest resources growing on the topographic peak of the region, Mount Sunapee itself.

The N.H. Native Plant Protection Act (RSA 217-A:7) states that the State has an obligation to protect such exemplary systems of natural communities when actions are proposed that place the continuance of these communities in jeopardy. Because the decision concerning the resort's proposal is clearly in DRED's authority, and because the impacted land is owned and managed by DRED as a state park, it is essential for the State to act in a manner that conserves the exemplary system of natural communities identified by the Natural Heritage Bureau.

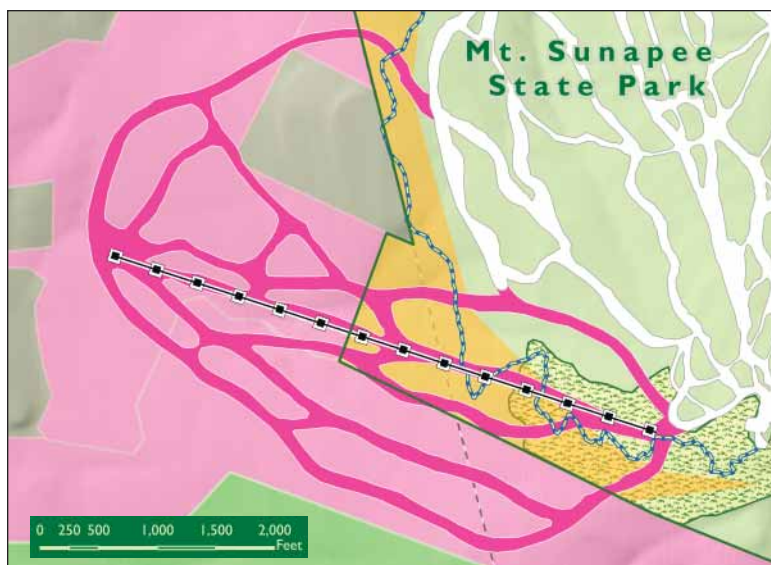
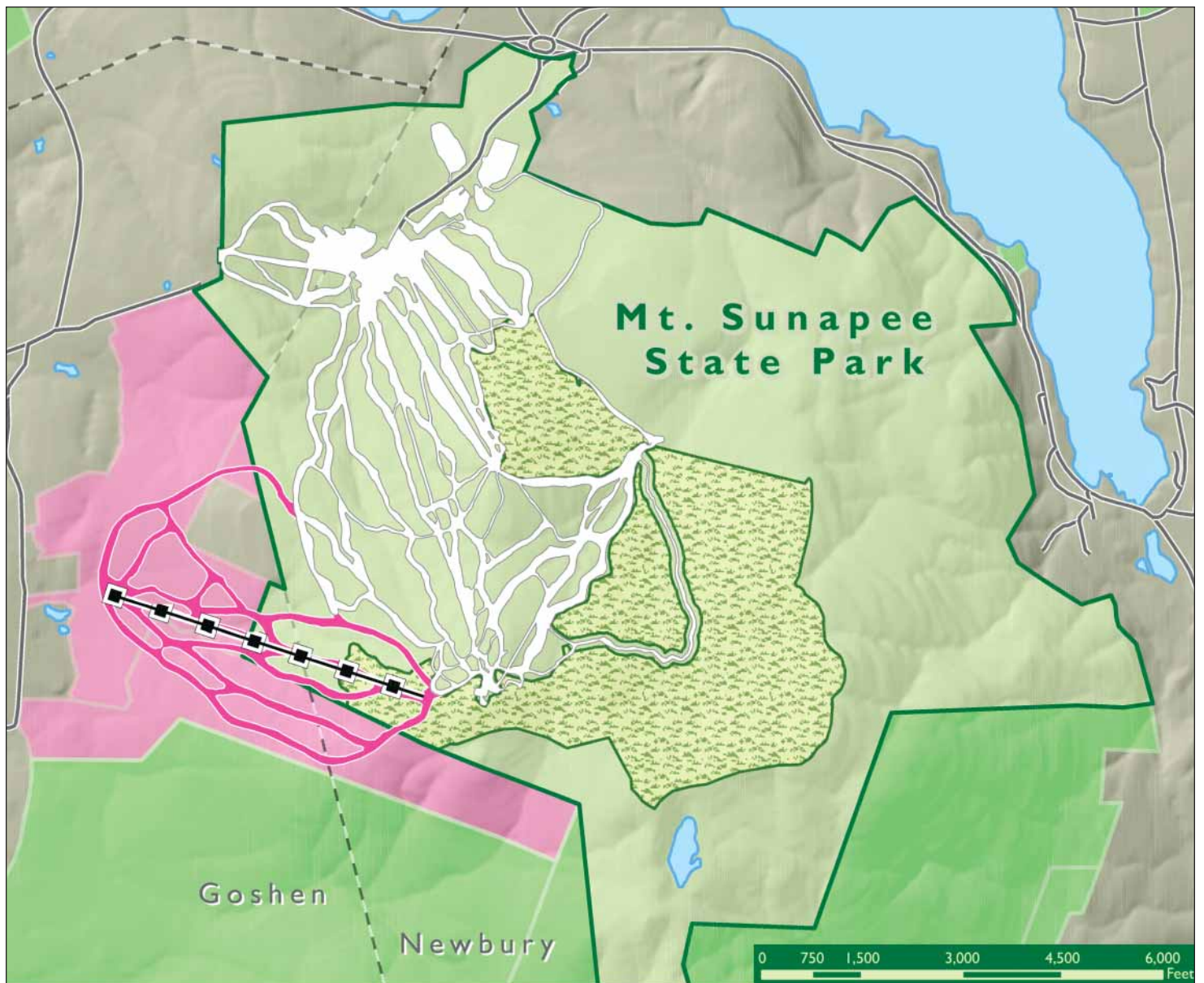
We continue to believe that there are a number of questions regarding the proposed ski expansion that remain unanswered, questions which we identified in our earlier comments. But the Natural Heritage Bureau's recent report answers the open question concerning the forests of Mount Sunapee State Park. The original reason that the Forest Society started protecting Mt. Sunapee in 1911, and assisted in its eventual transfer to the State, was to ensure that the ancient forests on its slopes be protected for posterity. As the current steward of this public treasure, DRED should continue the work started in 1911 and use its authority to sustain the ecological health of these forests within the state park.

Thank you for your consideration of these additional comments.

Sincerely,



Jane A. Difley, President/Forester



### Legend

-  Mt. Sunapee State Park
-  Exemplary Conifer - Northern Hardwood Forest System
-  Existing Converted Areas
-  Hiking Trails
-  Expanded Lease Area
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Town Boundaries
-  Sunapee Land Holdings / Difference, LLC
-  Proposed Ski Expansion
-  Proposed Lift Line



## What's Next for Northern Pass?

By Jack Savage

Four long years ago, the U.S. Department of Energy held public hearings in New Hampshire to get input on the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Northern Pass, a 180-mile, 1,100-tower transmission project proposed by N-Star, Northeast Utilities, and PSNH in partnership with Hydro-Quebec. Charles Shivery was CEO of NU, Gary Long the head of PSNH, and Thierry Vandal the head of HQ.

Today the American partners in the proposed Northern Pass venture call themselves Eversource, led by Tom May. In Quebec, Thierry Vandal has stepped down, and Hydro-Quebec's direction isn't particularly clear.

And, with the project repeatedly delayed, there is still no draft EIS for Northern Pass as of April 1. But the DOE has suggested that the EIS will be forthcoming before summer. And Eversource representatives stated that they intend to submit an application to the N.H. Site Evaluation Committee "mid-year."

There will be significant interest in the draft EIS from all stakeholders, including the 31 towns along the proposed route, because it will likely include analysis of as many as 24 alternatives to Northern Pass's own proposal (now with 400 more towers), including the so-called "no-build" alternative. There will be opportunity for public comment on the draft EIS before a final EIS is published.

For its part, Eversource/Northern Pass seems to recognize that it does not have a permissible route on the table. In February, Eversource executives told industry analysts that they expected the \$1.4 billion cost of the project to rise, and that the final cost would be determined by reaching consensus with stakeholders on "an acceptable configuration" of the proposed line. There is a "big range of options around that project that we're evaluating right now," said Eversource's Leon Olivier.

The Forest Society's board of trustees has said that if Northern Pass is to be built,

it should be buried along existing transportation corridors. In New York and Vermont two other transmission projects, conceived to bring power from Quebec to the Northeast, are moving forward with little opposition. Vermont's New England Clean Power Link may beat Northern Pass to the southern New England market.

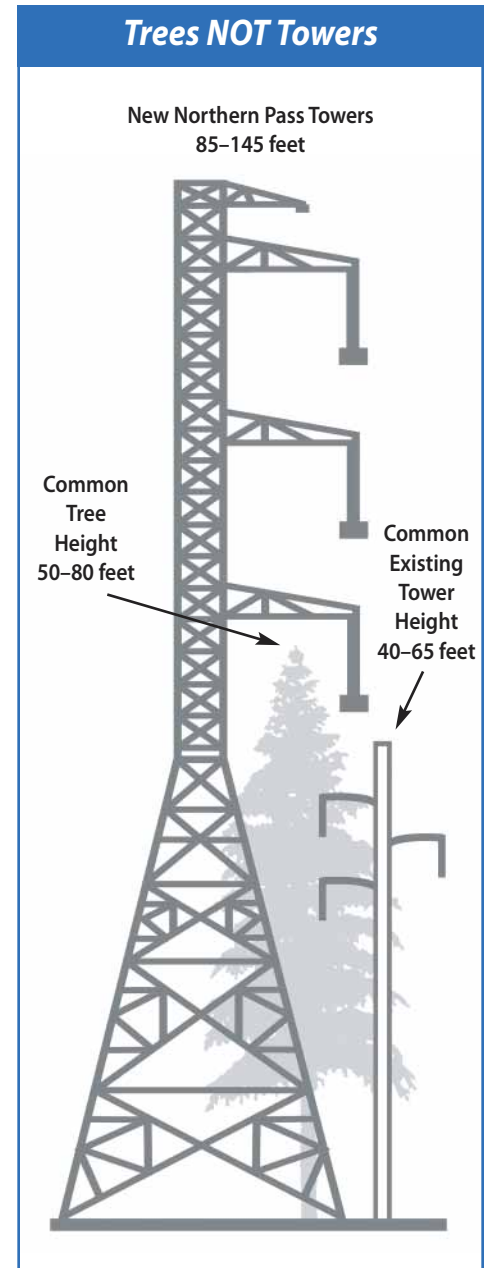
### Courting Favor

Ever in search of support, Northern Pass has been busy courting favor of late via their version of "checkbook diplomacy." That caused a bit of what the *Concord Monitor* called a "kerfuffle" in late March by funneling funds for potential conservation projects in New Hampshire through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). As the *Monitor* noted, a press release issued by NFWF gave the impression that the N.H. Fish and Game Dept. (NHF&G) was a direct beneficiary of the funds, which then "touched off a firestorm among activists concerned that the state would be getting money directly from the controversial Northern Pass Transmission Project."

Gov. Maggie Hassan and others clarified that there was no direct link between Northern Pass dollars and NHF&G, and the Governor sent out a statement reminding all that she remains opposed to the Northern Pass project as proposed.

But there is another intriguing aspect to Northern Pass's NFWF ploy. As Forest Society Vice President of Development Susanne Kibler-Hacker pointed out in a letter to NFWF CEO Jeff Trandahl, the Forest Society's Washburn Family Forest Reservation in Clarksville, N.H., stands in the way of the route of Northern Pass. As a land trust, the Forest Society has an obligation to defend that conserved land from the proposed private transmission line, and is confident that without eminent domain Northern Pass has no legal access to the route across that land.

The Washburn Family Forest was con-



This graphic was part of a mailing sent to 113,759 N.H. households in April to raise funds for the Trees Not Towers Defense Fund.

served in 2008 thanks in part to a \$500,000 grant from NFWF. "Northern Pass, LLC, has put NFWF in an awkward position by engaging NFWF as a supporter of a proposed commercial development that would violate the very same conservation

restrictions that our grant agreement with NFWF requires us to uphold,” Kibler-Hacker wrote in her letter.

The Forest Society remains committed to its defense of New Hampshire landscapes and conserved lands. If Northern Pass proposes an above-ground transmission line

project to the N.H. Site Evaluation Committee, we will intervene with the goal of securing an SEC decision that denies a permit for Northern Pass. If Northern Pass proposes to violate private property rights with their proposal, we will seek appropriate legal remedies to prevent such violations. ♪

## Two Encouraging House Bills Address Urgent Need for Energy Project Siting Guidelines

By Matt Leahy

New Hampshire faces an increasingly difficult challenge in trying to site large-scale energy transmission lines that are coming into our state from outside the region. While Northern Pass has so far received the most attention, other energy projects, such as Kinder-Morgan’s Northeast Direct Natural Gas Pipeline, are raising similar concerns over environmental impacts, private property rights and the public benefits of these projects.

Given the continued pressure from southern New England to import more electricity from Quebec, given the increased dependence in New England on electricity generated by burning natural gas, and given the de-regulation of electric utilities across the region, we will likely see more major energy infrastructure projects proposed for siting in New Hampshire.

In fact, National Grid has joined with Eversource Energy and Spectra Energy on the Access Northeast Natural Gas Pipeline project, which is designed to bring more inexpensive natural gas from Pennsylvania to New England. While Access Northeast proposes to upgrade existing pipeline facilities in New England, it highlights the ongoing industry focus to increase the supply of natural gas for electric generation markets. The Forest Society believes state regulators and the public for whom they operate need more tools to better assess the benefits and impacts of these projects. Just as importantly, we need to find ways to minimize and, ideally, avoid negative impacts on natural resources and private property.

Legislation under consideration in the New Hampshire General Court (HB 626)

would enable private energy developers to partner with the State in locating new underground energy infrastructure within state owned transportation corridors approved by the N.H. Dept. of Transportation. Another bill (HB 431) specifies that using existing public rights of way shall be the preferred, although not required, option for locating all new elective electric transmission lines and that the burial of electric transmission lines shall be the preferred option for all elective electric transmission lines with supports higher than 50 feet.

Both of these bills hit on a critical point for New Hampshire policy makers and citizens to consider: Should New Hampshire choose in advance where these new long distance energy facilities should be located or should New Hampshire enable energy developers themselves to make these choices on a project-by-project basis?

We applaud the members of the Legislature who are attempting to bring some order to this system and believe now is the time for the State to establish innovative public policies that more fully address the challenges of siting large-scale transmission projects. These initiatives are good for our natural resources and landscapes, for private property owners, for the state budget and for energy developers themselves who say that predictability and clarity in regulation is essential for their success. For the good of New Hampshire’s energy future, planning should not be a four-letter word. ♪

*Matt Leahy is public policy manager at the Forest Society.*

“A society grows great when its people grow trees whose shade they will never sit in.”

— Greek proverb



What we choose to protect for the future says much about who we are today.


**Consider the Forest Society in your estate planning.**

**For more information, contact  
Susanne Kibler Hacker  
(603) 224-9945 x 314  
skhacker@forestsociety.org**

*Appreciating Resources*

**REAL ESTATE SERVICES ROOTED IN A LAND ETHIC**

*Consulting  
Marketing and Sales  
Buyer Representation*

 **NH CONSERVATION  
REAL ESTATE**

**www.NHConservationRealEstate.com  
603.253.4999**





*Left: U.S. Sen. Kelly Ayotte poses for a photo with supporters of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and others after a hike and roundtable discussion on outdoor recreation and conservation funding at Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center in Greenfield last fall.*



*Right: U.S. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen meets with supporters of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and others during a roundtable on recreation and land conservation at NEMO Equipment, Inc. in Dover.*

Courtesy photos.

## Public Funding of Land Conservation 101

Sens. Ayotte and Shaheen are rightly working to shore up federal funding

By Will Abbott

Given all the other needs public agencies and elected officials must address, why should government continue investing in land conservation?

The answer starts with one very simple idea: The natural world is the foundation for all human communities and economies. We cannot separate ourselves from the land on which we walk, the water we drink and the air we breathe. Far from being a drain on government, these natural systems instead sustain us and the global village humans have built. As the human population continues to grow, so too does the demand on these ecosystem services.

Government at the federal, state and local level today must continue to partner with the private sector to promote and strengthen the deep connection between a healthy environment and a vibrant economy. Land conservation is one way to meet this goal.

- Here in New Hampshire, we enacted the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) in 2000. LCHIP provides matching grants to land conservation projects (on a competitive basis) statewide. Since its inception, more than 230,000 acres have been permanently

protected. LCHIP is funded with its own dedicated fund, generated from fees collected at the state's 10 county Registries of Deeds on the recording of deeds, mortgages and plans.

- Ten percent of the 1,850,584 acres of permanently protected lands in our state are held and stewarded by municipalities. Over the past 15 years, local governments in New Hampshire have invested more than \$140 million in partnerships that have conserved these lands. These dollars come primarily from direct appropriations and from revenues collected from the Land Use Change Tax, when a landowner removes a parcel of land from Current Use.
- In Washington, the federal government's largest investment in land conservation is the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), enacted in 1964. Congress has dedicated to LWCF a portion of lease revenues the federal government receives from leasing oil and gas rights to private developers in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). LWCF dollars are invested in national parks and forests, state and local parks and forests, and in keeping privately

owned working forests as privately owned working forests by funding the acquisition of conservation easements on them.

While LWCF is authorized to receive the first \$900 million each year in OCS revenues, Congress has rarely appropriated anywhere near that amount. In fact, the current Fiscal Year 2015 federal budget provides only \$306 million for the program—just one third of the total dedicated. Of the total \$36.2 billion in OCS revenues dedicated to LWCF since its inception, less than half (a total of \$16.8 billion) has actually been appropriated for LWCF purposes.

**The Forest Society's immediate concern is that the dedicated fund to provide \$900 million a year to LWCF expires on Sept. 30, 2015. If Congress fails to re-authorize this dedicated fund by the end of September, the LWCF will for all practical purposes cease to exist.**

Fortunately, we are seeing a growing recognition in the Congress from both political parties that LWCF represents a critical investment in our nation's future economic and environmental health. Recently 59 senators, including Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, supported an amendment sponsored by Sen. Kelly Ayotte that would have perma-

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

nently authorized LWCF. While the amendment did not secure the 60 votes needed to overcome the Senate's procedural barrier, it demonstrated the depth of the bipartisan support LWCF has in the U.S. Senate. Both New Hampshire senators are also co-sponsors of a bill that would permanently authorize and fully fund the program.

Please encourage our two senators to continue to work with their Senate colleagues to get this re-authorization over to the House of Representatives well before September. And, encourage Reps. Frank Guinta and Annie Kuster to work as hard on their House colleagues as our two senators are working on theirs.

LWCF made possible the permanent conservation of working New Hampshire landscapes like the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters (166,000 acres in Coos County), the Crotched Mountain Forest (1,165 acres in Hillsborough County), the Moose Mountains Forest Reservation (2,000 acres in Carroll County) and the Pillsbury-Sunapee Highlands Forest (7,000 acres in Merrimack and Sullivan Counties). All these lands remain in private ownership, subject to Forest Legacy conservation easements held by the State and funded by LWCF. Many of New Hampshire's state and municipal parks have been made possible by LWCF. Important additions have been made to the White Mountain National Forest and the Lake Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge with LWCF investments.

Every state in the nation has benefited from similar kinds of LWCF investments. LWCF and LCHIP represent a small sliver of the respective federal and state budgets of which they are a part. But their effects are deep and far-reaching. Public funding of efforts to conserve natural areas as economic and environmental assets is essential to strengthening the natural systems that sustain us. ♻️

*Will Abbott is vice president of policy and reservation stewardship at the Forest Society.*

### **Summit Circle** (\$5,000 and up)

Ashuelot River Hydro, Inc.  
Bank of New Hampshire  
EOS Research  
Event Builders, LLC  
New Hampshire Electric Co-op Foundation  
Paradigm Computer Consulting  
Superior Nut Company

### **Chairman's Circle** (\$2,500 to \$4,999)

Merrimack County Savings Bank  
Monadnock Paper Mills, Inc.  
Northeast Delta Dental  
Northland Forest Products, Inc.  
SCM Associates

### **President/Forester's Circle** (\$1,000 to \$2,499)

Hypertherm H.O.P.E. Foundation  
Long Term Care Partners  
Lumbard & Kellner, LLC  
Mackenzie North Holdings, LLC  
Northern Trust  
Peabody & Smith Realty, Inc.  
Ransmeier & Spellman, P.C.  
Rockywood-Deephaven Camps, Inc.  
The Mountain

### **Steward** (\$750 to \$999)

Birch Hill Summer Camp, Inc.

### **Partner** (\$500 to \$749)

Arcomm Communications Corporation  
Benthiem Associates  
Capitol Craftsman, LLC  
Chappell Tractor Sales, Inc.  
Durgin & Crowell Lumber Co., Inc.  
Innovative Natural Resource Solutions, LLC  
Kane Conservation  
Lyme Timber Company  
McLane, Graf, Raulerson & Middleton, P.A.  
New Hampshire Conservation Real Estate  
NH Conservation Real Estate  
Precision Lumber, Inc.  
Prepro, Inc.  
Prince Communications  
R.M. Piper  
The Music Mill  
United Natural Foods, Inc.  
H. G. Wood Industries, LLC

### **Colleague** (\$250 to \$499)

Ambit Engineering, Inc.  
Bronnenberg Logging & Trucking L.L.C.  
Cersosimo Lumber Co., Inc.  
Concord Cooperative Market  
Curt's Caterers  
Devine, Millimet & Branch, P.A.  
Doucet Survey, Inc.  
Frost Pond Timberframes, LLC  
Fuller's Sugarhouse, LLC  
F.W. Environmental Services, Inc.  
Half Moon Enterprises  
Jed Schwartz Productions

### **Colleague** (continued)

Kel-Log, Inc.  
Limington Lumber Company  
Meadow Leasing, Inc.  
MegaPrint, Inc.  
Microsoft Corporation  
New England Wood Pellet, Inc.  
Polly's Pancake Parlor, Inc.  
Ridgeview Construction, LLC  
Whole Wealth Management, LLC  
Winnepesaukee Chocolates  
Wolf Creek Investments, LLC  
Pinetree Power, Inc.  
Sunset Park Campground  
Zambon Brothers Logging

### **Matching Gift Companies**

Allegro MicroSystems, Inc.  
Allendale Mutual Insurance Company  
American Bilrite Charitable Trust  
American Express  
American International Group, Inc.  
Ames Planning Associates  
Amica Companies Foundation  
Autodesk, Inc.  
Bank of America  
CA, Inc Matching Gifts Program  
ExxonMobil Foundation  
f5 Networks  
Fairpoint Communications  
FM Global Foundation  
Gartner  
GE Foundation  
Global Impact  
Green Mountain Coffee  
Hewlett Packard Company Foundation  
The Home Depot Foundation  
Houghton Mifflin Matching Gifts Program  
IBM Corporation  
Lincoln Financial Group Foundation  
Long-Term Care Partners  
Lumina Foundation for Education  
Markem-Image Corporation  
MassMutual  
Merck Partnership for Giving  
Meredith Corporation Foundation  
The Millipore Foundation  
Morgan-Worcester, Inc.  
Open System Resources, Inc.  
Oracle Corporation  
Payden & Rydel  
Pfizer Foundation  
Prudential Matching Gifts Program  
Saint-Gobain Corporation  
Shell Oil Company Foundation  
Tender Corporation  
Textron Matching Gift Program  
Thomson Reuters  
Tyco Employee Matching Gift Program  
Verizon Foundation  
The Washington Post Company



And many thanks to those businesses who give less than \$250.

***The Forest Society... Where Conservation and Business Meet***

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



# First Flutes in the Forest

May woodlands... sunrise.

By Dave Anderson

Winter's last, faint, dying breath is stilled by a singular sound that stops me in my tracks. I shake my head in disbelief... early morning flute-notes echo through dawn woods. The thrushes are back.

Thrush songs arrive right on schedule, strongly suggesting that all might still be right with the world, even if just for the time being. I sit and listen. Those notes seem to practically summon the unfurling of leaves and wildflowers from their buds. Winter is now truly over. I'll curse the blackfly bites shortly (but if not for those insects, no flute music). But for now I'll marvel at the thrushes' return and hope that many fared well on their journey from the Tropics.

Against steep odds and perils aplenty during their long-distance migration, thrushes and other insectivorous birds return en masse from Central and South America. Their mission: attract mates, build nests, lay eggs, incubate and then raise naked nestlings—featherless and with eyes closed—to a new generation by mid-July.

The mottled-breast woodland thrushes are forest understory specialists, well-camouflaged for foraging in leaf litter and equipped with resounding songs designed to carry through dense forest.

The earliest to arrive are Hermit Thrushes, with their mottled, dark streaks on white breasts, olive-brown backs and rusty-red rump patches. The Hermit's song features one clear introductory note followed by a flute-like refrain on a different octave.



*Top: Hermit Thrushes are the first of the migrating woodland thrushes to return from their tropical wintering grounds each spring.*

*Bottom: The call of the Wood Thrush seems to echo through the forest: "Eee o lay!"*

Top photo by Jason Lambert; bottom photo by Paul Reeves/Dreamstime.com.

---

*The Hermit's song features one clear introductory note  
followed by a flute-like refrain on a different octave.*

---

Slightly later, the Wood Thrushes arrive. They display a reddish patch on the back of their heads and necks and have olive-green backs. The Wood Thrush song sounds like "Eee-o-lay." They also give loud call notes with a lower, reedy timbre you can almost feel in your chest when close enough.

During breeding season, elevation plays an important role in real-estate choices: Veerys live at the lowest elevations, Hermit Thrushes and Wood Thrushes live at middle elevations, Swainson Thrushes live at higher elevations and Bicknell's Thrushes specialize in the subalpine spruce and fir zone in the White Mountains.

Wood Thrushes favor rich, moist northern hardwood forests of sugar maple, white ash, birch or drier beech and oak. Hermit Thrushes favor drier conifers and mixed woodlands. Hermits are often heard singing in the understory of white pine and red pine forests with sunny openings. Thrushes repeat their respective breeding songs endlessly at dawn and again at dusk—the flute soundtrack of spring and early summer.

Thrush nesting sites also vary by species: Wood, Swainson's and Bicknell's thrushes nest in a dense sapling understory or low in trees. Hermit Thrushes and Veeries build nests on the forest floor. I've located Hermit Thrush or Veery nests hidden in a hummock of ferns or atop a mossy stump along the edges of woods roads and trails with partial sun. Nests are woven of pine needles with an inner cup of pressed mud, lined with soft grasses. Like their familiar cousins, Robins, Wood Thrush eggs are turquoise-green with no spotting. Hermit Thrush eggs are light blue and may be brown-spotted.

Sunny woodland roads, trails and clearings with low grasses and forbs are good insect and berry foraging sites. But openings also provide access for egg and nestling predators. Ground nesting Hermit Thrushes and Veeries are particularly vulnerable to nest-predators in fragmented backyard tracts of forest where domestic cats and higher populations of opportunistic crows, blue jays, raccoons, skunks and opossums prowl. Deep interior forest habitats decrease nest parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds. The clearing of dense understory vegetation that these thrushes prefer and increased browsing by populations of white-tailed deer may also be detrimental to nesting success. The conversion of tropical wintering habitats to agricultural use poses another threat to these flute-songsters.

For how long will the miraculous fidelity of thrushes to New Hampshire's forests resume each spring? Will the first flute notes continue to ring through our woodlands in May?

Henry David Thoreau also believed wood thrushes provide an iconic audio soundtrack representing our forests. In a journal entry dated June 22, 1853, he wrote:

"I long for wildness... woods where the wood thrush forever sings, where the hours are early morning ones, and there is dew on the grass, and the day is forever unproven... a New Hampshire everlasting and unfallen." ♪

---

*Naturalist Dave Anderson is director of education and volunteers for The Forest Society. He can be reached via e-mail at [danderson@forestsociety.org](mailto:danderson@forestsociety.org).*



## Consulting Foresters

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

### **Corwin and Calhoun Forestry, LLC**

Realize what you value the most in your forest. Serving individual, municipal, state, non-government, and industry forest owners.

560 Windy Road, Peterborough, NH 03458 • (603) 562-5620  
Email: [swiftcorwin@gmail.com](mailto:swiftcorwin@gmail.com)

### **The Ecosystem Management Co. (TEMCO)**

Jeremy Turner NHLPF #318 — Central/Southern NH  
Email: [jgturner@tds.net](mailto:jgturner@tds.net)

Ryan Kilborn NHLPF #442 — Northern NH  
Email: [rkilborn@tds.net](mailto:rkilborn@tds.net)

A division of Meadowsend Timberlands Ltd.

Comprehensive forest and wildlife management, serving the conscientious New Hampshire landowner. -NRCS-Tech Service Provider

P.O. Box 966, New London, NH 03257  
(603) 526-8686  
[www.mtlforests.com](http://www.mtlforests.com)

### **FORECO: Forest Resource Consultants**

Complete forest management services  
Offering five licensed foresters, licensed land surveyor  
P.O. Box 597, Rumney, NH 03266 • (603) 786-9544  
P.O. Box 161, Contoocook, NH 03229 • (603) 746-4846  
Email: [office@forecollc.com](mailto:office@forecollc.com)

### **Fountains America**

Certified forest management, land brokerage, GIS maps, training, application development, and TwoDog Forest Inventory Software Sales.

175 Barnstead Rd., Suite 4  
Pittsfield, NH 03263 • (866) 348-4010

### **Martin Forestry Consulting, LLC**

Offering complete forest management services including timber sales, cruises, and appraisals and wildlife habitat management.

P.O. Box 89, New Hampton, NH 03256 • (603) 744-9484  
Email: [martinforestry@gmail.com](mailto:martinforestry@gmail.com)

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



# An A-Typical Harvest of Dreams

By George F. Frame, CF

Remember the TV show *The A-Team*, in which the cigar-chewing hero John “Hannibal” Smith says: “I love it when a plan comes together”? Faced with a challenge, he would develop a plan, execute that plan under much adversity and by the end of the hour-long show put a big grin on his face and spout that line. Real life isn’t quite that fast, of course. And in forestry, as I may have mentioned in this column before, it can be a lifetime or more before a plan comes together.

For us a plan came together in a big way recently when we captured the full benefit of work completed by several generations of foresters. Prior to Forest Society ownership, perhaps 70 to 90 years ago, this forest had been managed by a forester. He looked over this grown-in field and, knowing that hardwoods would grow well on the site, worked to remove young softwoods.

Fast forward nearly 40 years and, then in the hands of the Forest Society, the forest was commercially thinned. This improvement thinning concentrated on removing low value, low quality trees, leaving the highest quality northern hardwoods and red oaks to mature with plenty of room. Hit the fast forward button again to 2014, and the forest was a well-stocked sawtimber-sized stand of veneer quality oaks and maples with a few yellow birches thrown in for good measure. This forest was ready for harvest at the same time that demand and prices for oak veneer spiked during a cold winter. (I didn’t say there wasn’t a little luck in this plan.)

Our average timber sale harvest is comprised mainly (70 percent) of low-value wood products like chips, firewood and pulpwood. So for the past several years our average stumpage income has been a modest \$400 per acre, and that only because stumpage prices are rising. I mention all these numbers because when things are done right over a 90- to 100-year rotation



Photo by Jeremy Turner.

*Veneer logs are ready to go to the mill. When a strong market coincides with a mature stand of high-quality sawlogs and favorable harvesting conditions, it's time to stand back and appreciate decades of work and planning.*

in our oak forests, we reap the benefits with interest. In this case, those benefits included an average stumpage value that exceeded \$3,000 per acre.

At the Forest Society we have the opportunity to capture a lot of information about our woods over a long time. With that information in hand we can plan our current timber sales to build upon the preparation work completed 20, 30, 40 or more years ago and reap the added reward of seeing someone’s original plan come together.

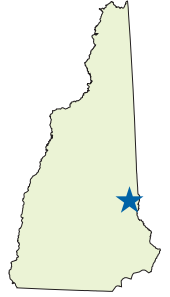
As a forester I take pride in the technology and expertise of today: the efficient machines and competent operators, the knowledgeable foresters, the logistics of the current log marketing system. But I am equally proud of those foresters and operators who in the past had a vision of what these woods could be if managed in

a scientific way using the principles developed by a profession only born about the same time as the Forest Society (founded in 1901).

Not all of our forestland has been so well planned and managed, of course. Some of our acquired properties were completely harvested before our ownership. Some were less than well managed, leaving a forest that needed to be regenerated before we could consider managing what was left. In these instances the plan is at page one. Someday, if all goes well, some managing forester long after me will proudly, and with a big grin (cigar optional), proclaim, “I love it when a plan comes together.” ♪

*George Frame is the Senior Director of Forestry at the Forest Society. He can be reached at [gframe@forestsociety.org](mailto:gframe@forestsociety.org).*

# Join With Us to Add 150 Acres to the Moose Mountains Reservation



The Forest Society has an opportunity to enlarge its 2,335-acre Moose Mountains Reservation by buying a 150-acre forested property in Middleton, and we hope you'll want to help. The owner of this land, located off New Portsmouth Road in Middleton, has offered us the chance to buy it before it's subdivided and offered on the open market. The Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) committee has recognized the importance of this project by supporting it with a \$112,500 grant. The Adelard A. and Valeda Lea Roy Foundation provided a generous grant to launch the private fundraising effort. Now, with the support of the Moose Mountains Regional Greenways, we are working to raise the additional \$174,000 needed to secure this property.

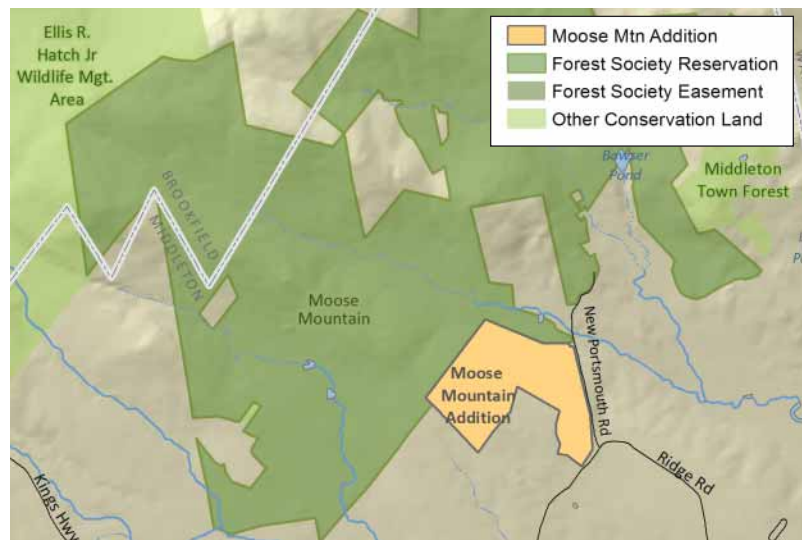
The Moose Mountains Reservation is part of a 22,000-acre forested area within N.H.'s coastal watershed, so conserving this piece strengthens the hedge of protection preserving water quality, wildlife habitat and scenic values in this beautiful region. The 150-acre addition's working forest is part of the headwaters of the Salmon Falls River, noted by the U.S. Forest Service as one of the most threatened in the country.

This is a project that benefits diverse wildlife, from the frogs and salamanders that breed in this property's many vernal pools to the roaming moose, bobcats and bears that find in this area habitat still large and intact enough to provide safe travel corridors.

If you would like to help us bring this project to success, please send a donation using the form below or donate online at [forestsociety.org](http://forestsociety.org). Thank you! 🌲



A clearing on the 150-acre addition provides a view of the forested landscape of the Moose Mountains. A guided hike of the property is planned for May 30. See page 16.



## ☐ YES, I WANT TO HELP THE FOREST SOCIETY PROTECT 150 ACRES IN THE MOOSE MOUNTAINS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Town/City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security code: \_\_\_\_\_

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

For more information, contact Susanne Kibler-Hacker at 603-224-9945  
or via e-mail at [skh@forestsociety.org](mailto:skh@forestsociety.org).

SOCIETY FOR THE  
PROTECTION OF  
NEW HAMPSHIRE  
FORESTS



Thank you  
for your help!

MMS154FN





**SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION  
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE FORESTS**

54 Portsmouth Street  
Concord, NH 03301-5400  
Address Service Requested

Nonprofit  
Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Manchester, NH  
Permit No. 0494

## THE MANY FACES OF CONSERVATION



**Ken and Lisa Kerber**  
Marlborough, N.H.  
*Members since 1983*

Photo by Al Karevy.

*Ken helps conservation groups around the country with fundraising. Lisa writes and illustrates creative projects—most recently *Hardworking Cats*, a humorous book published in New York. They live in Marlborough with three cats, a flock of homing pigeons and a hive of honey bees.*

“I grew up in an overdeveloped part of the Midwest, and Lisa’s family heritage in New Hampshire goes back to the late 1600s (the Scribner farm in Raymond), so we have different reasons for continuing our Forest Society membership for the past 32 years.

We both realize that saving natural areas and protecting fragile resources is vital to maintain a healthy, attractive living environment for today and future generations. Supporting the Forest Society helps protect not just New Hampshire’s beauty, but also clean air and water and vital wildlife habitat. After all, who wouldn’t want to make sure that moose and bears have the lands they need to continue to be part of our state’s natural heritage?

I work with all sorts of state and regional conservation groups around the country, and I’ve come to realize that the Forest Society is one of the most effective land protection groups in the nation. It’s safe to say New Hampshire wouldn’t look as beautiful as it does today without all the Forest Society’s successes.” ♻️

## MEMBERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!

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