

Forest Notes

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S CONSERVATION MAGAZINE

**Why We Oppose
Northern Pass
Black Mountain
Protected**

SPRING 2011

SOCIETY FOR THE
PROTECTION OF
NEW HAMPSHIRE
FORESTS



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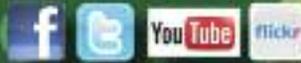
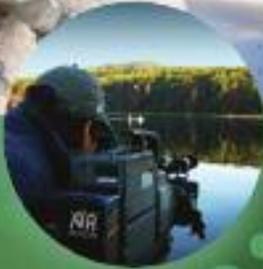
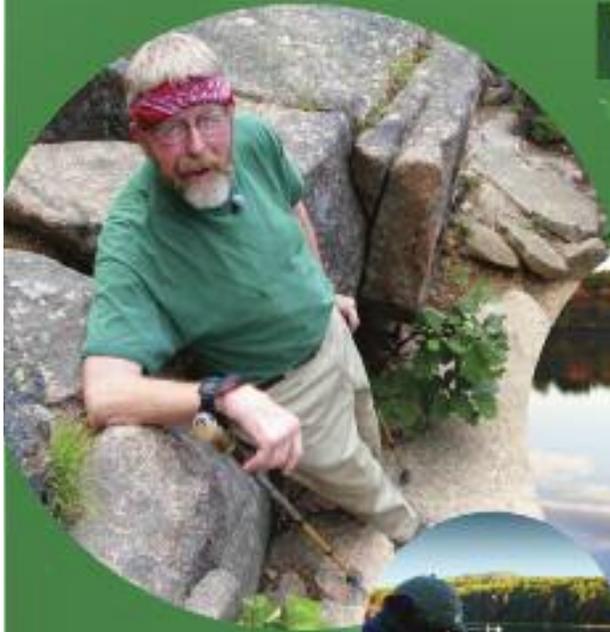


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Photo by Jerry and Marcy Monkman, EcoPhotography.



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Why We Oppose the Northern Pass

For 110 years the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests has advocated the wise use and protection of our natural resources. Early in our history, the Forest Society led a national campaign that ultimately resulted in the passage of the Weeks Act (a century ago this year) and the creation of the White Mountain National Forest. We helped create the state parks at Franconia Notch, Mount Monadnock, Mount Kearsarge, and Mount Sunapee, and we established the first conservation easement program in the state.

When the Northern Pass high voltage DC power line project was first presented, we listened to its proponents and carefully considered their arguments. We thoughtfully analyzed the pros and cons of the project as it is proposed. As an organization that has modeled the use of renewable energy systems at our headquarters in Concord and advocated energy conservation and sustainable energy policies, we are aware of the benefits of the use of renewable hydropower. We have supported policies to promote the use of New Hampshire's own renewable energy sources, especially those that use sustainable forestry to generate energy from biomass.

But we are not naïve enough to think that just because a power source is based in renewable energy that it doesn't have

drawbacks or downsides. There is no "perfect" source of energy. Every proposal must be evaluated on its merits, and the impacts taken seriously.

In the case of the current Northern Pass proposal, we find that the downsides far outweigh any potential positives. Our conclusions are these:

We must defend conservation lands.

This proposal for the largest-ever power line in New Hampshire would cross and have detrimental impacts on thousands of acres of protected conservation lands. Some of these are lands owned by the Forest Society and many are private lands on which the Forest Society holds permanent conservation easements. We have both an ethical and legal obligation to defend these lands, held in public trust, from unnecessary commercial development and degradation.

We must protect New Hampshire's scenic values.

The permanent protection of "places with special scenic beauty" has been part of our mission since 1901. Our work is partly responsible for the scenic landscapes that



Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests

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

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The existing transmission line crossing the Forest Society's Rocks Estate in Bethlehem is only 40 feet high. However, the towers proposed by Northern Pass could be more than double this height — between 90 and 135 feet. Photo by Nigel Manley.

attract millions of tourists to our state every year and make tourism our second-largest industry providing tens of thousands of jobs. The route chosen for the Northern Pass will degrade this foundation resource and compromise the quality of life we leave to future generations.

We must safeguard our forests.

The power line corridor and 90- to 135-foot-tall towers will permanently alter the lands they cross, fragmenting forests, disrupting wildlife habitat, and disfiguring communities.

We must promote a healthy forest products industry.

One important element of a healthy industry is a market for the low-grade wood that comes from forest improvement harvests. Biomass energy has provided that market as the paper industry has declined. Importing huge amounts of power from Quebec will jeopardize local renewable wood energy markets, reducing the incentives for us to develop home-grown renewable energy projects and threaten valuable jobs in the forest products industry.

We must fight for the New Hampshire advantage.

There is no clear long-term public benefit to New Hampshire from the Northern Pass project. As of today the power will be exported to southern New England. No existing fossil fuel plant is slated for elimination as the result of Northern Pass, so our air quality will not significantly improve. We will host a 180-mile scar on the landscape and reap few real benefits.

We understand that some of our friends may disagree with us. There are those who believe that for the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, we must pursue every opportunity to produce power from renewable resources. Some would suggest that advancing that goal is justification enough to turn a deaf ear to the legitimate questions surrounding the environmental impacts of electricity generated by Hydro-Québec.

We disagree. New Hampshire's landowners and the industries that rely on our landscape should not be forced to accept the permanent negative impacts of this proposed high voltage power line simply because the electrons in it come from a renewable energy source.

It has become evident in the last few months that few people in New Hampshire support this proposal. At Town Meeting, at the seven Department of Energy hearings regarding the Environmental Impact Study, and through the responses from our own mailing to landowners, people have opposed the project overwhelmingly. Even so, there is no vote.

In late March, we called on Northeast Utilities, PSNH, NStar, and Hydro-Quebec to withdraw the current Northern Pass proposal and go back to the drawing board. There may be reason and a way to bring hydro-power from Canada to the New England market, but planting more than 1,000 towers across the New Hampshire landscape is not a reasonable alternative.

Assuming that the energy companies are not ready to listen, we will continue pushing for alternatives. Our energy future deserves innovation. Our landscape needs better thinking.

Jane Difley
President/Forester

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



Attention to the impact of harvesting on recreational trails can enhance the public's recreational experience and create a positive impression of forest management.
Illustration by Ingeborg V. Seaboyer, reprinted with permission from *Good Forestry in the Granite State*.

Better Forestry for Better Forests

Updated guidelines for Good Forestry in the Granite State aim to improve management of forestlands

By Roger Amsden

Woodlot owners, conservation advocates, foresters, educators, and others will want to read the newly updated version of *Good Forestry in the Granite State*, now available online and in print. The result of a two-and-a-half year process, these voluntary forest management guidelines represent a broad cross-section of perspectives held by individuals with a stake in New Hampshire's woodlands and their sustainable management.

"It was a huge undertaking, and the way it was done reflects a uniquely New Hampshire approach," says Will Abbott, vice president for policy and land management of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, who served as vice chairman of the steering committee that managed the update process. "The beauty of this publication is that it's meant to be useful for a wide variety of people, and it's written in a non-technical way so you don't have to be a forest professional to be able to get the kind of information you want."

A Resource for Private Land Owners

The new edition includes many topics that the average woodlot owner will be interested in, says Karen Bennett, UNH Extension Forester and editor of the book, who was project manager for the update.

Bennett says that some topics featured in earlier editions of the book were expanded, notably those related to silviculture (the art and science of growing trees), vernal pools, and riparian forests (forests along rivers). Knowledge of wildlife movements and habitats gained from the NH Fish and Game Department's Wildlife Action Plan was incorporated into the wildlife-related chapters.

The publication also includes new topics, such as setting forest management objectives, estate planning and land protection, staying safe in the woods, choosing the right timber harvesting system, stream crossings, invasive plants, wildlife species of greatest conservation need, steep slopes, forest products, maple sugaring, and ecosystem services markets.



Well-planned and executed timber harvests can minimize erosion, contribute to nutrient recycling, and encourage regeneration.
Illustration by Ingeborg V. Seaboyer, reprinted with permission from *Good Forestry in the Granite State*.

Bennett says that the revised book will become a standard reference used in Cooperative Extension workshops and is also expected to be used by forestry professionals and landowners.

“Consulting foresters will use the information as they write their management prescriptions,” said Bennett. “The chapters that discuss landowner goals and objectives and woodlot conditions can be used to help landowners manage their woodlots in ways that are both profitable and sustainable.”

“*Good Forestry* helps private landowners take care of their land,” says Brad Simpkins, state forester and director of the NH Division of Forests and Lands. “New Hampshire is 84 percent forested, and most of that forest is in private ownership. We depend on these lands for clean air and water, scenic beauty, recreation, abundant wildlife, and a forest industry that’s important to the state’s economy.”

He says that the continued success of voluntary forest management practices requires that *Good Forestry* be periodically updated to account for advances in knowledge within the natural sciences, for changes in forestry markets and professional forestry practices, for changes in natural communities, and for changes in state statutes and administrative rules, such as those recently adopted by the NH Legislature and the NH Department of Environmental Services for wetland and shore land conservation.

Simpkins says that the first version of the publication has been a useful tool, written in understandable laymen’s language and widely used, and he expects the same will hold true for the new version.

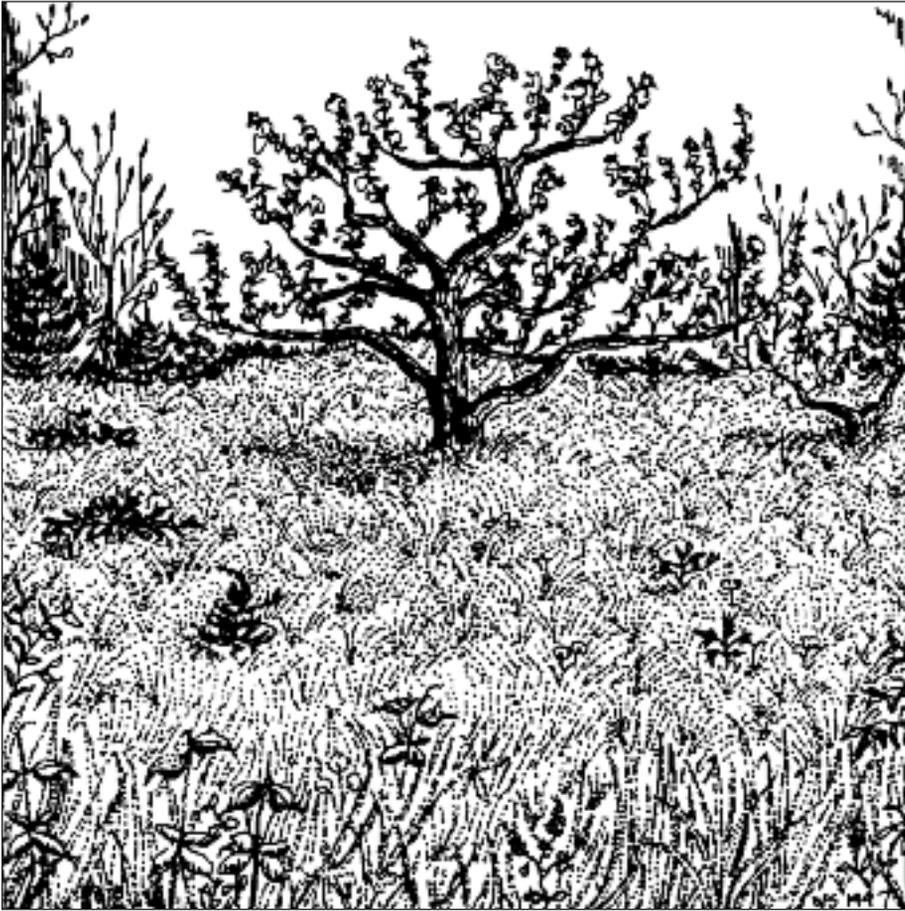
Flexible Guidelines for Working Forests

Phil Bryce, who was New Hampshire’s state forester for 11 years and is now president of Fountains America, a forest management, brokerage and GIS services firm, served as chairman of the 24-member steering committee.

Bryce emphasized that the new publication focused upon recommending voluntary, rather than regulatory, land management practices designed to address a variety of landowner goals and land characteristics. “There gets to be a point where the impact of regulation makes owning and managing forestland uneconomical,” he said. “Then what happens? Loss of mills, jobs, renewable energy, public access, all the things we don’t want to see happen.”

“A forest ecosystem is very complex,” he said. “Combine that complexity with the variation in site characteristics, varying objectives of ownership, and the broad range of demands from our society. *Good Forestry* nicely addresses this variation, complexity, and expectations by being voluntary and providing for an educated assessment to determine what is best for each situation.”

Abbott says that unlike other states, which have statewide



*Maintaining permanent openings dominated by grasses, brambles, and shrubs provides valuable habitat for many wildlife species. Illustration by Ingeborg V. Seaboyer, reprinted with permission from *Good Forestry in the Granite State*.*

forest practices acts, New Hampshire hasn't opted for a one-size fits all set of prescriptions, but instead has worked to develop guidelines that reflect the on-the-ground complexity of good forestry management for a variety of uses by individual landowners, conservation groups, and state and locally-owned forests.

"There's isn't one prescribed objective," Abbott says. "We chose to build on the sort of symbiotic relationship between those who work in the woods and have a stake in good forestry to come up with something that works in most cases, but doesn't dictate what should be done."

He says that the Forest Society will use the document as a reference point in managing its conservation easements and reservations.

Jasen Stock, executive director of the New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association, says that forestry consultants who work with landowners to develop forest management plans and loggers will have a keen interest in the newly revised document. The revised version contains good voluntary guidelines for forestry management that can be adapted for an individual landowners' unique situation.

"Not everything that's in the document is applicable to every situation. It depends on what the landowners' goals are. It's a great educational piece for landowners that guides them to the best management practices for what they want to do."

He says the new document will be used in the New Hampshire Professional Loggers Program, a voluntary certification process

that teaches safe operating skills and industry professionalism and is run by the New Hampshire Timber Harvesting Council.

"They'll use it in the classes. The logging program is an important part of what we do to promote good forestry and help direct landowners to qualified professionals," says Stock.

Eric Johnson of Andover, who is both a logger and an instructor for the logger certification program, says that the current document is used in his classes to help loggers understand the need for the recommended harvesting techniques.

"I don't drive around with a copy of it on the dashboard of my skidder, but I'm always keeping it in mind when I'm working in the woods," says Johnson. "There's some great stuff in there."

He says that he'll be guided by the newly revised version in his work as well using it as a teaching tool.

Maintaining and Enhancing Natural Forest Resources

Don Kent of the NH Division of Forest and Lands Natural Heritage Bureau says that there's a lot more to the update than timber harvesting, noting that the publication also offers guidance for other forms of land management as well, such as maintaining trails, creating views, cutting firewood, tapping maple trees, growing and harvesting other forest products like mushrooms and herbs, bird watching, and creating or protecting specific types of wildlife habitat such as vernal pools.

"The updated version of *Good Forestry in the Granite State* does a terrific job addressing forest resources—the soil, air, water, plants, and animals that constitute 84 percent of New Hampshire's landscape," he says. "The document clearly communicates the benefits that derive from New Hampshire's forest resources, including



*Maintaining stands of dense, mature softwood provide wintering deer with shelter, while hardwood stands, mixed hardwood-softwood stands, wetlands and fields offer access to forage. "Deer Yard" illustration by Ingeborg V. Seaboyer, reprinted with permission from *Good Forestry in the Granite State*.*

direct benefits like forest products and recreation, as well as indirect benefits like improved water quality, groundwater recharge, and biologically diverse populations of plants and animals."

Mark Zankel of The Nature Conservancy, a member of the steering committee who brought the perspective of a forest ecologist to the update process, said that the revised publication reflects new science and information about the relationship between forest management to wildlife habitats, sensitive areas, and water resources. He and his colleagues at The Nature Conservancy plan to share the new section on conservation easements with the landowners they work with and with their easement monitoring staff.

Zankel was impressed with the public interest in the project and the input that the steering committee received throughout the process. The process involved a lot of people sitting down at the table and sharing their insights and concerns.

"The two rounds of public feedback were really beneficial and full of important insights," said Zankel. "The authors worked hard to incorporate and respond to the input."

Dan Cyr of Franconia, a consulting forester with Bay State Forestry Service, agreed. "It was a collaborative approach that builds on what really works in New Hampshire," he said. "It's a compromise."

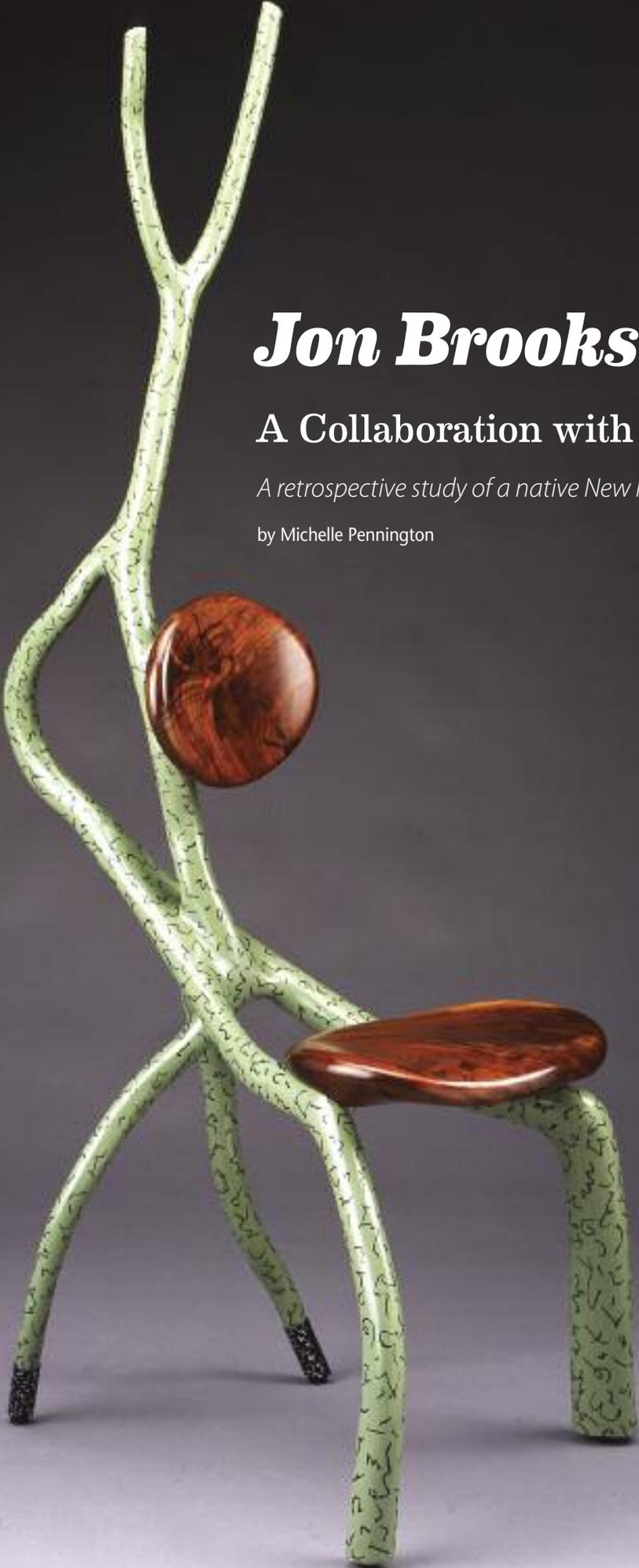
An outreach campaign with informational meetings on *Good Forestry* is in the works and will be rolled out later this year.

Good Forestry is a 225-page guide, in a three-ring binder format and each copy comes with a CD. Funded by a \$100,000 grant from Northeast Utilities Foundation, the project came about as the result of the perceived need to update *Good Forestry in the Granite State: Recommended Voluntary Forest Management Practices in New Hampshire* in light of new knowledge gained from using the first version of *Good Forestry*, which was published in 1997 by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests as part of a joint effort with the NH Department of Resources and Economic Development's Division of Forests and Lands.

The Northeast Utilities Foundation grant for the update project covered administrative costs of the process, including public meetings, services of the UNH Cooperative Extension staff and publication and printing costs.

An on-line version is available for free at www.goodforestry.org. A copy of the book can be ordered on-line at that website. Directions for ordering through the mail are there as well, or people can call 800-444-8978 to obtain a copy. ♪

Roger Amsden is a freelance writer who lives in Gilford. He was awarded the Fred Beane Award at the New Hampshire Farm and Forest Expo in 2008 for his four decades of writing on New Hampshire farm and forestry issues.

A chair made of green-painted branches with a wooden seat and backrest. The chair is constructed from several thick, light green-painted branches that are intricately woven together to form the frame. The backrest is a smooth, circular wooden disc, and the seat is a flat, oval-shaped wooden piece. The legs are also made of green-painted branches, some of which are painted black at the bottom. The chair is set against a dark grey background.

Jon Brooks:

A Collaboration with Nature

A retrospective study of a native New Hampshire artist

by Michelle Pennington



A leading member of the American studio furniture movement, Jon Brooks is one of the early members of the New Hampshire Furniture Masters Association.

His work is inspired by nature and constructed from the trunks, limbs, and branches of trees that he harvests from the forest surrounding his New Boston, NH home. His furniture has been showcased in major museum collections throughout the country, including the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington DC, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Museum of Art and Design in New York.

Brooks has also become an influential force in training the next generation of studio furniture craftsmen through teaching appointments he has held at the Haystack Mountain School of Crafts in Maine, Penland School of Crafts in North Carolina, University of Tasmania, Alfred University in New York, Rhode Island School of Design, and New Zealand's L'Etacq College.

In February 2010, a fire destroyed Brooks' New Hampshire studio and consumed the collection of specialized tools assembled over his career, along with carefully selected wood and other materials. Several important works were also destroyed in the fire. Through the generosity of friends, neighbors, and the wood-working community, Brooks has been able to rebuild his studio and return to making furniture. Since the devastating fire, he has created new sculptures and furniture, some of which were unveiled for the first time in the new A Collaboration with Nature exhibit at the Currier Museum of Art.

A Portrait of the Artist

Brooks has been a leading member of the studio furniture movement for the past forty years. Growing up in Manchester, as a young artist he was inspired by the wood sculpture of Constantin Brancusi and Henry Moore and the furniture of his mentor Wendell Castle, with whom he studied for both BFA and MFA degrees at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). Brooks was, in fact, Castle's first apprentice at RIT in the mid-1960s.



Facing page: Abija Crossing the Piscataquog Dressing Chair, 2001, highly figured walnut, maple, enamel and color pencil, 60 x 20 x 28 inches. Lent by Sylvia and Robert Larsen.

Top: True Loves Blue bench, 2000, curly maple, acrylic, color pencil, lacquer, oil and varnish, 50 x 50 x 60 inches. Currier Museum of Art, Manchester, NH.

Bottom: Jon Brooks working in his studio. Photo copyright Mark Corliss, courtesy of New Hampshire Magazine.

Brooks' early furniture was carved directly from large sections of trees and is characterized by an organic naturalism in which the trunk or roots are clearly identifiable within the form of the piece. This expressive work led to early national recognition of Brooks as an innovative member of a new generation of furniture craftsmen who emphasized sculptural form over function.

By the early 1980s, he began to expand his aesthetic by probing and blurring the boundary between function and art. He assembled sculptural furniture that incorporated contorted tree limbs selected from the local forest. His whimsical, often attenuated, and frequently humorous non-traditional forms regularly include direct references to the figure and are decorated with brightly colored, very refined stains and delicate, calligraphic markings that mask the natural materials underneath. The seemingly casual combination of forms is underpinned by superior craftsmanship and complex joinery.

Rooted in Nature

Brooks has always had a real connection to New Hampshire's forests. As a child in Manchester, he used to wander the trails through Livingston Park. When he was five, his parents bought the New Boston property where Brooks lives and works today.

Land conservation has always been an important family ethic; Brooks' parents were the first in town to place a conservation easement on the lands they assembled, and his mother chaired the New Boston Conservation Commission. More recently, Jon and his wife Jami placed an easement on their 35-acre property. With more than 180 acres of protected land today, the Brooks holdings now comprise the largest conservation area in New Boston.

As a member of the town forestry committee for 12 years, Brooks created the three-mile-long New Boston Trail in the New Boston Town Forest. He also does volunteer work for the Piscataquog Land Conservancy as a conservation property monitor.

"As a child, I always had the longing and desire to spend time in the forest," Brooks said. "I felt nurtured by the community of trees."

Today, Brooks is in the forest all the time, walking and looking for his next inspiration. His wood furniture and sculpture have a whimsical quality that is enhanced by the wood's natural form and the use of richly colored stains and paints.

The New Exhibit

The Currier Museum of Art has organized the exhibition Jon Brooks: A Collaboration with Nature, running from March 19 through June 12, 2011. Although Brooks is a leading and influential member of the American studio furniture movement, this will be only the first historical survey and major published documentation of his furniture and sculpture.

A Collaboration with Nature includes more than 30 of Brooks' key pieces from the late 1960s to the present, borrowed from both private and public collections. One of those pieces, Oh Elm, is on loan from the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. Brooks had donated Oh Elm to the newly-constructed Forest Society headquarters in 1980, and as a result, Paul Bofinger, Forest Society President at the time, awarded him a life-time membership in the organization.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a full color 64-page illustrated catalogue with an introduction by Brooks' mentor, furniture artist Wendell Castle.

The Currier Museum of Art is located at 150 Ash Street, Manchester, NH and is open every day except Tuesday. More information is available at www.currier.org or by calling 603-669-6144 ext. 108. ♧

Michelle Pennington is the Associate Educator of Adult and Family Programs and the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester, NH.



Left: Angel Dog Table, 2004, maple walnut, acrylic, color pencil, 34 x 58 x 45 inches. Lent by the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts. Photo © Bill Truslow

Right: Citron Altar, 2009, sugar maple, acrylic, stain, varnish and lacquer, 18 x 30 x 35 inches. Private Collection. Photo © Bill Truslow

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FEATURED FORESTER:

Ben Hudson

Hudson Forestry, Lyme, NH



Ben Hudson has been practicing forestry for 36 years. After working as a field forester managing timberland investments for institutional investors, he decided to go into private practice to work more closely with individual landowners. He has owned and operated Hudson Forestry since 1996, providing land management services to the private sector.

Hudson's earliest clients hired him to do site restoration and forest engineering

work. In time, he was able to carve out a niche for himself by offering a combination of forest management and planning and "woodscape design." By helping shape forests, forested wetlands, and meadows, Hudson worked to enhance the timber value, diversity of wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities available on a given site.

"Most of my clients are very conservation-minded with smaller acreage," he said. "They are interested in adding value to their woodlands through an integrated forest management process that protects and enhances the soils, water quality, and wildlife habitat."

Hudson considers his work an art form and focuses heavily upon the aesthetics of forest management and stewardship. "I try to blend aesthetics, recreational opportunity, and wildlife habitat into my designs," he said.

He frequently creates trails and woodland meadows to make it easier for property owners to get out into the woods and see the wildlife on their land.

"I encourage landowners to participate in the creative process, to get them actively involved in managing their land," he said. "When people learn about their land, they are more motivated to protect its conservation values."

Ben was recently certified by the USDA NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) as a Technical Service Provider who is qualified to develop Forest Management Activity Plans for landowners under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). These cost-sharing forest stewardship plans provide the landowner with an inventory of conservation resource objectives that can be addressed through NRCS programs.

Spring Events: May through June 2011

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

You may preregister by calling (603) 224-9945 extension 311, or you may register online at signup@forestsociety.org. Most programs are free unless otherwise noted.

www.forestsociety.org/thingstodo

THURSDAY, MAY 12 | 10 am – 3:30 pm

Lost River Workday

Lost River Reservation, North Woodstock

Join Forest Society staff and volunteers for a day of spring cleaning at Lost River Reservation. We'll be clearing trails, pruning native gardens, and performing other assorted tasks to help Lost River get ready for opening weekend. Lunch will be provided, and there will be an opportunity to walk through the gorge and caves in the afternoon.

Preregistration required; contact Carrie Deegan at cdeegan@forestsociety.org or 603-224-9945.

SUNDAY, MAY 15 | 9 am – noon

Woodman Forest Timber Harvest Tour

Woodman Forest, Boscawen, NH

Take a guided tour of an active timber harvest at the Forest Society's Woodman Forest. Meet Jack and Jake Bronnenberg from Bronnenberg Logging and Trucking and learn about forest management in relation to improving timber quality, wildlife habitat, and recreation; and get the latest news about logging practices, equipment, wood products, and the timber markets where products are shipped and sold.

Preregistration is required.

SATURDAY, MAY 28 | 10 am – 2 pm

Branch River Paddle

Branch Hill Farm, Milton Mills

Paddle the Branch and Salmon Falls Rivers and enjoy a picnic lunch at Branch Hill Farm, under conservation easement with the Forest Society. Dr. Jim Haney of UNH will teach participants about freshwater biology. Bring your own canoe or kayak; food and boat transport provided.

Cost: \$10/person. Preregistration required; contact Moose Mountains Regional Greenways at info@mrmrg.info or 603-817-8260.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4 | 10 am – 4 pm

Hedgehog Ridge Trail Traverse

Hedgehog Mountain Forest, Deering, NH

Explore Hedgehog Mountain with the Forest Society and Deering Conservation Commission. This large forested area surrounds a prominent granite ridgeline with the northernmost point known as Hedgehog Mountain. The Forest Society and the Deering Conservation Commission have worked hard to protect this ecologically rich area, and these efforts have resulted in thousands of acres of conserved land. Join us on this strenuous hike to sheer granite cliffs and spectacular views of the Contoocook River Valley and western highlands. Some bushwhacking may be involved.

Preregistration required.

SATURDAY, JUNE 25 | 9 am – noon

Reney Memorial Forest Timber Harvest Tour

Donas J. & Margaret Reney Memorial Forest, Grantham, NH

Join the Forest Society on a tour of an active timber harvest at the Donas J. & Margaret Reney Memorial Forest. You'll meet logging contractors and Consulting Forester Jeremy Turner from Meadowsend Timberlands and learn about sustainable forest management strategies. You'll also discover the relationships between timber quality, wildlife habitat, and recreation, as well as the impacts of buying and selling wood products locally.

Preregistration is required.



Join Forest Society staff and volunteers this July to help restore hiking trails on Mount Monadnock. Photo by Carrie Deegan.

JULY 9-13

Monadnock Trails Week

Jaffrey, NH

Join conservation professionals and other volunteers from the Forest Society and NH State Parks in restoring hiking trails on New Hampshire's Mount Monadnock. Come for one day or several, alone or with friends. No prior experience is necessary. We will be restoring trails, building waterbars, and constructing footbridges.

For details or to participate, contact Carrie Deegan at cdeegan@forestsociety.org or 603-224-9945.

ART EXHIBITS



"Beyond the Fence" by Linda Graham, part of the Reclamation exhibit.

THROUGH MAY 30

"Reclamation"

Conservation Center, Concord

The work of two New Hampshire artists—Linda Graham and Emily Hague—will be showcased in this exhibit. A resident of Concord, Linda Graham enjoys painting outdoors using a palette knife and oils to create images based on what she sees around her. Most of these paintings, done *en plein air*, are quick studies in problem-solving.

For Emily Hague, photography documents a moment in time filtered through the perspective of the photographer, the camera, and the tools they share. She seeks patterns and forms, lights and darks that catch the eye beyond its initial interpretation. She lives in Keene and works in the field of land conservation.

THROUGH JUNE 12

Jon Brooks: A Collaboration with Nature

Currier Museum of Art, Manchester

A native of New Hampshire, Jon Brooks has been a leading member of the studio furniture movement for the last forty years. His early furniture and sculptures were carved directly from large sections of trees and are characterized by an organic naturalism in which the trunk or roots are clearly identifiable within the form of the piece. The exhibition will include about 35 of Brooks' key pieces from the late 1960s to the present borrowed from private and public collections, including the Forest Society's "Oh Elm" sculpture.

See our feature story about Jon Brooks on page 8 of this issue.

AT THE ROCKS ESTATE

For more information or to register, contact The Rocks Estate in Bethlehem at www.therocks.org or 603-444-6228.



Left: Look for wildflowers like this Eastern Columbine at The Rocks Estate's Wildflower Festival. Photo by Frank Grima.

SUNDAY, JUNE 12 | 10 am – 4 pm

Wildflower Day

This is a chance to explore the historic mile trail, enjoy a wild edible lunch, and learn how to make arrangements using wild flowers with E.H. Floral Studio from Littleton, NH.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4 | 10 am – 4 pm

Wildflower Festival

Wildflower enthusiasts are invited to kick off the annual Fields of Lupine Festival at The Rocks Estate. The day will mark the 31st Annual Wildflower Festival with a full slate of activities that includes photography, crafts, and floral identification to use as a food.

Cost: \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Reservations are strongly advised.

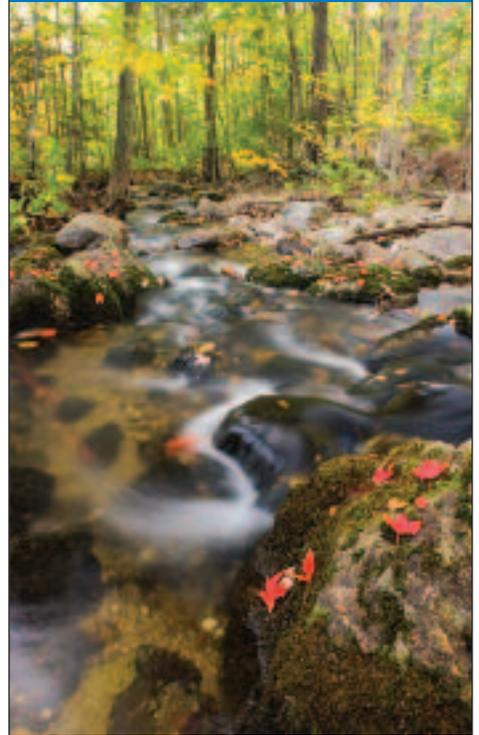
SUNDAY, JUNE 19 | 10 am – 4 pm

Father's Day at The Rocks Estate

Father's Day events include a fishing lesson with Dave Duplessis and opportunities for children to make floral presents and ice cream sandwiches for Dad.

The \$10 fee includes burgers and hot dogs for lunch.

The Assets to Acres Program



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

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

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

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

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

To find out how you could convert your "asset" into conserved "acres," call Susanne Kibler Hacker or Paul Doscher at (603)224-9945 or visit www.forestsociety.org/A2A.



The view of Black Mountain, now owned by the Forest Society from nearby Musterfield Farm in Sutton, under conservation easement with the Forest Society. Photo by Jerry and Marcy Monkman, EcoPhotography.

Black Mountain Success Story!

Forest Society unites with local community to protect regional icon

Black Mountain, along with its protected neighbor Mount Kearsarge, is a well-known landmark in Central New Hampshire. Together, they form a picturesque backdrop visible from the surrounding communities and from Interstate 89. The two peaks have helped define the region since the first Europeans wrote about the area in 1652.

Unlike the state-owned Mount Kearsarge, much of Black Mountain was—until recently—vulnerable. Less than two years ago, this 1,025-acre property in Sutton and Warner was advertised as a promising site for a residential subdivision.

But now the lower slopes of Black Mountain will remain unspoiled, thanks to hundreds of individuals, business owners, organizations, and others who rallied with the Forest Society last fall to conserve it.

Because of this enthusiastic outpouring of support, the Forest Society was able to raise the \$1.2 million needed to acquire the Black Mountain property.

“We are so grateful to everyone who has helped us to protect this important piece of the Mount Kearsarge landscape,” said Forest Society President/Forester Jane Difley. “The support that we received from the Sutton and New London conservation

commissions, the Ausbon-Sargent Land Preservation Trust, the Sunapee-Ragged-Kearsarge Greenway Coalition, and the local snowmobile community has been key to this project’s success.”

Black Mountain is part of one of the largest and most ecologically important forest blocks in New Hampshire south of the White Mountains. The land is diverse, with several different forest communities, rock outcroppings, mountain streams, open wetlands, grassy beaver meadows, forested seeps, and vernal pools. Signs of bear, bobcat, moose, deer, turkey, fox, mink, fisher, and other species have been found on the land.



Above: The early successional forest found in many places on Black Mountain provides food and shelter for deer, ruffed grouse, and the small mammals that are food for coyotes and raptors. Photo by Jerry and Marcy Monkman, EcoPhotography.



Top, right: The conserved land contains over a mile of the Lincoln Trail, a well-used hiking trail to the summit of Mt. Kearsarge and key linkage in the larger Sunapee-Ragged-Kearsarge Greenway. Photo by Jerry and Marcy Monkman, EcoPhotography.



Bottom, right: Baker's Ledge offers dramatic views from Black Mountain of Dresser and Meeting House Hill to the southwest. Photo by Danny Richardson.

The mountain's streams and cascades feed the Blackwater and Warner Rivers, both headwaters of the Merrimack River.

The conservation of this large tract adds to the protected landscape around Mount Kearsarge State Park, a popular hiking destination. The land contains over a mile of the Lincoln Trail, a well-used hiking trail to the summit of Mt. Kearsarge and key linkage in the larger Sunapee-Ragged-Kearsarge Greenway. A section of a state snowmobile trail also crosses the property, leading into the larger Kearsarge trail network. The Forest

Society plans to manage the Black Mountain property as one of its reservations to ensure that it remains open to the public for hiking, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, and other recreational pursuits.

This land has been a conservation priority for not only the Forest Society, but also the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and the Quabbin-to-Cardigan (Q2C) Partnership. The Q2C partnership contributed \$50,000 toward the project, as did the Town of Sutton, in which most of Black Mountain is located.

Additionally, the NH Land and Community Heritage Investment Program and the NH Fish and Game Department each contributed \$150,000 for Black Mountain. The project was also supported by funds from the sale of the Conservation License Plate (Moose Plate) through the NH State Conservation Committee grant program.

Earlier this year, the Forest Society received almost \$300,000 for the project from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, as well as close to \$500,000 from nearly 500 private donors. ♪

Organic Farm Protected

By Brian Hotz

The Forest Society, along with its project partners the Towns of Warner and Sutton, have conserved the 413-acre Kearsarge-Gore Farm. Located only a short distance from the recently protected Black Mountain project, the conservation of this farm brings the total new conserved land on Mount Kearsarge to almost 1,500 acres.

This is the second largest working farm in Warner, employing three full-time staff and several summer interns. The certified organic farm has been in existence for 28 years under the management of Bob Bower and Jennifer Ohler. Their son Sam recently graduated from the Thompson School at the University of New Hampshire, where he specialized in farming and forestry courses with plans to manage the farm in the future.

While much of the property is forested, the land has approximately 35 acres of open fields and pasture lands. The farm supplies vegetables wholesale to several local Community Supported Agricultural (CSA) operations, including a large CSA in Concord. It also markets produce and other farm products directly to the public at the Warner and Manchester farmer's markets.

The property is also a registered Tree Farm, from which the owners sell approximately 50 to 70 cords of firewood each year.

According to the NH Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Action Plan, this land has high wildlife habitat value. Located within a focus area of the Quabbin-to-Cardigan partnership, this property has been a priority of that organization. The land's conservation also protects sections of two tributary streams to the Warner River that overlay the stratified drift aquifer that is the main source of drinking water for the village of Warner.

Like the Black Mountain project, the Kearsarge-Gore Farm benefited from several different funding sources including the following:

- \$138,500—Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP)



Top: This working farm grows and supplies vegetables to several local Community Supported Agricultural (CSA) operations and markets its produce directly to the public at the Warner and Manchester farmer's markets. Photo by Brian Hotz.

Bottom: This farm includes 35 acres of open fields and pasture lands. Photo by Brian Hotz.

\$41,100—Quabbin-to-Cardigan (USNRC) grant program
 \$38,500—Town of Sutton
 \$70,000—Town of Warner
 \$15,000—A private foundation
 Of the 413 acres conserved, 321 acres are located in Warner and 92 acres in Sutton.

As the easement holder, the Forest Society will be responsible for monitoring and enforcing the terms of the easement. The State of New Hampshire, acting through the LCHIP program, and the Towns of Warner and Sutton hold Executory (back up) interests. ♯

Historic Nashua Farm Conserved

By Ryan Young

A number of years ago, the City of Nashua identified the historic Terrell Farm as one of the community's top priorities for conservation. Last year, the city purchased the 87-acre farm using money from its conservation fund, a dedicated source created from land-use change fees paid when open space is developed.

The land has been in the Terrell family for seven generations, since 1777. The most recent owners, Albert and his brother John, took over the farm in 1938 at ages 15 and 17 after their father suffered a stroke and passed away in the milking barn. The brothers continued the family's farming heritage together until 1967.

Rita Terrell, the wife of the late John Terrell, sold approximately 41 acres of the historic farm to the City for open space. Albert Terrell sold an additional 46-acres to the city in honor of several family members who cherished life on the farm: his late wife Fernande, his parents John and Mary Terrell, and his brother John, and his former sister-in-law Dorothy.

Though they may be small on their own, these tracts add to a growing block of protected land in the southwest quadrant of Nashua, including Lovewell's Pond, on which the Forest Society holds a conserva-

tion easement, the 231-acre Yukicky Farm, and a 700+ acre block of land protected by the Dunstable (Mass.) Rural Land Trust. The Terrell Farm's network of trails link to these other conservation lands. Visitors who explore the farm will find a mix of wetlands and uplands, including old-growth oak and pine forest, fields, and vernal pools. The terms of the Terrell Farm conservation easement guarantee that the land will remain open for pedestrian public access.

As the new owner of the farm, the city will be responsible for creating trails and managing the forest. As the easement holder, the Forest Society will be responsible for ensuring the city upholds the terms of the easement.

While the Forest Society led the legal and technical conservation efforts, the Nashua planning staff and conservation commission members provided funding, conducted research, and set protection priorities.

"The Nashua Conservation Commission, acting on behalf of the city, has demonstrated how a community can protect important natural resources while also preserving their heritage," said Forest Society President/Forester Jane Difley. "We are honored to join the city in this historic and significant effort." ♪



Albert Terrell (left) with Chris Sullivan, Nashua City Planner. Photo by Ryan Young.

Wilkins-Campbell Forest Grows

By Brian Hotz

The Tyrrell Foundation has made a generous gift of eight acres of land to the Forest Society as an addition to the Society's Wilkins-Campbell Forest in Deering. The previous landowner approached the Tyrrell Foundation directly with an offer to sell the land. The Tyrrell Foundation acted quickly to buy the land with the intent to later convey it to the Forest Society.

The land is made up of five small contiguous undeveloped subdivision lots along Campbell Cove Road. The remaining

subdivision is developed with camps and summer homes along Deering Lake. The conserved land includes a small stream gorge that runs from the Forest Society's reservation into Deering Lake, as well as about 150 feet of frontage on the lake.

"These lots provide a way in to a portion of our reservation that has been difficult to access," said Forest Society President/Forester Jane Difley. "It's a great addition to an area of Deering, where the Forest Society currently owns over 1,500 acres of contiguous conserved land."

The land was a gift from the Tyrrell Foundation and the Russell Foundation provided a small grant to cover the project expenses. ♪

Subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter and stay up-to-date with what's happening at the Forest Society and in the New Hampshire conservation community.
www.forestsociety.org/news



More Bartow Family Land Conserved in Lancaster

By Mike Speltz

The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests recently accepted a conservation easement from Anna “Nan” Bartow and her two daughters, Laura and Jennifer, on 219 acres in Lancaster.

Nan’s land lies next to 218 acres that her sister Betsy Campen recently conserved. Their father Sam Bartow assembled the land over his lifetime. Nan and her sister inherited their love for the land from their parents, and Nan has clearly passed that same love along to her daughters.

“If there is such a thing as sibling rivalry, this family has turned it into a beautiful thing,” said Forest Society President/Forester Jane Difley.

The old apple trees growing along the top of the ridge testify to the agricultural history of this land. The bear “sign” below the apple trees is in turn a sign of the rich wildlife habitat that Nan’s land provides. Parallel to the ridge runs a series of wetlands that have been created by some very ambitious

beavers. These beavers have also created foot-wide “haul roads” along the lateral slopes for moving their construction material from forest to pond. These impressive wetlands have been ranked as *best in state* by the New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game’s Wildlife Action Plan.

Peeking through the maple, beech, and birch forest along the top of the ridge over the spruce/fir forest in the valley

below, one sees fleeting glimpses of the Kilkenny Range. While a three-story McMansion on this land would have provided spectacular views for the owners, Nan and her daughters were thinking more of the view *of* the land than *from* it.

A small part of this conservation easement extends the protection of the Otter Brook shoreline, also recognized by the New



The Kilkenny Range can be seen from the ridgeline of this land that was recently protected by the Bartow family.

Photo by Mike Speltz.

Hampshire Department of Fish and Game as *best in state* in terms of stream habitat condition. The brook flows into the Connecticut River a few miles downstream. Upstream, it runs through undeveloped land into its headwaters in the White Mountain National Forest, thus serving as a link to this larger unfragmented natural landscape. ♪



The Martin Meadow Pond watershed as viewed from nearby Weeks State Park. Photo by Ryan Young.

Lancaster Land Protected for Woodlot, Wildlife, and Watershed

By Ryan Young

Bill and Sheila McCarten have donated a conservation easement on the 117-acres surrounding their home in Lancaster. With 2,500 feet of frontage along Martin Meadow Pond Road, this is an incredibly scenic property that is also visible from nearby Weeks State Park. The McCarten’s land abuts a 483-acre parcel already under conservation easement with the Forest Society, adding to the protected landscape of unfragmented forest.

The McCartens are primarily interested in managing their land for wildlife habitat. They maintain openings in the forest, including an orchard for wildlife habitat, and also work with a professional forester to manage their woodlot. The property includes a mix of hardwood and softwood forest types, as well as several wetlands, hayfields, apple orchards, woods roads, and vernal pools, all of which combine to

create landscape diversity and provide a significant wildlife habitat resource. The property’s wetlands, vernal pools, and brook all drain into Martin Meadow Pond.

William and Sheila McCarten have been part-time residents of Lancaster for many years. Now, after building and a new home, they will become year-round residents. Bill McCarten currently sits on the Forest Society’s Finance Committee. ♪

Waterfront Land Protected in North Country

By Mike Speltz

On the last possible day of 2010, the Forest Society accepted a conservation easement from Dr. Christopher Glenney on two remarkable tracts of land in West Milan, where the rivers run north. As the easement holder, the Forest Society is obligated to ensure that the terms of the conservation easement are upheld in perpetuity, guarding against future development.

The northern tract straddles a pristine reach of the Upper Ammonoosuc River after it leaves the White Mountain National Forest and before it bends west to the Connecticut River. These 46 acres contain some of the best riverine habitat in the state, according to the NH Fish and Game Department's Wildlife Action Plan. The river's gravel bed, pools, and riffles look as inviting to anglers as they do to the trout. The river has left a fertile floodplain on the west bank, and several uncommon floodplain species have been observed near the property.

The 134-acre southern tract is less than two miles from the northern tract, but it has a much different character. Rather than protecting a wild, youthful river, it embraces the quiet waters of Nay Pond—a fact deeply appreciated by the loons that have been continually nesting there and by the mergansers that drop in on their way to and

from open water on the coast. The land contains excellent forest soils; this fact and good stewardship are obvious when one strolls the well-maintained woods roads. The land also fronts the floodplain of the North Branch of the Upper Ammonoosuc River shortly below its headwaters, thus protecting its water quality as it joins the Upper Ammonoosuc a few miles away.

“Not only is this project about water quality and aquatic habitats, but it is also about the commitment of its owner, Dr. Glenney, to conservation, to keeping land in its natural state for the values and benefits that it provides,” said Forest Society President/Forester Jane Difley.

Dr. Glenney is a hunter and an angler as well as a surgeon. But, before any of these, he is a conservationist. He patiently assembled these two tracts of land over a number of years, extending himself financially to do so. He then took steps to ensure that the fruits of his labor would remain undeveloped by conveying a conservation easement to the Forest Society at a steeply discounted bargain sale.



The quiet waters of Nay Pond will enjoy an extra measure of protection now that Dr. Glenney's land (to the left) has been conserved. Photo by Mike Speltz.

But even great land with a dedicated landowner is not enough in these days of fluctuating tax laws and zealous IRS scrutiny. This project only succeeded because five attorneys, four bank employees, three French hens, two surveyors, and one title researcher were willing to go the extra mile to prepare and record the seven legal documents required to put this easement in place by the end of 2010. If this sounds like the “Twelve Days of Christmas,” it's because there was a striking resemblance to the old Christmas song, as the vital pieces fell gradually into place during a time when everyone wanted to be with their families, but instead made this conservation project a priority. ♪



Donated Campton Easement Adds to 120,500-Acre Conservation Block

By Ryan Young

Steve Hamburg is well known for his leading work in climate science; in fact, he is a chief scientist for the Environmental Defense Fund. He also owns a small woodlot in Campton, an old sugar bush with mixed hardwoods and some spruce and fir. An avid conservationist, Steve wanted to donate an easement on his land to preclude further development and add to the large block of

conserved land nearby. Steve's 33-acre property shares a boundary with a 581-acre parcel already under easement with the Forest Society, which in turn abuts the 120,000-acre White Mountain National Forest.

This scenic property includes a forested stretch of frontage along Ellsworth Hill Road, as well as 1,600 feet of frontage along Great Brook. ♪

This scenic property includes 1,600 feet of frontage along Great Brook. Photo by Ryan Young.

Critical Piece in Great Bay Conservation Puzzle Put into Place

By Mike Speltz

On Friday afternoon, January 14th, you might have heard a loud “clink” coming from southeast New Hampshire—the sort of clink you hear when a stone mason drops the keystone into an arch. That “clink” was another piece of the Great Bay/Little Bay shoreline sliding into protected status. The Nature Conservancy, acting for the Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership, acquired a conservation easement on 33 acres in Dover at the mouth of the Bellamy River, where it enters Little Bay. The easement was immediately assigned to the Forest Society.

“We’re proud to partner with the Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership to conserve this critical section of the Great Bay shoreline,” said Forest Society President/Forester Jane Difley. “This area of the state has been widely recognized as an estuarine ecosystem of local, regional, and national importance.”

This property adds nearly 800 feet of protected shoreline, extending an unbroken string of protected Bellamy River shoreline properties that begins not far from downtown Dover. On the other side of this newly conserved land, only about 800 feet separates this conserved area from the Madbury town line and other lands under a conservation easement held by the Forest Society. From there the string of protected shoreline continues all the way to the Durham town line, with its cluster of conserved land around Wagon Hill Farm. In short, this conservation easement really is something of a “keystone” supporting the many other protected properties forming this “arch” along Little Bay.

Great Bay has been a focus of New Hampshire’s conservation planning and management since the 1940s. The Bellamy, along with four other rivers flowing into Great Bay, draws a tidal flush of salt water from the Atlantic Ocean nearly five miles east of the estuary itself. The mixing of fresh and salt water creates a rich aquatic habitat. The estuary’s healthy salt and brackish marshes, eelgrass beds, and mud flats provide feeding, breeding, and nursery



Sitting just a few feet above sea level, this unusual salt panne drains into Great Bay.
Photo by Dea Brickner-Wood.

grounds for finfish, oysters, shellfish, waterfowl, wading birds, and shorebirds.

If you have driven west on Route 4 across the Scammell Bridge separating Dover from Durham, you have seen this most recent addition to the conservation mosaic up ahead to your right as part of Great Bay’s undisturbed shoreline. (If you saw the property while driving east, you were not driving attentively.)

In addition to its importance to the estuary as a buffer, the property includes an unusual salt panne, a pond that sits a few feet above sea level but just a few steps from the bay. The pond’s clay bottom retains the water, acting as an impervious layer. Water very slowly seeps away through a small outlet, but the pond is replenished any time an unusually high tide brings water up over its banks. Then, whatever and whoever came in with the tide is pretty much stuck

there—think of it as a fast food dining establishment for shorebirds.

The easement has an elaborate system of zones to ensure that the management of the land continues to protect the bay. The property is managed to maintain a protective vegetated buffer of forest and scrubland along the shore.

The Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership is a group of organizations committed to protecting the important habitats of the Great Bay Region. Since 1994, the Partnership has conserved 1,787 acres within the watershed. The Partnership’s conservation efforts include science and research based decision making for land conservation actions, collaborative landscape scale stewardship and management, and providing recreation and education opportunities. For more information about Great Bay, visit www.greatbaypartnership.org. ♪

Allen Family Donates Easement in Marlow

Mark and Patricia Allen recently donated a conservation easement on 24 acres of land abutting the Forest Society's Ashuelot River Headwaters Forest. The couple, along with other members of their family, have summer camps on Sand Pond. They were the first to offer their easement gift to the Forest Society to be used as a match to grants for the Forest Society's recently conserved Ashuelot River Headwaters project.

The conserved land is located on an isthmus between Long and Sand Ponds abutting the Forest Society's Ashuelot River Headwaters Forest. This area between the two ponds

is dominated by a series of granite ridges running north to south, creating a rich landscape for wildlife. The land has a mixed forest of mature hardwoods including beech, ash and yellow birch and softwood including pine, spruce and fir. In between the granite ridges are numerous small bogs or wetlands. The property contains a stand of very large old spruce trees that have been sheltered from the wind between these granite ridges.

"While not a very large project, this land is unique and adds to the ever expanding conserved land in the area," said Forest Society President/Forester Jane Difley. ♪



Located on an isthmus between Long and Sand Ponds, the Allen family's recently conserved land offers outstanding habitat for wildlife. Photo by Brian Hotz.

Rasmussen Family Donates 533 Acres in Marlow and Washington

The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests received a gift of 533 acres of land in Marlow and Washington. The land is near the Forest Society's recently conserved Ashuelot River Headwaters Forest located just across the town line in Lempster.

"This region is a conservation priority for not only the Forest Society, but also the two-state Quabbin-to-Cardigan Initiative," said Forest Society President/Forester Jane Difley. "This generous gift helps form a critical conservation linkage between the 11,000-acre Andorra Forest, on which the Forest Society holds a conservation easement, and Pillsbury and Sunapee State Forests."

Neil Rasmussen and other members of his family have summer camps on Sand Pond, located just north of this parcel. He offered his land as a gift to the Forest Society to be used to match grants and to encourage his neighbors and others to support the conservation of the Ashuelot River Headwaters, which was protected earlier this year.

The eastern boundary of the Washington parcel includes more than 3,350 feet of shoreline on the Ashuelot River, with large beaver dams and ponds throughout. The wetlands, ponds, and streams make this land very attractive for wildlife, such as moose, beaver, deer, and bear, all of which



This land in Washington donated by the Rasmussen family includes more than 3,000 feet of shoreline on the Ashuelot River, with beaver dams that create large ponds like this one shown. Photo by Allan Krygeris.

have been noted on the land. Waterfowl, songbirds, woodpeckers, and neo-tropical migrating birds are also abundant, particularly at the pond and wetland complex in Washington.

"It is a wonderful gift of a very strategically located parcel of land," said Difley. "We are grateful to Neil Rasmussen and his family for choosing to share this land with the Forest Society." ♪

Forest Society Calls for Withdrawal of Northern Pass Proposal

Power companies should listen to the public, go back to the drawing board

By Jack Savage



Residents of Haverhill already know about living under, near, and in sight of high voltage power lines like this one, which runs from Canada to Massachusetts. Their up-close experience only cemented their opposition to one of Northern Pass's proposed alternate routes that would run additional DC power lines through Haverhill. Photo by Jack Savage.

Hampshire. In addition, we believe that public opinion is a pass-fail ingredient of determining the 'public interest' of a proposal like this," Difley said. "This should be especially true for a merchant project like Northern Pass, a private commercial development that is not based on market demand nor for system reliability.

"After the Dept. of Energy (DOE) hearings last week, it's clear to anyone willing to listen that the project as proposed is not wanted by an overwhelming majority," she said. "The respon-

sible thing to do is withdraw Northern Pass from the permitting process and go back to the drawing board."

Seven DOE hearings were held March 14-20 to get public input on the scope of an Environmental Impact Statement that would evaluate the environmental, economic, and social impact of 180 miles of power line corridor running from Hydro-Quebec in Canada through New Hampshire to deliver electricity to southern New England. The proposed project includes 140 miles of high voltage direct current (HVDC) from the Canadian border in Pittsburg, NH, to Franklin, NH, and from there 40 miles of AC corridor to a substation in Deerfield, NH.

"Planting more than 1,000 towers up to 135 feet high across the New Hampshire landscape is not a reasonable alternative," Difley said. "The Forest Society has a legal

and ethical obligation to defend conservation lands from this kind of commercial development, and a long history of protecting the New Hampshire landscape.

"Common sense suggests that the time and money required for Northern Pass to overcome the will of the people would be better spent building consensus around solutions to our energy needs that are compatible with New Hampshire values as articulated by the thousands who have spoken out in opposition to this proposal."

Speakers at the DOE hearings voiced their strong objections to the loss of property values, impact on local energy generation, environmental damage, potential health issues, and unfair use of eminent domain, among other detrimental effects of the project as proposed. In March, a bill meant to limit the potential use of eminent domain for transmission lines that are not needed for system reliability was passed by a 317 to 51 vote in the New Hampshire State House of Representatives.

At Town Meeting this month, 29 out of 29 communities voted to oppose Northern Pass, more than half voting unanimously. Legislative hearings on bills related to the proposal, including the controversial use of eminent domain, have drawn hundreds of people opposing Northern Pass. Earlier this week more than 2,600 letters asking Governor Lynch to oppose the project were delivered to his office. The Forest Society has also been collecting the names of thousands who don't wish the project to go forward as proposed. ♪

In the wake of overwhelming public opposition and few, if any, compelling arguments in favor of the Northern Pass power line project, the Forest Society called for the chief executive officers of the power companies involved to voluntarily withdraw the project from the Presidential Permit process.

"On behalf of the thousands who stand in firm opposition, we are respectfully asking the CEOs of Northeast Utilities, PSNH, NStar and Hydro-Quebec to voluntarily reconsider their Northern Pass proposal," said President/Forester Jane Difley.

The Forest Society sent letters directly to the CEOs in late March, asking them to listen to the will of the New Hampshire people.

"There are many flaws in the current Northern Pass proposal, starting with the lack of public benefit for the people of New

Difley Offers Input to DOE on Northern Pass

The Department of Energy (DOE) held seven meetings to gather public input on the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will analyze the impacts of the Northern Pass proposal. President/Forester Jane Difley offered these comments at the hearing held in Pembroke on March 14.

As the state's and oldest largest land trust, we have a legal and ethical obligation to protect and steward the lands we have helped to permanently protect from disruptive and damaging development. In the towns where Northern Pass is proposing to construct this new power line, the Forest Society holds conservation easements on 89 separate properties protecting 18,660 acres of land, and we own 18 forest reservations totaling 5,269 acres. Because of their scenic, ecological, natural resource, and recreational values to the public, these lands were conserved to protect them from future development, including that proposed by Northern Pass.

We also must defend the broad scenic landscapes we have spent 110 years protecting, including the White Mountain National Forest. In New Hampshire our landscapes are a very large part of our economy and our culture, so a new blight on the landscape is also a new injury to our well being.

But we also acknowledge that there are a host of questions about this proposal that are today unanswered. We hope your EIS will be broad in scope and geography in order to answer those questions.

Given the impact that the Northern Pass proposal would have on 180 miles of New Hampshire landscape, we feel strongly that there must be a determination of true public need and benefit for New Hampshire citizens. If you find there is no such clear public benefit, we urge you to deny the Presidential Permit.

We also urge you, in evaluating the ecological, economic, and social impacts of this proposal, to envision and rigorously analyze a broad range of alternatives, among them the "no action" alternative. As a nation we should adhere to the tenet



Busloads of people voiced their support for a bill meant to limit the potential use of eminent domain for transmission lines that are not needed for system reliability. Photo by Jack Savage.

of medicine and "First, do no harm".

The EIS should also carefully examine alternatives that may offer fewer negative impacts to the environment and economy. If this energy is truly for regional needs, please don't limit your examination of alternatives to New Hampshire's geography.

The public's interest also demands careful examination of alternatives using existing HVDC corridors—even if those corridors are controlled by corporate entities other than the applicant.

We also urge you to not limit your analysis to above-ground cables on 90- to 135-foot-high towers. Our state's economic, environmental, and energy future deserves creative new thinking beyond the current narrowly-conceived proposal.

We recommend that you:

- Require the creation of the best visual impact analysis that current technology can provide for every mile of every alternative. The public needs to be able to visualize the impacts of each alternative.

- Require a rigorous economic and environmental analysis for each alternative; looking not only at those purported economic benefits, but also look at the economic costs, including impacts on property values, on local economies, and on New Hampshire's brand as a place to live and visit. Only a thorough understanding of all costs and benefits can lead to a well informed decision.

- Collaborate closely with the State of New Hampshire. It is likely that your EIS will also be used to inform siting decisions made by New Hampshire's Site Evaluation Committee (SEC). We strongly recommend that you coordinate directly with the Chairman of the SEC as you scope the boundaries of this EIS and prepare the draft to assure that the information needs of federal and state decision-makers are served by your analysis.

We would like common sense and public benefit to prevail. Our request is that you accept the challenge and look at your work on this EIS as an opportunity to set a new standard for the public review of such a proposal. When you issue your record of decision for the Presidential Permit, make it the best informed record of decision that has ever been issued by the Department of Energy.

There has been a suggestion that the opposition to this project as proposed is simply a NIMBY, or "not in my backyard" reaction to visual blight and ecological harm. It is unfortunate that the proponents of Northern Pass do not consider 180 miles of New Hampshire part of their own backyard. We do. In fact, the Weeks Act was signed 100 years ago this month to establish the eastern National Forests—most notably the White Mountain National Forest—in large part because the nation recognized that our forested landscape was its backyard, and that protecting our timber, water, wildlife, and tourism resources was paramount. We believe this is more true today, not less.

Thank you for listening and for recognizing the critical role our landscape plays in our economy and our way of life. ♧

Trees Not Towers: No Northern Pass Blog

Interested in learning the latest developments in the fight against Northern Pass? Visit our website and Northern Pass blogspot at www.forestociety.org/np.

NORTHERN PASS PERMITTING PROCESS

Before the proposed Northern Pass power line can be built, several government agencies will need to make a series of decisions. Here is a summary of these decisions and how you can participate in the process. This public review process may take up to three years and would need favorable decisions for the project before Northern Pass LLC could begin construction.

FEDERAL DECISIONS**Presidential Permit**

The US Department of Energy (DOE) must grant a “Presidential Permit” for any electric transmission project that crosses an international boundary to assure that the proposed project serves the public interest. The Forest Society has filed as an “intervenor” to object to Northern Pass. (A copy of our filing can be viewed at www.forestsociety.org/np.)

Before issuing a Presidential Permit, the DOE must complete an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). As part of the EIS preparation process, the DOE hosted seven public scoping meetings this past March to solicit public input on the proposed Northern Pass project. More than 2,500 people attended these hearings, and hundreds voiced their concerns about the proposed project’s anticipated impacts. Less than 20 people expressed support for Northern Pass. The DOE will consider this input carefully as it determines what elements—alternatives, as well as environmental, economic, and social impacts, etc.—to include as part of the EIS. It is unclear to what extent the decision-making about the scope of the EIS will be transparent. Once the scope is determined, the impacts will be studied, and a draft EIS will be released (no earlier than spring of 2012). That draft will be subject to public comment before a decision on the Presidential Permit is made.

White Mountain National Forest**Special Use Permit**

Northern Pass proposes to construct transmission lines through 10 miles of the White Mountain National Forest (WMNF). To do so, it Northern Pass must first obtain a

“Special Use Permit” from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). A Special Use Permit assures that any proposed use of the WMNF is in the public interest and consistent with the uses for which the national forest was created.

The USDA will use the DOE’s Environmental Impact Statement as the basis of its decision to grant or withhold a Special Use Permit.

Once the draft EIS has been prepared, the State of New Hampshire will become involved in the permitting process.

STATE DECISIONS**Site Evaluation Committee**

The State of New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) has the final say on whether to issue a certificate of approval for the project as proposed, to issue a certificate of approval with conditions, or to deny the certificate. The SEC is made up of designated state agency leaders who review all energy project siting proposals, like Northern Pass. The SEC will review the draft EIS and consider the proposed project’s impact upon the welfare of the state’s population, economic growth, and environment, as well as the need for new energy facilities in New Hampshire.

Northern Pass plans to apply for its SEC certificate as soon as the US DOE publishes a draft EIS. Within 30 days of the application, the SEC will hold at least one public hearing in each county in which the proposed project would be located (in this case, Coos, Grafton, Merrimack, and Rockingham). The SEC must issue or deny the Certificate of Site and Facility permit within nine months of accepting the application.

Public Utilities Commission

The New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (PUC) reviews all long-term purchase power contracts between regulated New Hampshire utilities (like PSNH) and electricity generators (like Northern Pass). When Northern Pass seeks to contract with PSNH to provide any electricity to New Hampshire consumers, the PUC will hold public hearings as part of its review process. The PUC will review the contract application and approve or deny the request.

Northern Pass must also receive PUC approval before it can use eminent domain to acquire the land rights it will need to create transmission rights-of-way. Northern Pass has stated its intent to use eminent domain if it cannot obtain the land it seeks after negotiating with landowners.

Governor Lynch and the State Legislature

The New Hampshire legislature may be asked to address issues surrounding Northern Pass’s threatened use of eminent domain, as well as other issues that may influence how, whether, or where the proposed project advances. (Details about this legislation are available on the Forest Society’s website at www.forestsociety.org/np.) Anyone who is interested in the outcome of the Northern Pass proposal can and should make their opinions about the project known to Governor Lynch, their state representatives, state senator, and other elected officials. For contact information, visit www.gencourt.state.nh.us. A personal letter to the governor should be directed to: The Honorable John Lynch, Office of the Governor, State House, Concord, NH 03301.

For more information about Northern Pass, visit www.forestsociety.org/np.

Habitual Forestry Offenders to Pay the Price of Violations

By Will Abbott

Two years ago, three individuals with a record of violating New Hampshire forestry and wetland laws purchased 700 acres of land in Groton and liquidated the timber on the property, violating 13 state laws in the process. Some of the same individuals had previously been fined more than \$40,000 by the State for similar violations dating back to the year 2000.

This past March, Attorney General Michael A. Delaney and Commissioner Thomas S. Burack, of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) announced that the Grafton County and Merrimack County Superior Courts approved two settlement agreements between the State and Gary Bardsley, David Porter, Jr., and Linda Griffin, (“Defendants”), to resolve violations of the State’s wetlands laws and regulations. The violations occurred on land in Webster and in Groton. The Groton violations were on a 700-acre property immediately adjacent to the Forest Society’s 1,000-acre Cockermonth Forest.

The settlement imposes a \$100,000 penalty on the Defendants, half of which will be permanently suspended if they do not significantly violate State wetlands laws again within five years of the entry of the settlement agreement. Defendants Porter and Bardsley have also agreed to enroll in and complete coursework toward the NH Timberland Owners Association’s Professional Logger Certification Program.

In its lawsuit, the State described how the Defendants violated State wetlands laws and regulations by failing to follow Best Management Practices for Erosion Control at two logging sites in Webster (off Little Hill Road) and Groton (off Halls Brook Road). As a result, numerous wetlands and streams were filled with mud and sediment, and other wetlands and streams were damaged through the use of logging equipment on improperly designed crossings.

“Streams and wetlands play important roles in channeling, filtering, and absorbing runoff,” said Commissioner Burack. “Improper logging practices can alter natural

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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 call Susanne Kibler-Hacker at (603) 224-9945.

runoff conditions and degrade the quality of our state’s surface waters and wetlands.”

“Landowners, conservationists and forest products industry professionals alike should applaud this action by the Attorney General, the DES, and the Department of Resources and Economic Development,” said Forest Society President/Forester Jane Difley. “We don’t like to over-regulate ourselves in New Hampshire, but how we operate in the

woods matters. We shouldn’t put the best operators, who follow the rules, at a disadvantage by failing to enforce the law when others ignore it.”

Any landowner interested in understanding how to manage their forestland appropriately can start by taking a look at the newly updated version of *Good Forestry in the Granite State*, available online at www.goodforestry.org or by calling 800-444-8978. ♪

Barking Up the Wrong Tree

Enduring fascination with endearing, backyard “Quill Pigs.”

By Dave Anderson



In spring, porcupines seek the tender leaves of sweet maples and juicy sapwood beneath the bark of birch and poplar twigs. Photo by Danny Richardson.

I collect porcupine stories. It seems everyone who has lived in rural NH has got at least a few. The porcupine tale genre is predictable: disappearing garden or orchard produce, damage to structural lumber, repeated bouts of quills in noses of domestic dogs, and lastly, firearms. Often the tales follow nearly the same progression.

Porcupines have a diverse palette—from bark and lumber in winter to tender green shoots and leaves in spring and summer.

Porcupines return each day to climb a winter “station tree” to eat tree bark or conifer needles. Stunted, contorted “Bonsai” hemlocks in the forest are the result of repeated winter browsing by porcupines and often indicate a rocky den or coarse stonewall habitat nearby. The porcupines’ austere diet of bitter needles and hemlock bark is a diet of desperation to get through the long winter.

What many people don’t realize is that porcupines readily migrate to greener pastures in spring. An acquaintance lost several beds of early lettuce, peppers, and flats of impatiens. Summer was uneventful. But then in fall, she lost all her cucumbers, zucchinis, butternut squashes, and eggplants. She remained mystified until her backyard surveillance camera revealed a porcupine raiding her unfenced raised beds.

In May, porcupines seek the tender leaves of sweet maples and juicy sapwood beneath the bark of birch and poplar twigs. As more tender greens become available, porcupines migrate to fields, pastures, and even ornamental trees. I’ve found several juvenile “porcupette” grazing on dandelions and clover at dusk in our open pasture.

Porcupines are slow, shy, and prefer to avoid confrontation with people and dogs. When confronted at close range, they tuck their heads like an armadillo, turn tails, and bristle with quills—a large, rodent-family fortress bristling with defensive armament!

Porcupines are accessible to us. Compared to other wildlife, they are relatively abundant, conspicuous, slow-moving, and prone to habituate areas inhabited by people and pets. They're almost "cute" with an endearing, comical quality about their manner. It's easy to be ambivalent about them: You love them for their endearing traits while hating them for their damage to gardens, trees, structures, and pets.

I've battled porcupines eating a special pear tree. They feed by bending and breaking branches. The porcupine, perched on a branch high above, remained untroubled by my barking dog. Although I brandished a rifle in a flourish of intimidation, I just couldn't pull the trigger. The solution was to fence the tree by wrapping chicken wire around tall grade stakes placed in a twelve-inch radius around the trunk.

The salt block in our sheep pen proved irresistible. One morning, I found our large and agitated ram with his forehead bristling with quills. I still wonder how far he butted that startled quill pig! Never saw him again! ♪

Naturalist Dave Anderson is director of education and volunteer services for the Forest Society. He may be reached via e-mail at danderson@forestsociety.org.

MY BRIEF ROMANCE WITH A PORCUPINE

Story and photograph by Esther Cowles

I fell in love again around Valentine's Day. My husband of 20 years introduced me to my new heart-throb, having snapped his photo in the woods behind the manure pile. When this visitor returned two days later, I was smitten. By day three, it was a full-on crush. I couldn't keep my eyes off him. I spent one full day spying like a Peeping Tom from my kitchen window. I watched him eat, nap, go out on a limb. What I wanted most of all was to follow him home. I needed to know where this guy lived!

I named him Pokey. Not for the obvious reason of his quills, but for his waddling gait. He doesn't go anywhere fast. Yes, I was in love with a juvenile porcupine. I told friends and family.

By day five, his habits started to bother me. He spent his days nibbling away at the only hemlocks I really care about, the young trees that provide cover to the songbirds flitting to and from our feeders. Soon gaps emerged where dense branches once hung. I consulted a book and learned that porcupines return to the same tree consistently. My friends and family were as consistent in their advice to me: Shoot him.

"You don't want a porcupine around your house...your dogs...your cats...your horses," they said. "Do you have any idea the damage they can do? Or what your vet bill will be?"

Their arguments roused my senses like a Jim Croce song from childhood. I grew up in the North Country, raised in a community that had long ago espoused a utilitarian approach to nature. Of course you shoot porcupines that encroach on your home.

But shooting Pokey just didn't sit right with me.

Soon, I was suffering the mood swings of a hot romance gone bad. Every day, I yearned to see him, but I hated how he was damaging my trees. I wanted to get rid of him, but knew I would miss watching this rite of late winter. Who am I to play favorites, picking trees



Porcupines return each day to climb a winter "station tree" to eat tree bark or conifer needles. Stunted "Bonsai" hemlocks in the forest are the result of repeated winter browsing by porcupines.

and birds over a porcupine? My heart said leave him alone, let nature take its course.

This decision was made more difficult because it refuted the ways of my upbringing. I value that my conservation ethic is deeply rooted in my rural rearing. My fondness for Pokey compels me to see that my ethic is reshaped by my adult experiences, now spent in the fragmented forests of Hopkinton, where we humans share more closely the habitats of our wild friends. I will seek ways to coexist peacefully and maybe even enjoy a brief wild romance.



The proposed Northern Pass project would bisect the Forest Society's Washburn Family Forest in Clarksville. Photo by Jack Savage.

Help the Forest Society Fight Northern Pass

More than a century ago, the Forest Society fought to protect New Hampshire's forests from the devastation wrought by unsustainable logging practices. During the 1800s, private landowners in New Hampshire's North Country laid waste to entire landscapes, cutting and hauling millions of board feet of pulp and lumber out of the White Mountains with no thought to future resources or the damaging consequences of aggressive overcutting.

These abuses motivated the Forest Society to advocate for the passage of the Weeks Act, which led to the creation of the White Mountain National Forest.

Today, New Hampshire's forests face a new threat: Northern Pass.

This high-voltage electricity transmis-

sion project would involve the construction of 180 miles of giant steel towers from the Canadian border to Deerfield, just south of Manchester.

The Forest Society believes that this project as it's currently proposed will be as bad for New Hampshire, its people, its economy, and its forests as the unsustainable overlogging practices of the 19th century.

Northern Pass devalues forests and lands.

Our state's picturesque landscapes bring millions of visitors to New Hampshire every year and are a cornerstone of our tourism economy. At up to 135 feet, these obtrusive towers tower over the surrounding trees, dominating the landscape and permanently altering the ground over

PLEASE JOIN US

Make your check payable to Forest Society/Northern Pass. For more information about making a donation, please contact Susanne Kibler-Hacker at 603-224-9945, or email skh@forestsociety.org.

For details about the Northern Pass project, to view a map of the proposed corridor, or to receive regular updates about Northern Pass and opportunities to make your voice heard, please visit www.forestsociety.org/np.

which they crossed. The proposed transmission lines would have a severe impact on both New Hampshire's natural landscape and scenic views and would lower property values on which landowners and communities depend.

Northern Pass threatens already conserved lands.

Lands that have been permanently conserved—including the White Mountain National Forest—have been protected to prevent the very kind of degradation proposed by Northern Pass. We have a legal and ethical obligation to defend the public benefits of these lands from unnecessary commercial developments like Northern Pass.

Northern Pass threatens local renewable energy suppliers.

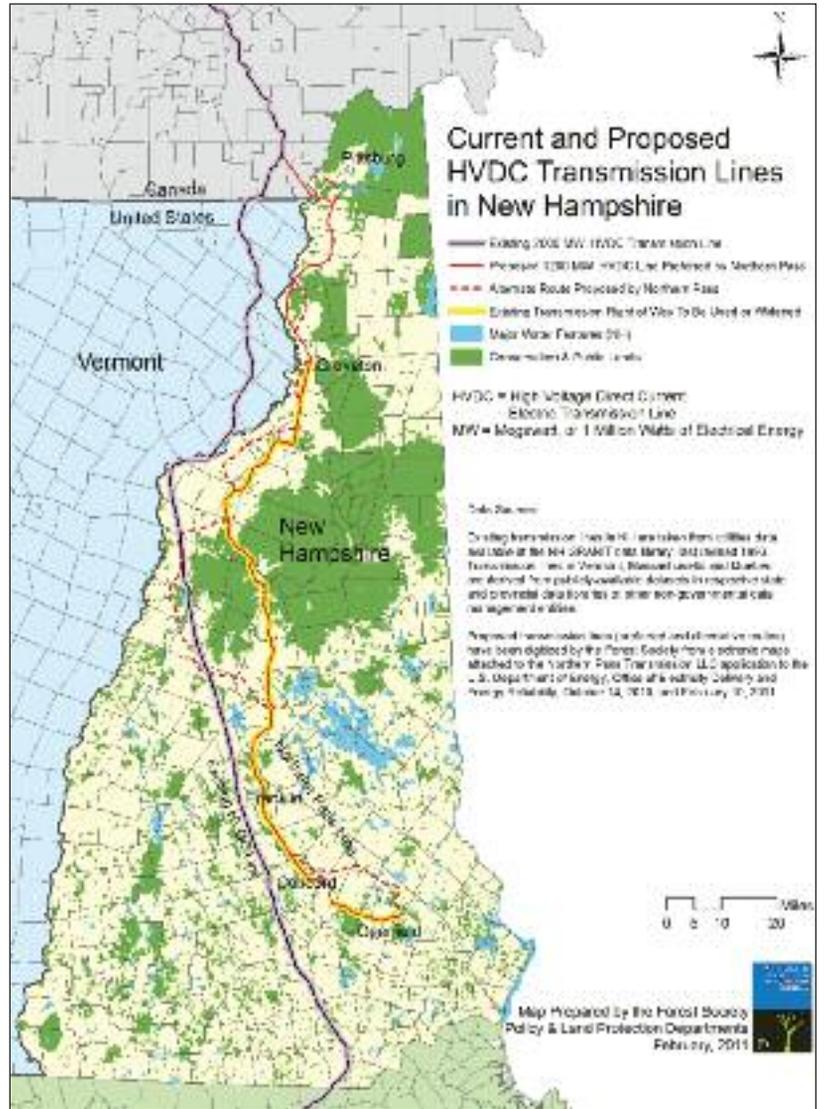
The Northern Pass proposal will jeopardize local markets for wood-energy and the jobs they support.

Northern Pass is bad for New Hampshire.

If you believe as we do that these towers would cost the state more jobs than they would provide, would lower property values, and would create an unnecessary and permanent scar on New Hampshire's landscape, please help us.

Please donate to the *Trees Not Towers* campaign. Your contribution will be used exclusively to fight the proposed Northern Pass.

We don't fight battles on this scale very often. But when the threat to our landscape, our economy, and our way of life is real, the Forest Society rises to defend them.



This map can be viewed on our website www.forestsociety.org/np

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*Please mail the completed form to: Fight Northern Pass, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests
 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301. Or donate online at www.forestsociety.org/np.*

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

Thank you for your help!





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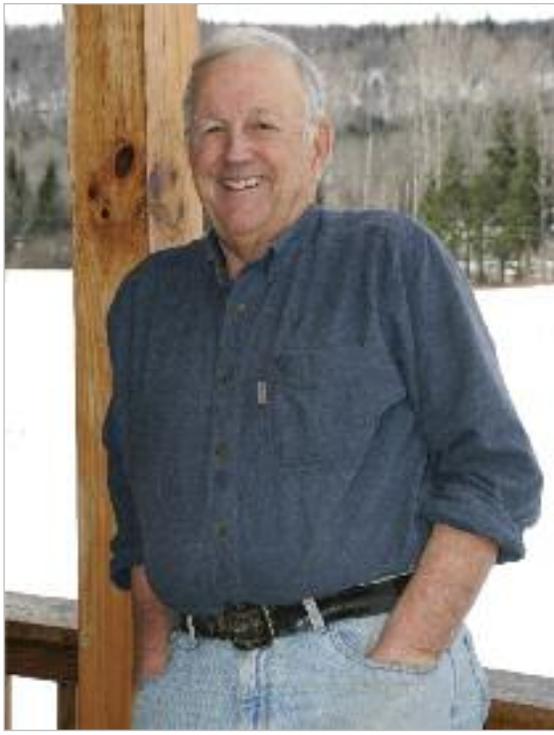


Photo by Jeremy Barnaby.

MEMBERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!

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

John Lanier

Columbia, N.H.

Member since 1991

“My relationship with the Forest Society began back around the early 1970s. I was employed by the US Forest Service and working in the White Mountain National Forest as the Wildlife and Fish Program Leader. The Forest Society asked me to help review an Environmental Impact Statement regarding a mining proposal for Umbagog Lake. We wrote up quite a number of concerns about that proposal, and our efforts paid off: the mining project fell through.

I left the White Mountain National Forest in 1994 to join the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department as their State

Lands Manager. In that role, I continued to work with the Forest Society through programs to help land owners manage their lands. The Forest Society understands the connection between land protection and forest management, and how forest management is an extremely important tool for creating and maintaining wildlife habitat.

Now that I've retired, I figured that one good way to keep in touch with the Forest Society was to place a conservation easement with them on my land. Well, we are in touch for sure. They come up to monitor the land on occasion.

Now there is this proposed Northern

Pass project. As we did 40 years ago with that plan to mine Umbagog Lake, we are teaming up once again, along with many others, to try to avert the adverse consequences that Northern Pass would have for all of us if allowed to go forward. When the Forest Society gets involved in things like the Northern Pass, you know they've thought about it for a while. They aren't wasting resources on trivial stuff. You know they're serious.

So it looks as though my relationship with the Forest Society is just going to continue on as if it had a life of its own for the foreseeable future. As far as I'm concerned, that's a really good thing.” ♪