

NORTHERN PASS UPDATE

# Forest Notes

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S CONSERVATION MAGAZINE

**17** *sweet  
fishing holes*

Beauty in  
the Belknaps

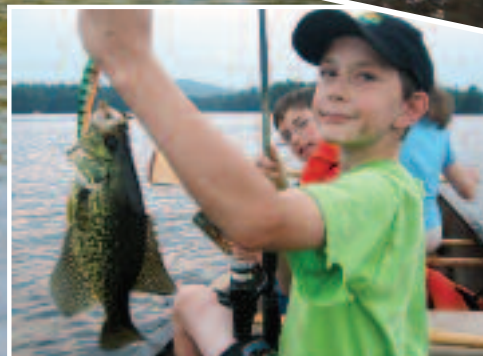
SUMMER 2014

SOCIETY FOR THE  
PROTECTION OF  
NEW HAMPSHIRE  
FORESTS



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## FEATURES

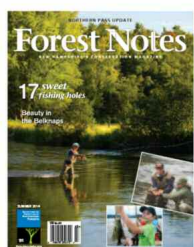
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By Paul Doscher

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*A photo essay shows the beauty and habitat diversity being conserved in the Belknap Mountains through the Everybody Hikes Mt. Major campaign.*



*On our cover:*

Trout fishing near the Washburn Family Forest in Clarksville. Photo by Jerry and Marcy Monkman, EcoPhotography.

Inset, top: Success on the Connecticut River. Photo courtesy of N.H. Trout Unlimited Kids' Trout Camp.

Inset, bottom: Kids catch crappies in a warm-water pond. Photo by Brenda Charpentier.

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# Holding Our Positions

The Omega Institute in Rhinebeck, N.Y., is known for its retreats for meditation and yoga. I was there in June for a very different retreat—that of the Leadership Council of the Land Trust Alliance. There were few moments of silence for our group of 45 land trust executives from around the country, but we did try on some positions—policy positions, that is. Nonetheless, the site is lovely with wooded campsites, gardens of flowers and vegetables, trails and a sustainability center. A great gathering site for lovers of the outdoors.

We spent a good deal of time exploring issues that affect all land trusts: tax incentives for land conservation, the IRS treatment of easement donors, the Farm Bill, siting energy facilities and the impact on conservation land. We can get into the weeds pretty quickly, but the fact that we share in these conversations is important to the community; we learn from each other and share resources.

Many land trusts shy away from advocacy, choosing to focus their resources only on land protection. But the Forest Society has participated in advocacy since its inception when with others we fought

for protection of the White Mountains and the passage of the Weeks Act that made eastern national forests possible. Advocacy is, you might say, in our DNA.

The Land Trust Alliance is a driving force in encouraging our sister organizations to act, believing that there is strength in numbers and there are a lot of land trust staffs, members and trustees who together can speak for policies and laws that support our local conservation efforts. That's a lot of people who care, with a bundle of relationships with U.S. Congress members.

You can add your voice by visiting [www.landtrustalliance.org/policy](http://www.landtrustalliance.org/policy) or [www.forestsociety.org/issues](http://www.forestsociety.org/issues).

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



#### Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests

A non-profit membership organization founded in 1901 to protect the state's most important landscapes and promote wise use of its renewable natural resources. Basic annual membership fee is \$40 and includes a subscription to *Forest Notes*.

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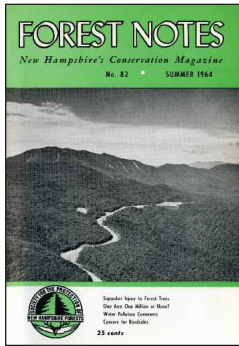


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### 50 years ago in Forest Notes

The cover of the summer 1964 issue of *Forest Notes* featured the new Kancamagus Highway, described in the caption as “the famous 35-mile Kancamagus (sic) Highway cutting cross country between Lincoln and North Conway. It is entirely devoid of commercial establishments and houses and this spring the final section of the road was black-topped. The country is so rugged that the highway is not open in the winter. A mountain stream borders the highway in a number of places, and there are camping sites provided.

### Teens, Dorr Foundation Show Support for Mt. Major Stewardship

Ten student volunteers from Prospect Mountain High School in Alton joined Forest Society staff and volunteers from the Belknap Range Conservation Coalition to clean graffiti off the exposed rock of Mt. Major in May. The rugged group took on the challenge despite intermittent rain showers and a chilly wind, spending their weekend day taking care of the mountain.

“The view of the lake shouldn’t be downplayed by graffiti,” said student Gabe Varney.

Teacher Joe Derrick, who leads the school’s Outing Club, said the event was a welcome chance for the students to serve the community and to send a message. “This will show that people care about this mountain, and then maybe other people won’t want to put graffiti on it,” he said.

The work day was part of the Forest Society’s new educational initiative to partner with schools that regularly visit Mt. Major to assist them with environmental education activities and resources. The Dorr Foundation has supported the initiative, started at the suggestion of longtime Forest Society supporters Martha and John Chandler of Laconia, with a \$15,000 grant that will enable Forest Society staff to work with Prospect Mountain High School and Little Harbour Elementary School in Portsmouth to develop a pilot program.

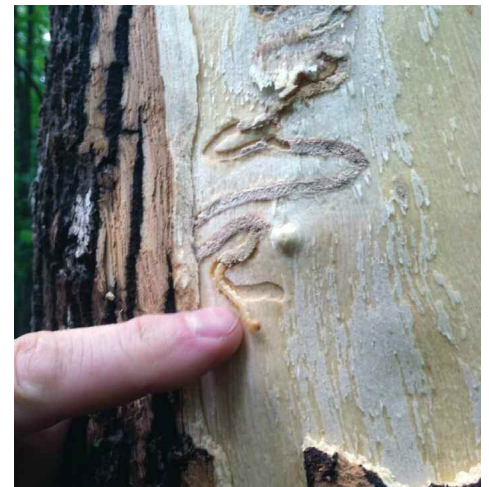


Teacher Joe Derrick (center), students Gabe Varney (left) and Katie Sepulveda from Prospect Mountain High School in Alton scrub graffiti from Mt. Major’s summit. Photo by Brenda Charpentier.



### Opening Lost River

Forest Society staff and volunteers remove stubborn snow to help Lost River Gorge and Boulder Caves get ready for opening day in May. White Mountains Attractions, which runs Lost River for the Forest Society, is opening a new adventure trail this summer. Visitors can walk across a new, 60-foot suspension bridge to a treehouse and the Birdcage overlook. Photo by Frank Allen.



An Emerald Ash Borer larva and its serpentine trail under the bark of an ash tree. Photo by Haley Andreozzi, UNH Cooperative Extension.

### Forest Society Hosting State Tests of EAB Controls

Forest health specialists with the state’s Division of Forest and Lands released tiny wasps near the Forest Society’s Concord headquarters in June in a project to test biological control measures for the Emerald Ash Borer, the invasive beetle that kills ash trees.

The Forest Society’s Merrimack River Outdoor Education and Conservation Area is one of several test sites where state scientists are measuring the effectiveness of various potential controls of the beetle. The tetrastichus wasp, a non-native species provided by the federal Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, lays its eggs in EAB larvae, which become food for wasp larvae. EAB is an Asian species with no natural predators in the U.S.

The state’s first known population of EAB was found in Concord in March of 2013 and since then has also been detected in Canterbury, Loudon and just south of the New Hampshire border. A quarantine on moving hardwood firewood, ash wood products and ash nursery stock out of Merrimack County remains in effect.

Watch for a story on EAB and the control tests being conducted on Forest Society land in the fall issue of *Forest Notes*. For more information about EAB, see [www.nhbugs.org](http://www.nhbugs.org). ♪



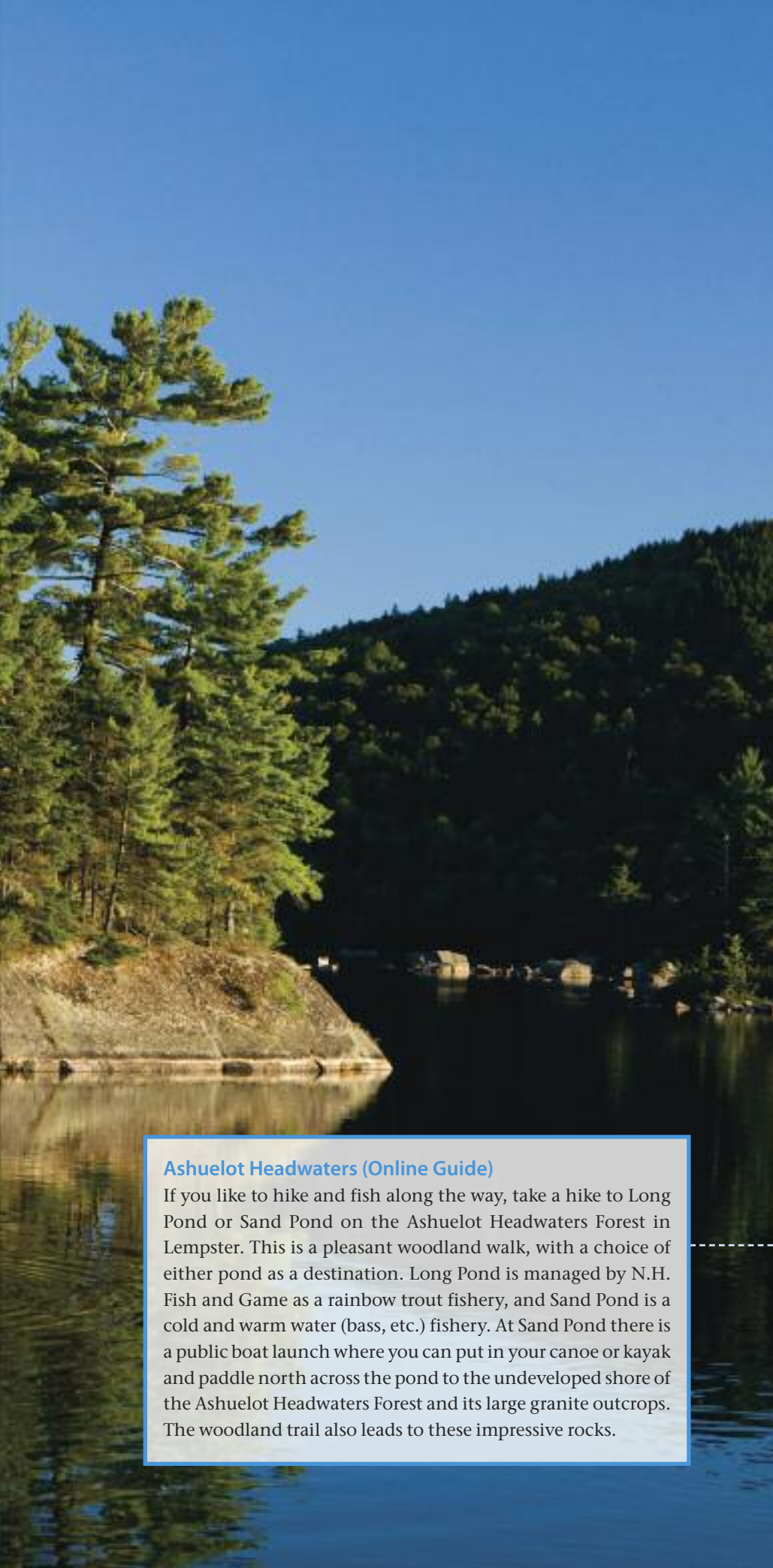
A scenic photograph of a lake with a large rock formation and a person in a red canoe. The background is filled with dense green pine trees under a clear blue sky. The water is calm, reflecting the surrounding landscape. A person is visible in a red canoe in the lower right, holding a fishing rod. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

# Hike, Paddle, Cast!

The Forest Society's  
Top 17 Fishing Holes

By Paul Doscher





**E**very angler has his or her favorite places to fish in New Hampshire, but it's always fun to seek out a new favorite. And if that new favorite is close to hiking trails, diverse forests or picnic spots to explore on conserved land, so much the better.

Many Forest Society properties offer access to a range of fisheries, supporting native cold-water species (trout and salmon) and our native and introduced warm-water species (bass, sunfish, perch and pickerel). Forest Society properties are most often conserved, either through gifts by generous donors or purchase with public and charitable funds, for multiple purposes. All provide important protection for watershed lands that contribute to water quality. Some directly protect streams and ponds that provide opportunities for people to get outdoors and enjoy some time fishing with kids and friends.

Before heading out fishing, it's important to visit the N.H. Fish and Game Department website. Fishing licenses can be purchased there, and you can find out about free fishing classes and bi-weekly fishing reports. You'll also find the rules regarding when and how you can take and keep fish. For those targeting trout, there is a link to a page that lists the ponds, lakes and streams that are stocked with trout, and when they were stocked.

A note about directions: The properties in this list with **(Online Guide)** next to them are featured on the Online Guide to Forest Society properties at [forestsociety.org](http://forestsociety.org). There, you'll find more information, maps, directions and photos. For those properties not marked with **(Online Guide)**, a good N.H. gazetteer and/or online mapping tools (throw in a compass while you're at it) will help get you there with the information provided.

#### **Ashuelot Headwaters (Online Guide)**

If you like to hike and fish along the way, take a hike to Long Pond or Sand Pond on the Ashuelot Headwaters Forest in Lempster. This is a pleasant woodland walk, with a choice of either pond as a destination. Long Pond is managed by N.H. Fish and Game as a rainbow trout fishery, and Sand Pond is a cold and warm water (bass, etc.) fishery. At Sand Pond there is a public boat launch where you can put in your canoe or kayak and paddle north across the pond to the undeveloped shore of the Ashuelot Headwaters Forest and its large granite outcrops. The woodland trail also leads to these impressive rocks.



Connecticut River

### The Merrimack River Outdoor Education and Conservation Area, Concord (Online Guide)

With half a mile of frontage on the Merrimack River, the Merrimack River Outdoor Education and Conservation Area, near the Forest Society's Conservation Center headquarters, has long been a destination for local anglers. The Merrimack hosts good populations of bass and other warm water species, and in some places (not here) hosts trout as well. From the parking area off Portsmouth Street, a pleasant walk along the trail leads to the river, but you'll need to keep walking past the first sandy river bank you come to. This shoreline is steep and unstable. Don't fish there, as it's unsafe and it's where bank swallows nest in the sandy cliffs. Bank swallows are uncommon in New Hampshire, and it's best not to disturb them. Additionally, the sandy bottom along that section of the property isn't good fish habitat. Keep walking along the riverbank to where the river splits into a side channel. This is a more productive area for fishing, as are the backwaters and side channels on the forested loop trail back to the parking area. While you're there, notice the silver maple floodplain forest habitat and the many bird species that call this special place home.

### Coolidge Tree Farm, Sandwich

Roger Coolidge protected his property on Squam Lake first with a conservation easement and later, after his death, his trust donated the land to the Forest Society. He managed it as a Tree Farm, one of the earliest in New Hampshire. It has 3/4 mile of frontage on Otter Cove of Squam Lake, but no trail along the shoreline, so if you go, expect a 'bushwacking' walk along the water. There is also 1/3 mile of frontage on Kusumpe Pond, including a place you can launch a canoe or kayak from Coolidge Farm Road. To get to Coolidge Farm Road, follow NH-113 to take Mill Bridge Road, then from Mill Bridge Road turn right onto Coolidge Farm Road.

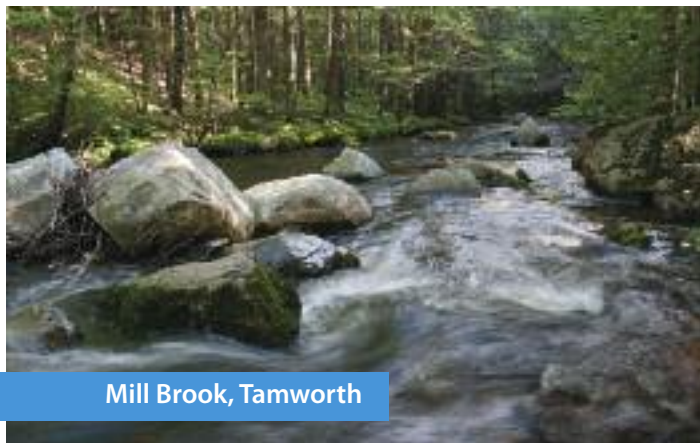
### Creek Farm, Portsmouth (Online Guide)

One of the most entertaining ways to fish for striped bass in the salt water is from a kayak. There's no guarantee you'll hook into a large fish, but if you do, a mini-version of what is called the "Nantucket Sleigh Ride" is lots of fun. A larger striper can pull you around the salt creeks and inland bays near Creek Farm for a few minutes of fun and laughs.

Creek Farm has extensive frontage on Sagamore Creek, a salt creek that flows in and out with the tides. You can access a lot of interesting water from the kayak and canoe launch at Creek Farm (carry your boat from the public parking area the 200 yards to the launch.) If the fishing is slow, there is still lots to see either paddling "upstream" to the salt marshes at the Urban Forestry Center, or "downstream" toward the Wentworth by the Sea hotel, or Leaches and Pest Islands. If you go at mid-tide, you can paddle under the Rye/New Castle Bridge and take a break on the bayside beaches of Odiorne State Park.

### Dana Forest, Dalton (Online Guide)

At the Dana Forest, you'll find a 2 1/2-mile walk through a spruce and fir forest to the site of a former gold mine. You'll also find access to the Johns River and a chance to see if you can catch a trout. Access to the river is via an old railroad bed. The railroad bed runs to the north off of the town roadway just east of the spot on Ridge Road where one gets to the Dana Forest entrance marked by a Forest Society sign. (Parking is allowed on the side of Ridge Road, but it is not allowed on Lower Ox Team Road, which is private.) Follow the railroad bed to a snowmobile bridge over Johns River, where Forest Society property begins and runs downstream.



Mill Brook, Tamworth





Heald Pond, Wilton

### **Grafton Pond, Grafton (Online Guide)**

This is one of the Forest Society's larger reservations, and thanks to the donors and other local conservationists, most of the pond frontage is protected. Launch your canoe or kayak at the public landing, and explore the bays and islands. This is warm-water fish habitat, and you'll enjoy casting for bass and other warm water species around the rocks and fallen trees. Loons nest here, and rarely does one go to Grafton Pond during the summer without seeing or hearing these spectacular birds.

### **Heald Tract, Wilton (Online Guide)**

Heald Pond (King Brook Reservoir) is actually a flood control reservoir constructed in the mid-twentieth century as part of a regional effort to reduce flooding in the Souhegan River watershed including the town of Milford. This beautiful, quiet pond is nearly entirely encompassed by the Heald Tract of the Forest Society. Fishing is welcome; expect to find warm-water species. One important caveat: No boats are allowed on Heald Pond—it's shore fishing only. This property offers more than 1,000 conserved acres, about five miles of trails and another pond—Castor Pond—to explore, so be sure to bring a picnic lunch!

### **McCabe Forest, Antrim (Online Guide)**

From the parking area on Route 202, the trail loops easterly toward the Contoocook River and two portions of the trail run along the banks of the river. This is slow moving water, home to warm water fish. It's a beautiful walk, and if you stroll the whole 2-miles of looping trails, you'll wind through upland pine-oak-hemlock forests, fields, old orchards, and a silver maple floodplain forest. Because of the wide variety of habitats, wildlife observation opportunities are excellent. Be forewarned that in the warm seasons, the wetlands and marshes on the McCabe Forest are known for breeding healthy populations of fish food...mosquitoes, and go prepared with your favorite insect repellent.

### **East Concord Conservation Lands, Concord**

This property, formerly owned by Goldstar Sod Farms, is accessed by a gravel road (gated) off Locke Road in East Concord (I-93, Exit 16). Walk alongside scenic wetlands toward the west, passing a large field, and then down a pathway to the Merrimack River. This property, now owned by the City of Concord, and protected by a conservation easement held by the Forest Society, was purchased with funds from the City, the federal government and the N.H. Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP). It offers extensive frontage on the river. You can fish from the shore, or launch a small boat at one of the downstream boat launch sites and target some of the reportedly 'lunker' bass that swim here. Just upstream a bit toward Sewall's Falls is an island in the river, and above that is an area of rapids that can sometimes host trout. Just a bit farther upstream, N.H. Fish and Game's Sewall's Falls Wildlife Management Area offers more good fishing spots, but you'll have to get back in your car and drive to get there.

### **David Wilson Land, Sharon**

The diminutive Gridley River flows out of the Tophet Swamp, through the David Wilson Land and onward into the Contoocook River in Peterborough. As it flows through the David Wilson land it passes through marshes and past an old mill pond dam. This is a place where you are unlikely to see many anglers, as it is accessible only in the dry months on Swamp Road, a Class VI town road not maintained for winter travel. Warm water fish are found in the open areas, and in the shaded, faster flowing sections, you may find an occasional trout. Besides the road through the middle of it, there are no other walking trails on this out-of-the-way property, but if you live nearby, it would be a fun place to walk the dog and fish or paddle in this little stream. From the junction of Rtes. 202, 137 & 124 in Jaffrey, take Rt. 124 approx. 4 miles. Look for signs and Swamp Road on the north side of Rt. 124.

### **Wilkins-Campbell Forest, Deering**

This is a lovely property with a long, fishable shoreline on Deering Lake. There is limited on-road parking at the gate, which is about a half-mile up Wolf Hill Road (get there via Old County Road). There are a few nice open spots at the end of the trail where fishing is easy. Deering Lake is managed for bass and rainbow trout. Waterside 'grazing' for wild blueberries in season is one of the side benefits of a visit to this property. Because of the limited parking, a good way to enjoy this property is to access it by canoe or kayak and use it as an ideal picnic spot. You'll find





Connecticut River, Clarksville

the town boat launch alongside the dam at the southerly end of Deering Lake. There may be a small launching parking fee to use this site at some times of year. Once your boat is in the water, paddle along the south shore toward the west. You will come to a long section of undeveloped shoreline. Look for the Forest Society sign visible from the water.

#### Washburn Family Forest, Clarksville (Online Guide)

This 2,100 acre property has more than six miles of frontage on the upper Connecticut River, one of New Hampshire's premier trout streams. Most people see and fish the river from the Route 3 side, where access is easy (and the Forest Society owns three small parcels just upstream of the "green bridge" on Route 3), but if you are game for a day of hiking on the trails, you can access a

Christine Lake, Stark



number of nice fishing spots. The easiest access to the trails for fishing is to park at the Pittsburg covered bridge, walk over the bridge and then immediately turn right. The Forest Society has a trail right-of-way along the river, and you can walk for some distance while hearing or seeing the river to your right.

If you have a mountain bike, you can ride it on the gravel roads. Follow the streamside road westerly for a mile or two and you will see a road that goes downhill from an open area (former gravel pit) and it will take you to the confluence of the Connecticut River and Indian Stream. (See the trail map on the Forest Society web site) The best part about fishing at the Washburn Forest is that you are in "trout country." Stop in at one of the local stores or fly fishing shops and get more advice on where to fish in the area.

#### Kauffmann Forest, Christine Lake, Stark (Online Guide)

Thanks to the vision and determination of John Kauffmann, the entire watershed of Christine Lake (a 175-acre lake) is now conservation land. The shoreline is owned by the Percy Summer Club, a private landowner that donated a conservation easement on its land to ensure its permanent protection. A public road takes you to the small public boat launch owned by the state. You can launch small boats (under 10 HP) and fish for brown and brook trout. This was a typical cold-water fishery until very recently when someone illegally put small-mouth bass into the Lake. It is illegal to move live fish from one body of water to another, and unfortunately, less thoughtful people have moved their favorite fish into places they don't belong, like Christine Lake. But the trout are still here, although in reduced numbers from past decades. The Kauffmann Forest itself does not touch Christine Lake, so please be respectful of the private landowners and follow the rules posted at the boat launch.



### Lamprey River Forest, Epping

Not long after Congress designated the Lamprey River as part of the National Wild and Scenic River system, the Forest Society acquired the Lamprey River Forest from Gail Chase of Barrington. The property has a small parking area and a nice woods road trail that leads to the banks of the river. The Lamprey River along here has a steady current and is popular in the spring with canoeists and kayakers. It is stocked with trout by N.H. Fish and Game, but also hosts both smallmouth and largemouth bass. The parking area is off Prescott Road in Epping. From Rte. 27 (Pleasant Street), take Blake Road to Prescott and look for the Forest Society sign.

To see more about Lamprey River recreation, including a tour guide and map that includes the Forest Society's Lamprey River Forest, visit the Lamprey River Advisory Council's website at [www.zlampreyriver.org](http://www.zlampreyriver.org).

### Pickerel Cove, Stoddard

Pickerel Cove is aptly named. This is a shallow water cove off the eastern shoreline of Highland Lake. Its shallow, warm waters are ideal pickerel habitat. It can be accessed by canoe or kayak from a put-in spot just north of the Highland Lake Marina (Shedd Road) on the eastern shore of Highland Lake. Near the marina is a foot path to Pickerel Cove that you can carry a kayak or canoe over to get to the water. To find the path walk up Powerline Road a bit and look for the trail on the right, just beyond the second house.

Pickerel Cove was once slated for a major condominium development, including dredging of the cove. Local opposition and an economic recession doomed the development plan, and the Forest Society and local citizens raised sufficient funds to acquire the property and add it to the adjoining 3,400 acre Peirce Reservation. We suspect the pickerel are pretty thankful.

### Taves Reservation, Roxbury

Most people drive by the Taves Reservation on NH Route 9 and never know it's there. This 673-acre reservation has more than a half mile of frontage on the highway, and all of that encompasses a fast flowing portion of Otter Brook right alongside the highway. With the exception of one house on the east side of the road, the Forest Society's land is just north of the Granite Gorge Ski Area. There are a couple of places to stop along the highway, but be careful. This is a very well-travelled road. N.H. Fish and Game sometimes stocks Otter Brook with trout in the spring.



Pickerel Cove, Stoddard

### Victor's Woods, Danbury/Alexandria

The Forest Society received a gift of most of Victor's Woods from an anonymous donor, with some of the land having frontage on the north side of the Smith River. Later, with help from the Anadromous Fish Restoration Program at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Forest Society acquired an additional tract on the south side of the river. This is an area that was formerly used for stocking of Atlantic salmon fry, as part of the Merrimack River salmon restoration program. Unfortunately, the program didn't meet the restoration goals, and in 2013, it was discontinued by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. But this area is still stocked with trout by N.H. Fish and Game and access is excellent along the old Smith River Road, just east of its junction with Murray Hill Road and Route 104 (closed in winter).

A Note about fishing rules on Forest Society lands: Please check the *N.H. Fishing Digest*, published annually by N.H. Fish and Game (also on its website). Some of the waters on land protected by the Forest Society are subject to special rules. Beyond following the rules, please remember "catch and release" fishing, especially for eastern brook trout in waters that are not stocked. Eastern Brook Trout is a 'species of concern' in part because of loss of habitat and the impacts of climate change. This species is a good indicator of pristine cold and clean waters. ♪

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*Paul Doscher recently retired as the Forest Society's vice president of land protection and is an active member and former trustee of Trout Unlimited.*





# Beyond the View

*We're just a few steps away from completing the Everybody Hikes Mt. Major campaign to buy and conserve four properties in the Belknap Range. The Forest Society and our partners, the Lakes Region Conservation Trust and the Belknap Range Conservation Coalition, have closed on three of the four properties and plan to close on the fourth (the Roberts parcel) this fall. It's a good time to celebrate success to date and reflect on what conserving 980 acres in the Belknap Range is all about. As you'll see, it's about much more than protecting one spectacular view!*

It's a stunner, alright. No one would argue that point about the vista from the top of Mt. Major. Least of all the Forest Society, which has worked for more than a year with the Lakes Region Conservation Trust (LRCT) and other partners to conserve land with trails to the summit. But conserving the four properties in this project protects much more than one favorite hiking destination. These four properties represent a diversity of natural communities on six Belknap Range mountains—Mt. Major, East and West Quarry, Straightback, Belknap and Piper—and associated valleys.

The 980 acres contain ecological attributes that are worthy of protection in their own right.

When ecological consultant Rick Van de Poll, Ph.D., of Sandwich conducted an ecological assessment of the four properties, he reported an abundance of riches. Rare natural community

types; “old-growth” forest, granite boulder fields and slopes that offer unusual topography and uncommon plant and fungi species; vernal pools, beaver ponds and tumbling streams, talus slopes and cliffs, and signs of wildlife including bobcat, bear, moose, fisher, coyote, red fox, porcupine, beaver, snowshoe hare and short-tailed shrew, to name a few.

In the pages that follow, take a visual “walk” to see some of the rich diversity of these places and know that as a member, you are enabling the Forest Society, LRCT and our partners to protect them for wildlife and for people. We are indebted to Rick Van de Poll for providing much of the caption information in this photo essay, as well as many photos. Let this collection be an invitation to go out and explore these properties with family and friends and create your own “Beyond the View” Belknap Range photo album.

1. Diamond Island  
2. Sandwich Range  
3. Mount Passaconaway  
4. Rattlesnake Island  
5. Sleeper Island  
6. Ossipee Range

7. Mount Shaw  
8. Redhead Island  
9. Tuftonborough Neck  
10. Winter Harbor  
11. Mount Washington  
12. Parker Island

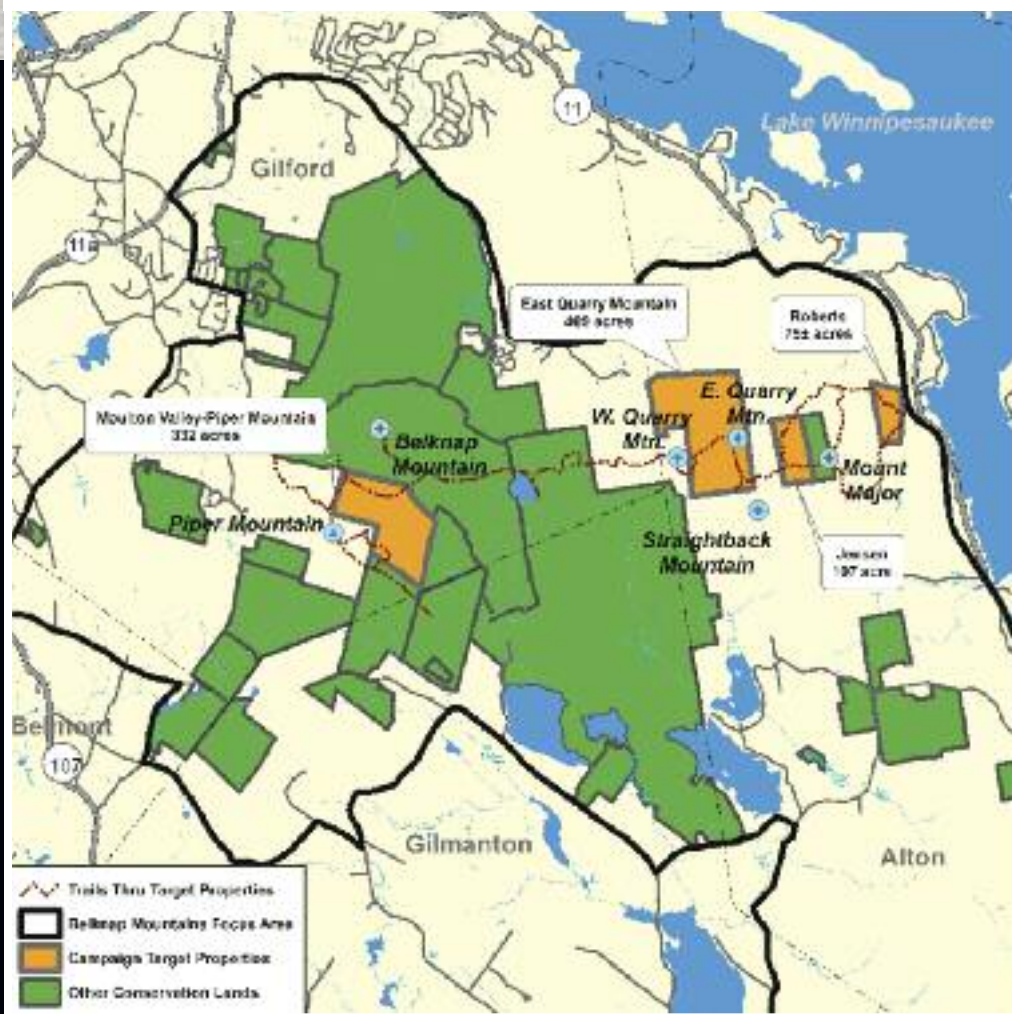
13. Ship Island  
14. Green Mountain  
15. Wolfboro  
16. Moose Island  
17. Wolfboro Bay  
18. Little Barndoor Island

19. Barndoor Island  
20. Lake Wentworth  
21. Cedar Mountain,  
Parsonfield, ME  
22. Alton Bay





### The Four Properties of the Everybody Hikes Mt. Major Campaign



These four properties in orange join more than 10,400 acres of conservation land in the Belknap Range. The Forest Society has purchased the Jensen and East Quarry tracts and is working to close on the Roberts tract by fall. The Lakes Region Conservation Trust now owns the Moulton Valley-Piper Mountain tract.





# Diverse Forests



**At least 30 distinct natural communities exist on the four parcels of the Everybody Hikes Mt. Major project.**



**Above:** The fire-swept summit of Mount Major, where the Jensen tract is located, lays bare the granite "bones" of the ridgeline, which is characterized by a number of rocky ridge natural communities.

**Left:** The state-threatened piled-up sedge (*Carex cumulata*), relies on open, sunny ledges with periodic run-off for its sustenance and growth.

**Right:** Back's sedge (*Carex backii*), an extremely rare plant in New Hampshire, grows on the Moulton Valley-Piper Mountain parcel.







**Above:** This boreal environment with its spruce-fir forest looks like the far north of New England, but it's really the view from the ridge of North Piper Mountain.

## A "Resilient Landscape"

The Belknap Range is part of a larger swath of land from Hooksett to Ossipee and into Western, Maine, that is considered a "resilient landscape" by the Open Space Institute Land Trust, which provided a \$187,000 Resilient Landscape Initiative grant to the Everybody Hikes Mt. Major campaign.

The Resilient Landscapes Initiative, made possible by a lead grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, seeks to educate, train and build capacity of land trusts working to respond to climate change and to direct \$5.5 million in capital to pilot sites that will provide refuge for plants and animals. To designate "resilient landscapes" across its eastern U.S. region, OSI used research provided by The Nature Conservancy and looked for "best bets"—places most likely to sustain the greatest diversity of plants and animals into the future as the climate changes. The supporting research for this approach to conservation has found that sustaining species diversity across the landscape is a function of three key elements: the complexity of landforms above ground, the connectivity of natural systems and the diversity of geology types.

Jennifer Melville, OSI vice president of conservation grants and loans, said the region that includes the Belknap Range was chosen for its ecological merits but also because the timing was right.

"The idea is to find places that are connected, that are big enough, so plants and animals can move within the landscape and have lots of options," she said. "This area has a lot of landscape diversity, lots of elevation changes, different kinds of geologic types and variety, and—it's not too late. From the connectivity point of view, there are lots of roads and development, but there's still enough large forest blocks and unfragmented habitat that it's not too late."



**Left:** Large, scattered red oak trees are part of a late-successional natural community growing along the upper slopes of Piper Mountain. Nearby is a small area that appears to be "old growth," pristine land that has escaped human disturbance. A similar area was found on the Moulton Valley property as well.



**Right:** Hardwood forests on all four parcels produce nuts and seeds for an abundance of wildlife. A bear has marked this large beech tree on East Quarry Mountain.

Photographs this page and opposite by Rick Van de Poll.





Photograph by Brenda Charpentier.

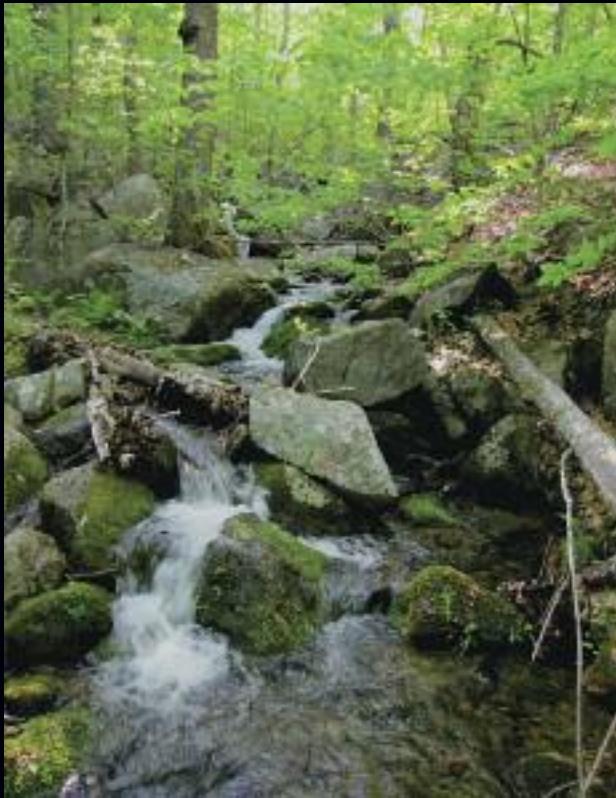
Hobblebush (*Viburnum lantanoides*) thrives along the edge of the 11-acre beaver pond at the base of Straightback, East and West Quarry mountains. At least 12 different natural communities are found in this area, one of the best high elevation wetland systems to be found in the Belknap Range.

# Diverse Wetlands



Sphagnum sprites mate in their peatland habitat.





**Above left:** The two largest properties contain crystal clear headwater streams of the Suncook River.

**Above right:** Flooding by beavers on the western flank of Mt. Major has created a mix of standing dead trees, shrubs, and emergent forbs and grasses.



Above Round Pond lies an exceptional beaver pond and marsh that was once a pine forest. Like the pocket wetland above, this marsh system contains the highest concentration of species in the Belknap Range.



# Less-traveled trails and views

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Photograph by Brenda Charpentier.

Yes, it's Lake Winnepesaukee, but the perspective is from the peaceful summit of East Quarry Mountain, not Mt. Major. If you follow the green-blazed "North Straightback Link" trail from Mt. Major, then the white-blazed trail, you'll soon be enjoying a quieter, more backwoods experience than that offered by neighboring Mt. Major. A special-edition, waterproof map of Belknap Range trails by Weldon Bosworth is available by contributing \$50 or more to the Everybody Hikes Mt. Major campaign at [www.forestsociety.org](http://www.forestsociety.org).





**Left:** From the ridge of Piper Mountain, hikers can see the view of the lush Moulton Valley in Gilford, now permanently conserved. The Forest Society's partner in the Everybody Hikes Mt. Major campaign, the Lakes Region Conservation Trust, purchased more than 330 acres here in January.

**Below:** Mt. Major is seen on the right of this view from the trail ascending East Quarry Mountain. From this vantage point, you can see the change in forest types from deciduous to coniferous as the elevation increases.



A cairn marks the path toward Straightback Mountain.



Photograph by Brenda Charpentier; top of page by Rick Van de Poll.







Photograph above by Tom Howe; others by Brenda Charpentier.

# Geologic Features

One of the many talus slopes found on the newly-conserved properties. These rocky areas are home to specialized plants and lichens, as well as to animals like porcupine and bobcat.



**Above and left:** Large, glacially transported boulders are much loved features of the hiking trails on Mt. Major, especially the trail named for them, "Boulder Loop Trail."





**Above:** Charlie Mitchell, a volunteer with the Belknap Range Conservation Coalition, stands in front of one of the towering rock formations on the slope of Piper Mountain.

**Below:** Wild columbine flourishes alongside a talus slope.



# Thank You

## to our Many Generous Donors

Thanks to the generous support of our members and donors, The Forest Society and the Lakes Region Conservation Trust have purchased three of the four properties of the Everybody Hikes Mt. Major Campaign and plan a fall closing date for the fourth. We are grateful for the support of the more than 1,800 individual donors as well as these major contributors:

- The Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP), the independent state program that makes matching grants to communities and non-profits to conserve and preserve New Hampshire's most important natural, cultural and historic resources
- The Town of Alton
- The Town of Gilford
- The Open Space Institute Land Trust, Inc.'s Resilient Landscapes Initiative, made possible with a lead grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. The Resilient Landscapes Initiative seeks to educate, train and build capacity of land trusts working to respond to climate change and to direct \$5.5 million in capital to pilot sites that will provide refuge for plants and animals.
- The Bafflin Foundation, a Rhode-Island-based foundation with the primary mission of conservation of open space in New England.
- The S.L. Gimbel Foundation
- Three anonymous family foundations
- The N.H. State Conservation Committee's "Moose Plate" Program
- The Penates Foundation
- The William Wharton Trust
- Bank of New Hampshire

## What's Next?

Because of the recreational component to these Belknap Range properties, conserving them is just the first step. Next will come an inventorying and planning stage, to determine how best to care for these properties. Those that host well-loved trails will require trail repair and maintenance work, and they will all require management plans.

Donations to help meet these stewardship responsibilities can be made online at [forestsociety.org](http://forestsociety.org); by mail at SPNHF, 54 Portsmouth St., Concord, NH, 03301; or by calling Susanne Kibler-Hacker at 224-9945, ext. 314.





THE FOREST SOCIETY'S  
ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH

# ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2014

Londonderry Country Club, 56 Kimball Road, Londonderry

**FIELD TRIPS:** Before the meeting, Forest Society members are invited to join us on one of these field trips designed explore forestry, recreation, local history and recent land conservation in the Londonderry area. Each trip starts at a separate location, so please get directions when you register. All trips are scheduled to end by 3:30 p.m. or earlier to allow participants time to return to the Londonderry Country Club by 4 p.m. to check in for the meeting. Our annual meeting and dinner starts at 4:30 p.m.

**1 "Musquash" Conservation Area  
Hike, Londonderry**  
11 AM to 3:30 PM

Londonderry's 1,100-acre Musquash Conservation Area was established in 1979 by the Londonderry Conservation Commission to protect wildlife habitat, develop hiking trails and continue active forest management. The marked trail network includes 10.5 miles of trails supervised by the Londonderry Conservation Commission and Londonderry Trailways. The tract includes wetlands, a heron rookery, a New England cottontail rabbit habitat creation project and historical resources, including cellar holes. Guided by Conservation Commission volunteers Mike Speltz and Deb Lievens and a Forest Society naturalist.

**Difficulty:** Moderate hiking, 6.75 miles, 3.5 hours walking time with stops for lunch (byo). The Mushquash loop hike starts and returns directly to Londonderry Country Club.

Co-sponsored with Londonderry Conservation Commission.

**2 Careful Forestry &  
Timber Harvest Tour**  
Noon to 3:30 PM

Bockes/Ingersoll Forest Reservation/Londonderry, Windham, Hudson

Join consulting forester Charlie Moreno and Forest Society foresters for a tour of pending and completed sections of a mechanized white pine timber harvest. Learn about careful forestry. See logging operations. Learn about timber harvest considerations in the midst of the suburban interface with some recreation stewardship challenges. Recreational trails improvements are proposed, including a new kiosk and parking area at the main trailhead on Mill Road.

**Difficulty:** Easy walking tour; 1.5 miles round trip.

**3 Historic Londonderry, Mack's  
Apples/Moosehill Orchard  
conservation land**  
Noon to 3:30 PM

At one time, rural Londonderry was synonymous with apple orchards. This easy walking tour will visit one of three conserved apple orchards in Londonderry—the Moosehill Orchard, also known as "Mack's Apples" and protected by a town-owned conservation easement. The orchard tour is preceded by a tour of the town's Historic District and the Londonderry Town Forest. Londonderry Historical Society volunteers and Forest Society staff will be your guides. The orchard tour concludes at the farm store and gift shop for cider, doughnuts, ice cream and other seasonal farm treats.

**Difficulty:** Easy walk at Town Center; short drive to Moosehill Orchard.



## KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

### Douglas Whynott, Author

*The Sugar Season: A Year in the Life of New Hampshire's Largest Maple Syrup Operation*



For three years, author Doug Whynott followed the maple syrup industry and one of its most successful producers and entrepreneurs, Bruce Bascom of Alstead, N.H., including 2012, the dramatic year of the Great Canadian Syrup Heist and the warmest year in history. His book, *The Sugar Season*, was published earlier this year.

Whynott teaches writing at Emerson, and is an accomplished author, having previously written *Following the Bloom—Across America with the Migratory Beekeepers*, *Giant Bluefin*, a book about the bluefin tuna fishery in New England, *A Unit of Water*, *A Unit of Time*, about renowned boat designer Joel White, the son of E.B. White.

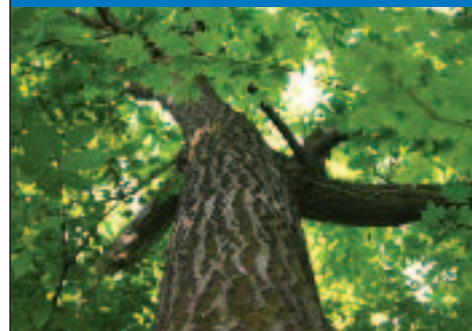
When Whynott moved to New Hampshire, he became fascinated with the work of the veterinarian Chuck Shaw, which then led to another book, *A Country Practice*. He has also written for *The New York Times Book Review*, *the Boston Globe*, *Outside*, *Smithsonian*, *Reader's Digest*, *Omni*, *New England Monthly*, *the Massachusetts Review*, *Discover*, and *Writer's Chronicle*.

Photo by Juns Rado.



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

— Greek proverb



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

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

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

4

#### Pennichuck Waterworks

1 PM to 3:30 PM

Tour productive forest and important wildlife habitats located on the Forest Society's recent conservation easement on 285 acres of scenic woodlands, wetlands and more than a mile of frontage on Pennichuck Brook in Merrimack. Woods roads and managed pine forests on the Pennichuck Waterworks parcels include wetlands, a heron rookery and a black gum basin swamp located in one of the fastest growing regions of the state. The Pennichuck

water intake lies just downstream from the property; the buffering effect provided by a minimum of 1,200 feet of forested buffer, and much more for most of the mile of the property's brook frontage, supports the water quality of 85,000 people served from this intake. The property was protected with funding from the N.H. DES ARM funds and City of Nashua mitigation funds.

**Difficulty:** Flat terrain; easy walking. Distance: 2 miles round trip. Guided by Forest Society Land Conservation staff.

## EARLY BIRD DEADLINE: AUGUST 31!

**PLEASE REGISTER NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 19.**

Field trips begin at various locations and times. All trips are scheduled to end by 3:30 p.m. or earlier to allow participants time to return to the Londonderry Country Club by 4 p.m. to check in for the meeting. Space is limited, so register early.

Field trip details and directions will be mailed or e-mailed with annual meeting registration confirmation.

**To register, visit [www.forestsociety.org](http://www.forestsociety.org) or call Heidi DeWitt at (603) 224-9945.**

### *Appreciating Resources*

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603.253.4999



# Family Educational Series Offers Wildlife Talks, Storytelling

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events

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

## BRETZFELDER EDUCATIONAL SERIES

*The annual Bretzfelder Park Family Educational Series is a free series of entertaining programs held at Bretzfelder Park in Bethlehem each August and February. Owned by the Forest Society and managed in cooperation with the town of Bethlehem, the park was bequeathed to the Forest Society in 1984 by Helen Bretzfelder in memory of her father, Charles, and includes a classroom, educational trails, a pond and several picnic sites.*

*For more information about any of the programs listed below, visit [www.therocks.org](http://www.therocks.org), email [info@therocks.org](mailto:info@therocks.org), or call (603) 444-6228.*



*The life history of moose will be the topic of a presentation by N.H. Fish and Game biologist Kristine Rines on Aug. 27.*

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6 | 7-8 p.m.**

### Laughing Couple Interactive

Join the husband and wife duo of storyteller Carolyn Hunt and visual artist Rick Hunt for an evening of interactive storytelling. The Hunts have been performing since 2006 all over New England and beyond, in venues ranging from elementary schools and colleges to museums, cultural events and even the Vermont Symphony Orchestra. As Carolyn shares tales of the native peoples of the region, Rick creates a spontaneous 4-by-8-foot mural to illustrate the stories. Participants will be invited to help illustrate the stories during the program.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13 | 7-8 p.m.**

### Wildlife In Motion

A naturalist from the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center will share myths and facts about how animals move and will bring three live animals along to illustrate the discussion. The program is interactive and designed to engage and educate audience members of all ages.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20 | 7-8 p.m.**

### Weather Wise and Otherwise

The weather is a favorite topic of discussion in New England, and we've all heard sayings like, "Red sky at night, sailor's delight." Meteorologist Mark Breen will discuss these sayings, or "weatherlore." Even as people access up-to-the-minute forecasts and weather radars on smartphones, and television and radio provide constant weather updates, many of these weather sayings have passed the test of time.

The senior meteorologist at the Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium, Breen has been the voice of Vermont Public Radio's Eye on the Sky on weekday mornings for more than 30 years. He also hosts the 90-second *Eye on the Night Sky* star-gazing program on VPR, heard each weekday afternoon at 4:30 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27 | 7-8 p.m.**

### The History and Life History of Moose in New Hampshire

N.H. Fish and Game Moose Project Leader Kristine Rines will discuss the history and life history of moose in New Hampshire, with a special emphasis on the mortality increase currently being studied by Fish and Game. Her discussion will include the rise of the winter tick and how it is affecting New Hampshire's moose population. Rines is a New Hampshire native with a bachelor's degree in wildlife management from Michigan State University. She has worked for N.H. Fish and Game for 30 years, including 28 years as the moose project leader.





Ben Kilham with one of his bears. Courtesy photo.

**TUESDAY, JULY 29 | 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

### Secrets of Black Bear Society

*The Rocks Estate, Bethlehem*

The Forest Society and the Littleton Conservation Commission will host noted wildlife biologist Ben Kilham for a presentation about black bears. His slide show is based on the social relationships within the black bear society.

Proceeds from the \$10 admission fee will be put toward improvements to the education center at The Rocks. For more information, visit [www.therocks.org](http://www.therocks.org), call 444-6228, or email [info@therocks.org](mailto:info@therocks.org).

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 10 | 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

### Field Trip to the MacNeil Family Forest

*Washington*

The proposed MacNeil Family Forest contains abundant signs of moose, deer and bear. With a mix of hardwoods and softwoods, the land is the highest quality habitat in the state, designated in N.H. Fish and Game's Wildlife Action Plan. This hiking field trip will share both natural and cultural resources of the MacNeil forest.

*Co-sponsored with Town of Washington Conservation Commission.*

**JULY AND AUGUST**

### Art Exhibit: Treasured Memories of Quieter Times — Watercolor paintings of Conrad Young

*Conservation Center, Concord*

Conrad Young's woods, flowers and mountains evoke the serenity of nature in all seasons, while covered bridges and historical buildings celebrate New Hampshire's heritage. His *Treasured Memories* exhibit includes some of the most picturesque covered bridges around New Hampshire. Young's watercolors can be viewed online at [www.watercolorbyconradyoung.com](http://www.watercolorbyconradyoung.com).

*The exhibit is open Mon.–Fri. from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Conservation Center Conference Room, 54 Portsmouth St. in Concord. The Conference Room is used for meetings, so please call 224-9945 before visiting.*

**See Projects in Progress on page 36 for more information on the conservation of the MacNeil Forest.**



*Dalton Covered Bridge, by Conrad Young.*

# WILL POWER!

Will Lange's hiking mountains, trekking trails, paddling waterways and exploring New England.

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## WINDOWS to the WILD

**WEDNESDAYS 7:30 PM**

NHPTV PRIME

WATCH ONLINE [NHPTV.ORG](http://NHPTV.ORG)





*The Hagers' donated conservation easement covers 140 acres of fields and forests in New Hampton. The view behind Dennis and Liz Hager in the photo at right features Lake Winnepesaukee and surrounding lakes and mountains as seen from the top of Sunset Hill. Photos by Brenda Charpentier.*



## Connections, Kinship and Care

Dennis and Liz Hager's easement donation carries on a long tradition

By Brenda Charpentier

Three of the many reasons Liz and Dennis Hager donated a conservation easement on their 140-acres in New Hampton are carved into an interior door of their farmhouse: I.H.M.

The three letters stand for Ichabod H. Mudgett. He was part of the family that built the house in 1795 and farmed the surrounding land. The Hagers credit the Mudgett family for caring so much for the place they now call home. About a

century later, the Mudgett family sold the place to the Stevens family, who passed it down while also nurturing the land and keeping it intact until the Hagers bought it in 1990.

The evidence of care that the Stevens family left behind isn't carved into wood but is planted in the ground. The Stevenses were gifted horticulturists and gardeners. Clumps of peonies, rows of asparagus and raspberries, blueberry bushes and apple

trees bring daily pleasure to the Hagers today and, like the initials in the door, are daily reminders that their home has a history of stewardship to carry on.

"It's that connection," said Liz, while she pointed out photos of the farmhouse taken around 1940. "The Mudgetts kept the place for a century, and then the Stevenses loved it enough that they never did anything other than planting raspberries and asparagus and loving it. We knew since we



bought it that we also loved the land and don't want anything to happen to it."

Until recently, the Hagers lived in Concord and used the New Hampton property as a scenic retreat. They now live in New Hampton full time (at least in the warmer months—Florida beckons in the winter) to enjoy the spot more fully in their retirement. Liz Hager served in the N.H. House of Representatives for 26 years and as mayor and city councilor of Concord. She also headed the Merrimack County United Way and is a former Forest Society trustee. Community service has also been important to Dennis Hager, who retired from the insurance business and took up plumbing when he was 59, then spent 10 years using his plumbing skills to assist others in the nonprofit FixIt Program. He now volunteers with the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center in Holderness.

Donating an easement that keeps the land open and scenic is one more service to the community and a way to keep wildlife habitat intact.

"It's tough to predict the future, but easements can protect the land from paved lots and development," Dennis said. "If this wasn't

in an easement, when we're gone it could be bought by a developer for house lots."

The conservation easement covers 140 acres of forests and fields on the slope of Sunset Hill, located at the end of a long and meandering drive along country roads that Liz describes as "up, up, up then down, down" until you get to the beautiful spot. From the house, a short truck ride to the top of the hill leads to views of Winnisquam, Winnepesaukee and Waukegan lakes off to one side and the mountains around Plymouth off to the other. The Hagers have built a bunkhouse and cabin on the top for kids and grandkids to gather. The hilltop was the perfect site for their younger daughter's wedding, while the field just below was the site of their elder daughter's wedding.

Much of the forested parts of the property are under timber management, and the Hagers recently worked with a local forester to complete a timber harvest on a 47-acre section.

When they bought the property 24 years ago, the farmhouse was uninsulated and had no plumbing or modern heating.

Over the years of working to bring the home up to modern standards of comfort, the connection the Hagers feel to earlier families who made a home there has grown stronger as they have imagined what life might have been like there back in the 1700s and 1800s.

"Our guess is this place had one or two pigs and a cow and a horse. It was pretty grim, subsistence living, rough, cold," said Dennis.

One cool day before they updated the house, "we lit all three fireplaces full steam ahead," recalled Liz. "I realized at about 5 p.m. I'd been running around and around feeding the fires all day and it was still only up to about 55 degrees."

Farm life surely had its ups and downs, but anyone living at the Hagers' place always had the hilltop as a consolation, a high place where generations of three families now have shared the relief of a cool breeze and a beautiful view.

"It's a lovely little spot," Dennis said. "You come up here and it's quite peaceful."

Thanks to the Hagers' conservation easement, it will always stay that way. ♪

## Three-Way Collaboration Results in Additions to White Mountain National Forest and Jericho Mountain State Park

The Forest Society has a long history of facilitating land conservation projects that involve government agencies and require a nonprofit's ability to act quickly. This spring, the Forest Society was pleased to be able to assist two important partners, the state's Division of Forest and Lands and the White Mountain National Forest (WMNF), to complete a project that resulted in additions to the WMNF and Jericho Mountain State Park.

The project began in 2008, when the WMNF asked for the Forest Society's assistance with the purchase of a 76.5-acre tract abutting the WMNF in Bartlett. The WMNF asked the Forest Society to purchase the property and hold it until the WMNF could secure its funding.

In the meantime, the WMNF and the state Division of Forest and Lands saw an opportunity to further both agencies' missions with the Forest Society's help. The WMNF owned a 96.6 acre tract that was located within the state's Jericho Mountain State Park in Berlin. State park officials wanted that federal land to become part of the state park because of its proximity and because an existing gravel road on the parcel would provide more trail-riding opportunities within the park.

The Forest Society facilitated the transaction by swapping the 76-acre Bartlett parcel it had been holding for the WMNF, for the 96-acre Berlin parcel. Then the Forest Society sold the Berlin parcel to the state. The result of the three-way transac-

tion was that the WMNF was able to add 76 acres of abutting land to the WMNF, and the state was able to add 96 acres of abutting land to Jericho Mountain State Park.

The deal made sense from a land management perspective and from a public recreation perspective, said Chris Gamache, bureau chief of the N.H. Trails Bureau. "This simplified our land management quite a bit and allows us to fully utilize the existing trail infrastructure that was on the property," he said.

The recreational benefit to the public and the conservation of additional public land both are in keeping with the Forest Society's mission, as is developing strong public/private partnerships. ♪



## Northern Pass Update:

# DOE Releases Preliminary Alternatives Report; a Northern Pass Competitor Files for Presidential Permit; and NU Considers a Line in Vermont

By Jack Savage

Northern Pass opponents have been waiting to learn to what extent the U.S. Dept. of Energy (DOE) listened to the voluminous public comments regarding the need to analyze alternatives to the proposed overhead transmission line, such as burial along transportation corridors. The fear has been that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would be completed without serious study of such alternatives.

Prompted by requests from the New Hampshire Congressional Delegation, the DOE released on May 1 a preliminary report outlining the alternatives that will be studied as part of the EIS for the proposed Northern Pass transmission line.

Now that the report is out, the rush is on to understand not only what it says but what it might mean for Northern Pass. The caveat, however, is that this is clearly a preliminary report. As the document itself notes:

*This Alternatives Addendum document briefly discusses alternatives that will, as of this time, be included in the draft EIS. However, this ongoing review may generate new information that results in changes or additions to, or reorganization of, the information presented below. DOE will use the information gathered during this process to identify which of the alternatives are reasonable.*

In other words, if any one listed alternative is determined to be “unreasonable” by the DOE, it may get short shrift. The report goes on to say:

*The range of reasonable alternatives will be analyzed in detail in the draft EIS, including discussion of design specifics and an analysis of potential environmental impacts. DOE also*

*will identify those alternatives that are not reasonable and, in the draft EIS, will briefly discuss the reasons those alternatives were eliminated from detailed study.*

### The Alternatives Being Analyzed

There are 24 alternatives summarized in the report, including the so-called “Proposed Action” (the largely overhead line that Hydro-Quebec and Northeast Utilities want to build) and the “No Action” alternative (what happens if no line at all is built).

Among the rest are 10 variations on burial of some or all of the line, which suggests that burial options are likely to be analyzed in some detail. Those variations include burying only 10 out of 187 miles to avoid overhead lines through the White Mountain National Forest, to “porpoising” above and below ground, to complete burial either along the proposed right of way or under roadways or rail corridors.

There are a few surprises, such as the possibility of locating the conversion station (the electricity would travel the greatest distance as direct current, or DC, but must be converted to alternating current, or AC, to be accepted into the New England grid) in Deerfield instead of Franklin as proposed by Northern Pass. This possibility has not been part of any significant public discussion to date.

One alternative would apparently consider a terminus other than Deerfield, and thus, as the report states, “Specific alternate locations for the project’s terminus substations were not suggested, but different locations could significantly expand the range of

possible routes.” Another alternative considers placing the transmission line in an above-ground “tube” or pipeline, while another considers using navigable waterways, such as the Merrimack River. It’s unknown to what extent such alternatives will get close scrutiny.

### What’s Not Among the Alternatives

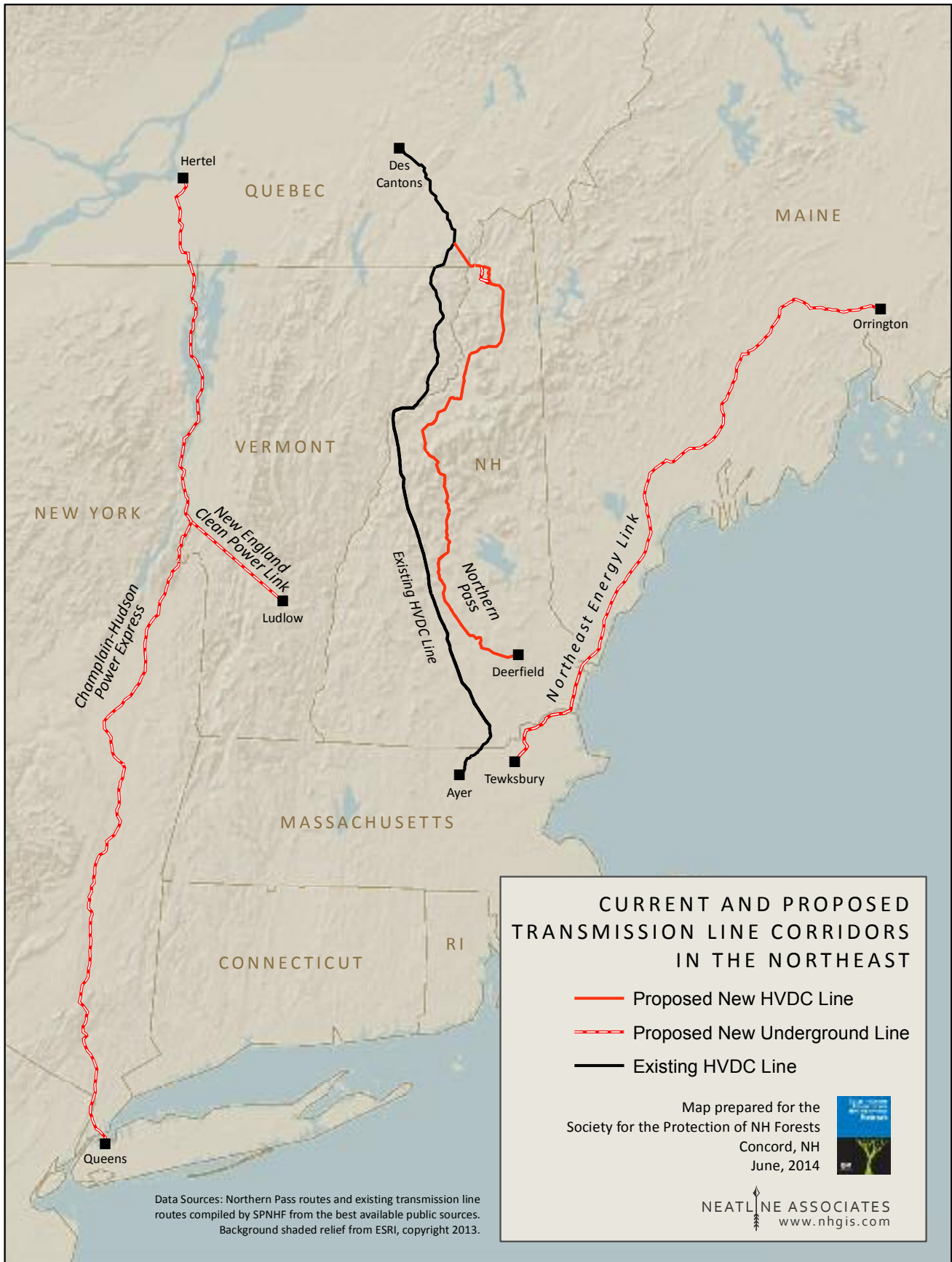
None of potential alternatives listed in the report contemplate an international border crossing other than the one requested by Hydro-Quebec and Northeast Utilities in Pittsburg, N.H. This is notable for several reasons, not the least of which is that absent eminent domain, all overhead and underground routes that start at that point are blocked by the Forest Society’s ownership of the Washburn Family Forest in adjoining Clarksville, including land underneath Route 3. Northern Pass has yet to secure a legally permissible route, and the alternatives being studied by the DOE don’t resolve that issue.

The sole Pittsburg starting point is also notable in that the shortest route for power to be delivered from Quebec to power-demand centers in southern New England—especially if buried along roadways such as I-91—would not begin there.

Also missing among the alternatives is any consideration of so-called HVDC Light technology, the kind of buried transmission cable to be used in similar projects in New York (Champlain-Hudson Express and Vermont (New England Clean Power Link).

Rather, it would appear that the DOE for the most part has chosen to study alternatives that start with the project developers’





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own assumptions—that the line would cross into the U.S. in Pittsburg, N.H., and proceed to Deerfield, N.H., using the limits of old-school transmission technology. This is somewhat less than some stakeholders had hoped for. Gov. Maggie Hassan in her statement about the report, saw fit to note, “I continue to believe that, with any energy project, New Hampshire deserves the latest technologies in order to protect what we all love about our state... .”

### Increased Interest in Vermont

Meanwhile, on a visit to New Hampshire, Vermont's Gov. Peter Shumlin offered to work with Gov. Hassan to look into using I-91 as a potential route for a buried line.

“If anyone can get it done, it's Governor Hassan, myself and others,” he said. “We would love to find solutions to get our southern neighbors the juice they need without destroying our pristine forests.”

Two other underground transmission proposals, both from Transmission Developers Inc. (TDI) are proposed for Vermont/New York. The Champlain-Hudson Express, an underground and underwater 330-mile 1,000MW project that would deliver power from Quebec to New York, is well ahead of Northern Pass in the permitting process. And in May, TDI applied for a Presidential Permit for its New England Clean Power Link, another underwater and underground transmission line that would deliver 1000MW of Hydro Quebec power to Ludlow, Vt., where it would connect to the New England grid. TDI projects a 2019 completion date and \$1.2 billion price tag for that approximately 150-mile project.

Perhaps, then, it is not surprising that earlier this spring Northeast Utilities fielded their own proposals to connect to the regional grid in Vermont. NU denied that those proposals were meant as a hedge against the stymied Northern Pass project in New Hampshire, but would not say how much electricity would be carried nor what the source of power would be. ♪

*Jack Savage is vice president of outreach and education at the Forest Society.*



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

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# Lawmakers to Take the Pulse of Conservation in New Hampshire

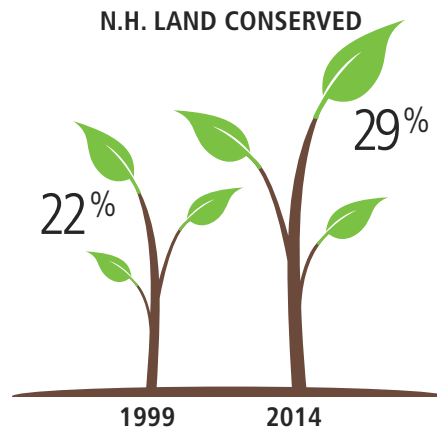
By Chris Wells

The New Hampshire Legislature passed legislation (SB388) this past spring that establishes a committee of lawmakers to study the status of land conservation in New Hampshire, and to make recommendations on how the state can best encourage voluntary land conservation over the next decade.

The study committee will conduct a baseline survey of the state's portfolio of conservation lands, so the Legislature and the public can understand what we have, where it is, why it was protected, and how it is managed. It will also analyze how well the state's conservation land is safeguarding natural resources including drinking water supply, food and forest products, fish and game habitat/biodiversity, and recreational opportunities. In addition to looking at the land itself, the committee will survey how conservation is funded in New Hampshire and analyze the return on public investments to date. Finally, the committee will make recommendations based on this analysis.

It has been nearly 15 years since the New Hampshire Legislature has taken a comprehensive look at land conservation. In 1998 the Legislature established (via SB 493) the Land & Community Heritage Commission to look at what the state might do to support the protection of New Hampshire's landscapes and historic resources. At the time, a selloff of industrial timber lands in the North Country and a development boom in southern New Hampshire drove widespread concern that the state was losing the rural character that set it apart from southern New England. The commission's final report in November 1999 became the springboard for the creation of the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program, or LCHIP, the following year. Fifteen years on, much has been achieved, and much has changed.

First and foremost, a great deal of additional land has been conserved in New Hampshire, totaling roughly 400,000 acres, since 1999. Today about 29% of the state is in permanent conservation, versus a little



more than 22% in 1999. The increase in conserved land has been most notable in the North Country, thanks to projects like the landmark 171,000-acre Connecticut Lakes Headwaters working forest easement purchase in 2001. But at the same time, land that is critical to the future of the state's people and economy continued to be converted to development. In particular, New Hampshire continued to rapidly develop land that collects and filters clean drinking water. Almost 20,000 acres of land over aquifers was converted from natural land cover to urban land uses from 2002 to 2010. Today, still only 22% of aquifers most appropriate for public drinking water supplies are protected from development.

The context for *why* we conserve land has evolved since the late '90s. Then a main driver of conservation efforts was rapid population growth and suburban sprawl in the south. Since then New Hampshire has experienced an economic slowdown (the first dot-com bust and 9/11), followed by another growth and development boom, then a bust following the financial meltdown of 2008. When—or as some would argue, whether—the state's population-driven development cycle will re-start is a key question as we look ahead to what land-use change and conservation looks like in the next decade. The continued “greying” of New Hampshire's population also has land use and conservation ramifications, as does the evolution of outdoor recreational interests.

Other issues that are becoming key considerations for conservation today were barely on the state's radar in 1999. Energy infrastructure and the state's undeveloped landscapes today intersect (i.e. Northern Pass, wind turbines) in a way they did not in 1999. The concept of “climate resiliency”—i.e. what ecosystems will best adapt to a changing climate—is now the cutting edge of conservation science and planning. Looking ahead, new markets that monetize ecosystem services provided by undeveloped land (clean water, carbon storage, etc.) could transform what land we conserve and how we pay for it.

Public funding for conservation is another variable that has changed since the Land and Community Heritage Commission's report in 1999. During the boom years of the early and mid-'00s, towns across southern New Hampshire raised more than \$140 million for local land conservation, catalyzed by local growth concerns and the possibility of state matching funds through LCHIP. The federal government invested tens of millions of dollars in conservation funds in New Hampshire, adding to federal units like Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge, funding public-private partnerships like at Great Bay, and funding working farm and forestland easements across the state.

With the bust of the late '00s, public funding at all levels declined. Town funding slowed to a trickle, LCHIP's “dedicated” dollars were diverted to the state's general fund, and federal investments in New Hampshire flattened out or declined with the end of earmarking and the budget sequester. Given this recent flux in public funding, an analysis of how we fund land conservation, including the return on public investments to date, is extremely timely.

SB388 enjoyed strong bi-partisan support in both houses of the Legislature. Prime sponsor Sen. Martha-Fuller Clark

*Continued on page 31*



*The Merrimack River collects the drinking water from about 3,275 square miles of watershed land in New Hampshire and Massachusetts.*

Photo by Jerry and Marcy Monkman, EcoPhotography.

## New Plan Targets “Most Threatened” Merrimack River Watershed

By Chris Wells

In May, a broad coalition of land conservation organizations released a new strategic land conservation plan that aims to focus and accelerate land conservation in the Merrimack River watershed of New Hampshire and Massachusetts. More than two years in the making, the plan is the conservation community’s response to a 2010 U.S. Forest Service report that listed the Merrimack watershed as the most threatened in the nation in terms of the expected loss of private forest land to development over the next 20 years.

The Merrimack River begins in Franklin, N.H., at the confluence of the Pemigewasset and Winnepesaukee Rivers, and flows south through eight of New Hampshire’s 10 largest cities, including Manchester,

*Some of the lands most in need of conservation are the least protected, especially those supplying and filtering public drinking water.*

Nashua and Concord. The river continues into Massachusetts, through Lowell and Lawrence to its mouth at Newburyport. The Merrimack watershed—meaning the land area that drains to the river—totals about 3,275 square miles or 2.1 million acres, divided almost evenly between New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

About 750,000 people live in the New Hampshire portion of the Merrimack watershed, or 57% of the state’s total population. These residents depend on the river

for drinking water, local food and forest products, and close-to-home outdoor recreation. Yet today it has only 10 percent of the state’s conservation land, and some of the lands most in need of conservation are the least protected, especially those that protect public drinking water supplies. In the New Hampshire portion of the Merrimack region, less than 10 percent of all the land classified as “wellhead protection area” by state regulators is in permanent conservation. Unfortunately, if the U.S.



Forest Service researchers are right, there is limited time to correct the situation.

The new Merrimack conservation plan took more than two years of effort by a dedicated group of conservation and planning professionals representing more than 30 private organizations and public agencies in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Working together, the group developed a science-driven, consensus land conservation plan that integrates the best-available natural resource data with expert judgment to prioritize land protection to protect water quality (especially drinking water supplies), preserve aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, conserve the region's working farms and forests, and provide recreational open space. The Forest Society provided organizational and technical support for the plan.

The Merrimack plan is the latest in a series of strategic conservation plans the Forest Society has developed with our conservation partners for each region of the state. Earlier efforts include the Quabbin-to-Cardigan conservation plan (2007), which covers western New Hampshire, and the Lakes Region plan (2010). To learn more about the Merrimack and other regional conservation plans, visit [www.forestsociety.org](http://www.forestsociety.org), or contact Chris Wells at [cwells@forestociety.org](mailto:cwells@forestociety.org).

*Chris Wells is senior director of strategic projects and policy at the Forest Society.*

*Continued from page 29*

(D-Portsmouth) was joined by Senate co-sponsors Jeannie Forrester (R-Meredith); Bob Odell (R-Lempster), Jeb Bradley (R-Wolfeboro); and Jeff Woodburn, (D-Dalton). The bill was co-sponsored in the House by Rep. Mary Jane Wallner (D-Concord). The Forest Society thanks all the co-sponsors, and House Resources Committee Chair Shannon Chandley (D-Amherst) and all the members of the Committee for their support of SB388. The land conservation study committee will be doing its work through this summer and fall, with a report due November 1.

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## Why Burying Transmission Cables is a Viable Alternative

By Will Abbott

From the beginning, the main issue the Forest Society has had with Northern Pass has been with how the project proposes to bring electrons to the marketplace. We are not philosophically opposed to importing electricity from Canada, but we are opposed to the 180-mile scar that the proposed overhead towers would create on New Hampshire landscapes from Pittsburg to Deerfield.

If the power is needed, or even desired, we believe there is new technology available that makes it possible for New Hampshire to accommodate Northern Pass in a way that is good for the state, for Quebec and for the utility proposing to build Northern Pass (Northeast Utilities, owner of Public Service Company of New Hampshire).

The new technology involves a buried high-voltage, direct current cable designed to be placed in a trench that dissipates the heat from the cables. By using a trench dug along an existing transportation right of way, like an interstate highway or a continuous railroad right of way where the state already owns the land beneath the right of way, Northern Pass could be built in a way that avoids the adverse visual impacts of overhead lines. In addition, the state would generate a little extra money for its depleted highway fund by leasing the right of way to the utility.

One company that manufactures this new cable calls its product “HVDC Light.” The company, a Swiss firm by the name of ABB, Inc., is so attracted to the future of this product that they have recently completed a new \$400 million manufacturing facility in North Carolina to manufacture this and other cable products. A representative from ABB has testified before New Hampshire legislative committees to explain how its product works. The cable itself costs \$2 million a mile, and, based on previous installations, company representatives estimate that trench costs for a previously disturbed corridor are in the range of \$3-\$4 million a mile. This makes the total likely cost significantly below the claimed expense



Illustration by Hermin Utmo/Dreamstime.com.

of \$20 million a mile being made by representatives of Northeast Utilities.

If southern New England states need electrons from Quebec to meet their electric needs, and if they prefer this over building new generating facilities in their own states, it only seems fair that they should pay for the cost of burying Northern Pass through New Hampshire. Or, at least they should be willing to pay the differential cost between overhead lines and buried lines on existing state-owned rights of way. The N.H. Department of Transportation has already identified New Hampshire's three existing interstate highways (plus Route 101 from Manchester to the Seacoast) as appropriate corridors for such buried facilities to be studied further. Maybe Hydro-Quebec can partner with the southern New England states to share these added costs.

The decision to site such an extension-cord facility in New Hampshire remains with the state and its people. Northeast Utilities and Hydro-Quebec should not be allowed to jam overhead power lines down New Hampshire's throat—particularly in a

situation like this where the electrons are not needed to keep the lights on. Northern Pass is being built as a for-profit enterprise to benefit the shareholders of Northeast Utilities and the ratepayers of Quebec. They are in business to make money (which is not a bad thing) and they have the right to propose a project that makes them more money. They should not, however, be entitled to make money at the expense of one of New Hampshire's greatest assets. They are not entitled to scar the landscapes that are the social and economic fabric of our communities.

If the people behind Northern Pass want to build a project in New Hampshire that has broad public support, they should withdraw the project they have proposed and offer a new project that completely buries the new facility along appropriate state-owned transportation corridors. Otherwise, the project should be abandoned altogether. ♯

*Will Abbott is vice president of Policy and Reservation Stewardship at the Forest Society.*



# The Song of Forestry

By George F. Frame, CF

By their nature, and by the nature of their work, foresters oftentimes spend their days alone in the woods. That's not a problem; foresters like wandering and either talking to themselves or to the trees. There isn't much need of a loud voice unless some absent-minded bear lopes by or they're getting multiple stings after stepping on a hornet's nest. And there isn't usually an audience to these musings, although these days I suppose one could easily end up on Facebook after unknowingly tripping a game camera. What happens though, when a forester is requested to tell his or her story or the story of forestry? At the Forest Society, we call that an opportunity to sing our song.

I'm finding that a lot of people are very interested in what we do, but most of the time they don't want to be the silly one who asks the strange question. Because ours is a strange profession! We have to know and do a lot of stuff that is outside many people's comfort zone. Walking alone in the woods, working around large pieces of equipment, understanding plenty of science, measuring things, working in snow, cold, rain, bugs, bugs, and oh yeah, black flies, mosquitos, ticks and more bugs.

Earlier this spring we hosted the 21st class of volunteer land stewards at a two-day training session on the shoulder of Cardigan Mountain in Alexandria. As part of their training, land stewards have to listen to lead forester Wendy Weisiger and me talk about forest management at the Forest Society. We provide this primer because we know that at some time in the future the property to which they will become attached will host a timber harvest. We're a forestry organization and we practice what, in these opportunities, we preach.

Wendy begins the forestry section with a presentation that tries to answer the questions we know will be coming. I get to do



*Timber tour participants learn how logging equipment works at the Rush Forest. Photo by Carrie Deegan.*

the fun part, which is leading the group to places in the field where we can stand and look at a harvest area and talk about the subject very dear to foresters, the future. We answer all kinds of questions as the discussion begins and minds start churning over what is being seen, heard and felt.

Now for the good part: You don't have to become a land steward to hear this song of forest management. All you have to do is to sign up to come along on one of our timber tours. These special events provide our members, and potential members, their opportunity to hear our message and talk to all the folks who get the work done on our reservations during an active timber harvesting operation.

We try to have at least two tours annually, in two different parts of the state.

If you register to take a timber tour, you have to be ready to hike over some rough ground, but you'll learn about sorting the various products being harvested, and you'll talk to the foresters about how the sale is designed, how the trees are selected for cutting, how the roads and trails are constructed, protected and put to bed afterwards. You'll get to talk to the operators of the sale and learn about their equipment, their professionalism, and their pride in the good work they do. I can guarantee you'll have a great time and you'll come away with a much better idea of the lyrics to the exciting song of Forest Society forestry. ♪

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



*Survival odds are steep for dappled deer fawns born in early summer. This one was found just off the trail at the Forest Society's Rocks Estate in Bethlehem. As is typical for fawns during the day, it was hiding silently, keeping its head down, while waiting for its mother to return from feeding.*

Photo by Jeremy Barnaby, [www.picturenh.com](http://www.picturenh.com).

## Summer Growth Spurt

For wildlife, it's a critical time to take advantage of high-value food

By Dave Anderson

People take the plentiful availability of year-round food calories for granted. For wildlife, brief weeks of summer signal that insect protein and plant carbohydrates are at their maximum. Northern wildlife must quickly bulk-up to build feathers, antlers, muscle, and bone—long before the first hint of autumn frost portends the return of winter austerity.

Long daylight hours ... hot sun ... the buzz of cicadas and the trill of gray tree frogs' rain calls as humidity builds on a July afternoon. Summer is high tide. The canopy of dense foliage conceals a forest nursery where young wildlife feed and grow quickly. Winter survival will depend on successful foraging.

During spring breeding, nest-building, incubating eggs and brooding chicks, adult

birds forage for protein: insects, worms, grubs. During subsequent weeks of feeding young nestlings by early summer, they require the quick energy burst from sugary carbohydrates, just as the summer fruits ripen in a progression of strawberries, raspberries, blueberries and elderberries.

Insect protein fuels rapid growth of flight feathers and muscle tissue after nestling



*After predators leave nests and dens, summer school is in session as they must learn to successfully stalk, chase, capture and kill.*

birds fledge. Breast muscles must be sufficient to enable progressively longer flights and then the fall migration—when fledglings are only months out of their egg shells!

Once freed of parental duties, adults molt bright breeding plumage and begin to refuel. In contrast to sugary summer fruits, waxy autumn fruits and oily seeds and nuts are higher in fats. Waxy berries of poison ivy or myrtle are higher in lipids that provide slower burning calories to fuel the long-distance autumn migration.

Birds and plants co-evolved a mutualistic relationship. Birds provide seed dispersal services. Plants provide specialized fruits. Some plant leaves redden by late August. These “foliar fruit flags” indicate that fruits containing seeds are approaching ripened maturity. It’s an elegant arrangement where plants provide the specific type of calories that birds require for energetic summer chores of foraging and feeding growing nestlings and then the slower-burning fat calories by autumn.

In summer, herbivorous mammals graze highly-nutritious, lush summer grasses, forbs and ferns. Moose and deer browse tender leaves of seedling and sapling trees. In autumn beech and oak seeds are critical to adding fat reserves. The winter meal plan comprises much lower quality foods: tree buds and bitter bark high in tannin. Winter austerity reduces availability of carbohydrates and fats. Shorter days reduce foraging time. For the fur-bearing mammals adapted to New Hampshire winters, summer mornings and long evenings are spent continuously

feeding to grow fat, muscle, bone and antler without the caloric expense of winter “heating bills.” Thermoregulation leads to protracted weight loss when calories spent seeking food exceed the calories gained from low quality food.

Carnivorous mammals and birds dine on meat protein of herbivorous prey. After predators leave nests and dens, summer school is in session as they must learn to successfully stalk, chase, capture and kill. Small mammals—mice, voles, chipmunks, squirrels, hares—feed foxes, coyotes, fishers and bobcats. The ample summer supply of snakes, frogs and fish feed aquatic predators and omnivores including otters, mink, raccoons and birds like fledgling eagles, osprey and herons. The aquatic herbivores—beaver and muskrats—tend gardens of starchy tuberous roots of lilies and cattail reeds. By autumn, beavers adapt to a winter diet of tree bark.

Throughout New Hampshire forests, fields and wetlands, summertime is the critical season of abundance—a time for the young of the year to quickly grow and master survival skills. The serious business of raising offspring and learning foraging or hunting skills is perfectly timed to coincide with the summer abundance of insect protein, prey meat fats and proteins and lush plant carbohydrates. ♀

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



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*The Old Marlow Road (below) offers a peaceful woods walk past stone walls and old cellar holes (above) on the MacNeil property in Washington.*

## Help Us Connect Conservation Lands in the Ashuelot River Watershed

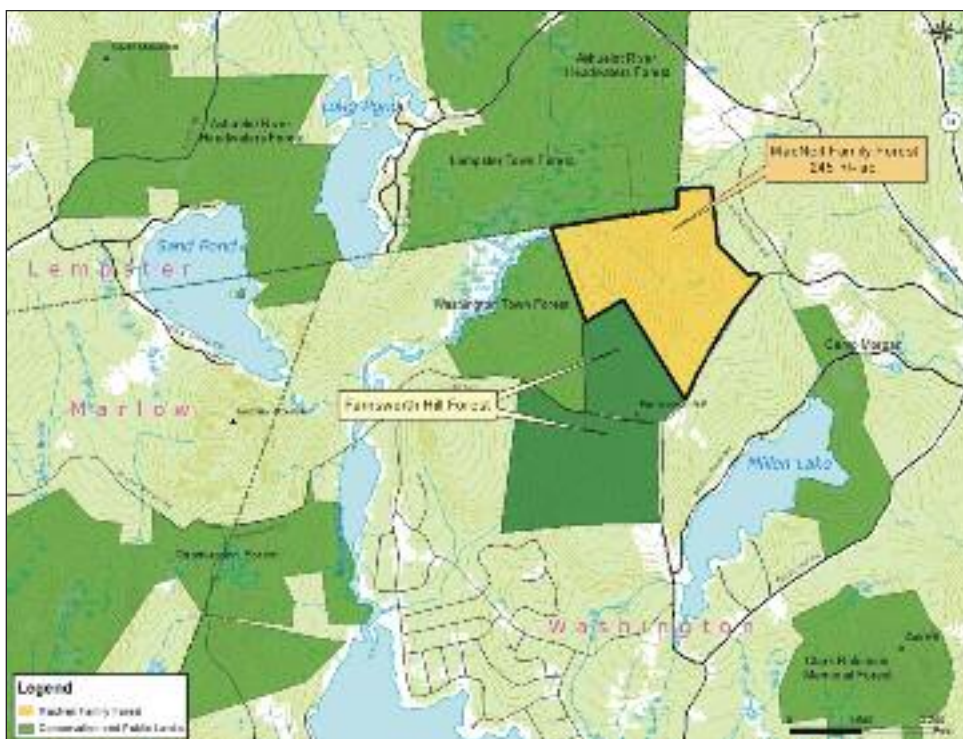
Connecting conservation lands into large swaths of protected landscape is a major goal of the Forest Society. We have an opportunity to purchase, at significantly below market value, 245 wooded acres in Washington that would do just that.

The parcel, owned by the MacNeil family, sits right next to the Forest Society's Farnsworth Hill Reservation, Washington's Town Forest, the Ashuelot River Headwaters Forest and the Long Pond Town Forest. On a larger scale, all of these properties lie between the 25,000 acres of protected lands





*The MacNeil Family Forest is located adjacent to many other conservation lands in Washington and Lempster.*



surrounding Pillsbury/Sunapee state parks to the north and the 11,000-acre Andorra Forest to the south. The MacNeil parcel gets us 245 acres closer to connecting these regions into one conserved landscape—a refuge for wildlife and open lands for public recreation.

The MacNeil parcel is located above Millen Lake on one side and above the Ashuelot River on the other. Conserving this property will help protect the water quality of these nearby treasured resources.

One doesn't have to walk far on the MacNeil land before seeing ample signs of moose, deer and bear. With its mix of hardwoods and softwoods, much of the land is the highest quality habitat in the state, designated as such in N.H. Fish and Game's Wildlife Action Plan. The unmaintained Old Marlow

Road, a long-ago main travel route to Washington, is a popular snowmobile trail in winter and a peaceful walking trail past many cellar holes and stone walls in warmer seasons. By buying the property, the Forest Society can guarantee that it will stay open for public recreation into the future.

We must raise \$248,000 by Aug. 31 to buy this parcel and pay for the transaction

and stewardship costs. The Washington Conservation Commission's pledge of \$20,000, a \$10,000 grant from The Davis Foundation and gifts from other generous donors have already provided \$85,000, getting this project off to a great start. We hope you'll join us in this effort by mailing your gift or donating online at [www.forestsociety.org](http://www.forestsociety.org). Thank you! ♪

## ☐ YES, I WANT TO HELP THE FOREST SOCIETY PROTECT MACNEIL FAMILY FOREST

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

☐ Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution for \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support MacNeil Family Forest

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security code: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Thank you for your help!**



MAC146FN



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

54 Portsmouth Street  
Concord, NH 03301-5400

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THE FOREST SOCIETY'S  
ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH

# ANNUAL MEETING

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2014**

*Londonderry Country Club, 56 Kimball Road, Londonderry*

*Left: The Bockes-Ingersoll Forest in Londonderry.*

*Right: The Mushquash Conservation Area includes 10.5 miles of trails, wetlands, a heron rookery, a New England cottontail rabbit habitat project and historical resources, including cellar holes. Photo by Mike Speltz.*

**EARLY BIRD DEADLINE:  
AUGUST 31!**

**TO REGISTER:**

Sign up online at  
[www.forestsociety.org](http://www.forestsociety.org)  
OR

Call Heidi at (603) 224-9945

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## HIGHLIGHTS:

**9 am  
to 3:30 pm**

### FIELD TRIPS AND WORKSHOPS

- *Forestry and recreation tour at The Bockes-Ingersoll Forest Reservation (Londonderry, Windham, Hudson)*
- *Mushquash conservation property walk, Londonderry*
- *Historic Londonderry and Mack's Apples/Moosehill Orchards conservation land walk*
- *Pennichuck Waterworks—Forest Society easement walk, Merrimack*

**4 pm  
to 8 pm**

### ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

- *Reception and Recognitions (including cash bar)*
- *Business Meeting*
- *Dinner*
- *Awards and keynote address by author Douglas Whynott*

**COST:** Early Bird price is \$45 per person prior to August 31. Regular price is \$50 per person.

**Final registration deadline is September 19.**

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

See pages 20-21 for field trip options!