

THE AUSBON SARGENT LAND PRESERVATION TRUST

*Helping to Preserve the Rural Landscape of the Mt. Kearsarge/Lake Sunapee Region
Andover, Bradford, Danbury, Gosben, Gratham, New London, Newbury, Sunapee, Springfield, Sutton, Warner, & Wilmot*



CHATTER Winter 2007



"Hersey Family Farm" original oil painting by Lisa Jelleme-Miller

Our Land · Our Lakes · Our Future 1987 - 2007

The ASLPT - Then and Now

A Founding Board Member Recollects

In the summer of 1987, I was asked to join the founding board of a yet to be named group interested in the conservation of natural areas, wildlife habitat and scenic views in and around the New London area.

We were inspired by Ausbon Sargent, a 95 year-old New London

resident who took his life's savings and gave it to Colby-Sawyer College with the stipulation that the College deed to the town the three acre green on Main Street which the College had for sale. In an effort to honor Ausbon's generosity and love of the land and ensure that his remarkable story would be told for

generations, we asked his permission to name the land trust after him. He not only agreed but wanted to sign up immediately for membership! Much time and thought was given to the selection of the squirrel, an animal representing simplicity and conservation, as the land trust's logo.

(continued on page 2)

by Heidi Rice Lauridsen



From the Executive Director:

The year 2007 is a tremendous milestone for the ASLPT because we are celebrating 20 years of land conservation in the Mt. Kearsarge/Lake Sunapee region. As Executive Director, I remember when I was first offered a job with the fledgling land trust. (See Heidi Lauridsen's article.) The

offer was totally unexpected, but I have never once regretted the decision to accept. I can honestly say that "I love my job" and I believe in the mission of the land trust. It is comforting to be a part of the ASLPT's success in conserving land that has made a difference in one's quality of life today and for all the tomorrows.

As we kick off our 20th anniversary year, I thought it would be interesting for you to hear about our goals, opportunities and needs. Last March, we adopted our strategic plan for 2006-2010. In 2006, we made great strides in our land conservation goals by completing 8 projects totaling 717 acres. By 2010, our goal is to conserve 13 properties per year (at an average of 100 acres each). As you read *Chatter*, you'll note the complexity of projects like Courser and Hersey farms, which involve partnerships and multiple fundraising sources. We presently have 15 more projects approved by the board that are awaiting completion. In addition, we have twice as many land protection opportunities that are either categorized as ready for board review, promising or an inquiry has been made and we are at the discussion stage.

Thanks to our generous members, our 15% annual membership dollar growth is on target. We are falling short on increasing our number of members at an annual rate of 5%. You

can help the ASLPT by encouraging your friends and family to become members. If your membership has lapsed, please renew today

Last year, we created an Outreach Committee comprised of representatives from our 12-town region. This committee is planning a regional "Land Summit" for the fall of 2007. The Land Summit is intended to build close ties in our region around land protection issues, growth/development challenges and concerns about land protection priorities.

Our financial goals include a feasibility study to guide us in developing a plan to realize our \$1,250,000 endowment goal. This March we will kick off our Annual Preservation Fund which gives our members the opportunity to do more for a cause they care about. (See Debbie Hall's article.) We project that our staffing needs will increase and that another employee will be hired in 2009. Our development plan also recommends the creation of a volunteer coordinator position. Therefore, an ad hoc committee will begin work on a position description and recruiting strategies. (This will be a volunteer position.)

Much of the success of the ASLPT can be credited to all the people who are associated with the land trust. Our staff includes Beth, Laurie, Sue and Wendy and each one is dedicated, competent, professional and a pleasure to be around. We have had the ability to attract a talented pool of trustees and volunteers that bring their knowledge, experience, skills and wisdom to the land trust. Our generous and loyal members provide the necessary financial support to sustain the organization. Most important, land conservation is possible because of willing landowners who recognize that their actions will preserve our rural landscapes – forever.

Thank you all,

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With a name and a logo, we were in business. Our Board meetings were held in the New London Trust Company's (now Lake Sunapee Bank) offices and any committee meetings were held in various members' homes. This group of volunteers launched the first fundraising campaign in February of 1988. We also produced our first newsletter, much of which was composed at kitchen tables. All the membership letters, record keeping and acknowledgments were done by Dale Garvey, a member of the Board of Trustees, at his home on his own computer. We had no office space and no staff, just a core of extremely dedicated and excited volunteers.

The response to our fundraising efforts and the emergence of several land protection projects surpassed our wildest projections. Very quickly we realized that our core volunteer group would not be able to meet the needs of the enthusiastic and supportive audience we had assembled. It was a good problem to have and in May of 1988, Chairman Woody Blunt suggested that Board members Don Sisson, Dale Garvey and I invite Debbie Stanley to lunch. She thought we were going to ask her to join the board, which of course we did, but as

Executive Director. We felt strongly that Debbie was the perfect person for the job as she had an interest in and dedication to New London and the surrounding towns. I remember telling her at that luncheon that this was an opportunity for her to be on the cutting edge of a new and exciting field and that I envisioned her becoming a leader in the land trust community (we really wanted her to say "Yes"! but that we could only guarantee the position for one year. Thankfully, Debbie did say "Yes."



Current Vice-Chairman Heidi Rice Lauridsen was also a founding ASLPT board member.

Thankfully, Debbie did say "Yes."

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Landscapes for Landsake



Bill Helm (l) joins painter/gallery manager Ron Brown welcoming visitors to the opening of "Landscapes for Landsake" in early January of this year.

Original oil paintings of selected ASLPT easements painted by local artists provided both a beautiful and compelling opening exhibit of The Banks Gallery's new location at 37 Newport Road in New London. The exhibit will run from January 8th - February 11th. Be sure to check their web site for the days and times when the gallery is open.

www.thebanksgallery.com

**Those who contemplate the beauty
of the earth find reserves of strength
that will endure as long as life lasts.
There is something infinitely healing
in the repeated refrains of nature—the
assurance that dawn comes after night,
and spring after winter.**

- Rachel Carson

Joining the ASLPT Board of Trustees: *Jack Sheehan & Bill Clough*

Jack Sheehan retired to New London five years ago with his wife Pat after being a seasonal resident of the town for the past 25 years. Jack retired as North American Director of Manufacturing, from Rhone-Poulenc, S.A. after 40 years in the chemical manufacturing industry. He was involved in research and development, technology licensing and manufacturing management. He holds a BS in chemistry from Georgetown University where he also completed graduate work in chemistry and chemical engineering. Jack served as a member of the Little Sunapee Protective Association for 20 years, six of which as President. He also served for 6 years on the Board of the Lake Sunapee Protective Association, chairing the Water Quality Committee.

A native of New London, Bill Clough returned to New London upon retiring as Headmaster of Gould Academy, Bethel, Maine after nearly twenty years. Bill holds a BA from Colby College. He also serves as a Trustee of the Betterment Fund, is a Director of Environmental Funders Network in Maine and is a member of the citizen's Advisory Committee in New London. Currently he owns and operates Spring Ledge Orchard in Wilmot producing maple syrup.



Left to right: Jack Sheehan, Executive Director Debbie Stanley, and Bill Clough chat after the 2006 ASLPT Annual Meeting.

(continued from page 2)

With Debbie on board things really began to happen. We acquired our first office, located upstairs in the Kidder Building and generously donated at a bargain basement price by David and Janet Kidder. At our first annual meeting in October of 1988, we announced our first easement, the Eunice Bohanon property with another, the Murray and Rachel Sargent property, in the works. Many annual meetings and awards for the land trust's excellent work followed. Fundraisers were produced such as the "Spring Shenanigans," a play written by Ruth Sisson with assistance from Steve Mendelson and Norm Leger, and many Nordic ski-a-thons were held.

I went off the ASLPT Board in 1994, and in 2005 I was asked to return as a Board member who had the advantage of an historical perspective. The contrast between 1987 and now is startling. ASLPT is still inspired by the remarkable story of Ausbon Sargent and his generosity. There is still an enthusiastic and dedicated group of volunteers, but the ASLPT is hardly recognizable as the infant organization I knew. The ASLPT truly has become a leader in the land trust community, well respected by state and national organizations and staffed now not only by Debbie, but Beth McGuinn, a land protection specialist, and assistance from Sue Andrews and Laurie DiClerico. At ASLPT's annual meeting in 2006, eight projects, complete or nearing completion, were highlighted. Since its beginnings, ASLPT has handled 86 easements. Those easements represent the protection of 4,613 acres in 10 towns.

ASLPT - what a ride you have had! Thanks!

Heidi Rice Lauridsen lives in New London with her husband, Pete Lauridsen. Together, they own and operate Lauridsen Auto Body. Heidi has two grown daughters, Molly and Sarah. She graduated from Boston University. Her family has been interested in land conservation for a long time and has conserved lake front property and prime residential real estate in the Berkshires in Massachusetts. Heidi is Vice-Chair of ASLPT and returned to the Board in 2005 after serving from 1987-1994.

Spear Hill Farm

Danbury

“The Farm” has been a central focus in the life of our family since we purchased it from Kenneth Huberman in 1984. But for the last 200-plus years, the history of this place has been rich and varied, and in many aspects reflects the changes in the New Hampshire countryside over the centuries.

Aside from the documentation available in historical deeds, the most important primary source of information about the Farm is a letter written in 1914, by F.W. Flanders, then in his 85th year. He had been born on the Farm, one of several children in a family which had occupied the land since the late 18th century. His father, Caleb Flanders, had bought the land (actually, he bought it twice – but that is another story . . .) and over time proceeded with the enormous task of cutting woods, clearing meadows, building stone walls, building and later enlarging the family home, building a three-story barn and out-buildings. By the time that Mr. Flanders was a boy, the Farm was a thriving place, becoming “one of the most productive farms in town. I have seen 80 tons of hay in that barn, 200 bushels of corn, 75 bushels of wheat, 200 bushels of oats, 100 bushels of potatoes, and many more of apples, all grown in one season.” It appears from remnants of apple trees in the current forest that these trees were planted in 20 acres of the northern meadows of the property. Local people recall large apple crops as recently as the early 20th century, after which the property as a whole was essentially uncared for and fell into disrepair.

In 1961, Kenneth and Bernice Huberman, owners of Camps Kenwood and Evergreen on Eagle Pond, were searching for a retirement home in the Danbury area. They came upon this property on Spear Hill Road and, despite its run-down condition, bought it for the wonderful views north to Cardigan and northeast into the White Mountains. Some poking into the plaster ceiling and under the linoleum floors revealed large hand-hewn beams and wide-planked hand-planed pine floors. This and more prompted them to restore the house, a job undertaken with little experience by the local craftsmen – and many resulting detours. The house today is, in the main, their



Rachael Rosenblum stands at edge of Danbury Bog, an important wetland that abuts their land.

photo by Beth McGinnis

restoration, augmented by an addition built by us in the style of the original.

The Hubermans were part of Rachel’s extended family, and we remember summer days with them at the Farm. By that time, the woods had taken over the vast meadows committed to crops and livestock (with the exception of the present meadows, which have always been maintained), but Kenneth worked mightily to preserve selected old apple trees. We recall spending time clearing pines from around the apple trees – an exercise which proved to be entirely futile!

In 1984, Kenneth Huberman sold the property to us, and it quickly became the Rosenblum family homestead. We spend full summers and weekends in the other seasons there. Our children and their families, living in Denver, Seattle and Paris, make it a point to get back to the Farm annually, and it has been the site of large family reunions, a wedding, and many wonderful informal days with friends – enjoying the walks and explorations,

the views, the newly dug pond, the many places to sit and read or meditate or dream, and, of course, the multiple tasks which keep such a place going: cutting and splitting wood, tending the fruit trees and bushes and the vegetable garden, and cutting brush, always cutting brush . . . to keep the forest back from taking over what is left of open land.

Our children share with us a strong emotional tie to Spear Hill Farm and a sense of being stewards of the land and of the memory of the Hubermans and other family members for whom this was such an important place. It is in that spirit that we are putting Spear Hill Farm into conservation that it may be saved into perpetuity (or at least until the next ice age) in a manner that embodies our values and sense of legacy.

Myron is a retired Professor of Chemistry at Brandeis University and Rachel is a retired social worker. Myron does beautiful woodworking and studies and reads; Rachel, an active Board member at Common Cause Massachusetts, is also an enthusiastic weaver and gardener. Their children and grandchildren are very supportive of the move to conserve this property.

The Facts about Spear Hill Farm

Rosenblum Easement – 141 acres in Danbury, NH

- 141 acres forestland, wetland, and fields
- Visible from Mount Cardigan & Danbury Bog
- Protects part of Danbury Bog watershed and the headwaters of the Smith River
- Abuts 21 acre Danbury Bog Wildlife Management Area, owned by NH Fish and Game Department
- Protects important upland wildlife habitat for species using Danbury Bog
- Public access for hiking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, nature observation, and other similar pedestrian recreational activities outside of the homestead area
- Snowmobile trail corridor passes through the property

Deer Hill Farm

Springfield

by Cynthia Hayes



photo by Beth McGuinn

Sheep graze within stone wall lined fields at Deer Hill Farm in Springfield.

Our Lake Sunapee area has many unique and special places that offer solitude, reflection, recreation and stimulation. Some we have driven by countless times, others remain hidden and await discovery. Perhaps Robert Frost grasped something fundamental as he wrote of the roads less traveled - something that we need to be a content person.

When walking about our fields and woods I wonder what drew earlier residents to settle and live here on Deer Hill Farm in Springfield. From clearing the trees to constructing the shelters and stone walls they left clues for us to piece together. Their use of the land to extract a living in the 19th century differed from that of summer residences in the 20th century and my vision of sustainable forestry and hobby farming now. Regardless, the land endures and I have come to realize that we are but the stewards. As one travels about our region the effects of development and subdivision are readily apparent - more roads, houses and businesses, but less open land for wildlife and future residents. The answer for us is to conserve the land "in perpetuity" (whatever that means) and encourage others to do the same.

It will soon be fifty years since I first set foot on Deer Hill Farm and the thrill has not diminished. A child's eye saw much, but did not grasp the inherent beauty. My parents, Donald and Rosamond Hayes, grew to love this special place and impressed upon me and my siblings the desire to protect and preserve it for others to enjoy. Now when my husband John and I walk through the beech and spruce forests and around the pond, see tracks on the snow and wildflowers in the fields, we know that we have done what we can so that others can enjoy it - in perpetuity.

Cynthia Hayes is a retired educator and spends her farm time keeping sheep, chickens and bees. She is also a member of the Springfield Zoning Board of Adjustment, the Sunapee Area Watershed Coalition and the ASLPT Outreach Committee. Cynthia is married to John Trachy. John chairs the Springfield Conservation Commission.

The Facts about Deer Hill Farm Hayes Easement 267 acres in Springfield, NH

- 267 acres forestland, wetland and pasture
- Visible from Deer Hill Road and Route 89
- Protects headwaters of tributary to Baptist Pond and Lake Sunapee
- Abuts 230 acres of RH Webb Forest Preserve easement held by Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests
- Combines with Webb property and surrounding unprotected land to provide wildlife habitat for species with large home ranges including bear, moose, deer, coyote and fox
- Provides public access for hiking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, nature observation, hunting and other similar pedestrian recreational activities outside of the homestead area
- Snowmobile trail corridor passes through the property
- SRK trail passes through property on Deer Hill Road
- Managed under the Tree Farm program since the early 1960s

Wish List:

Would you like to help us share the ASLPT land protection message more effectively? This equipment would really make a difference:

Digital projector - \$1,200
Flat screen monitor - \$450
GPS & mapping software - \$400

Call Debbie Stanley if you think you can help. 526-6555

Calendar:

Friday, April 13

Dedication and property tour of the Rosenblum conservation easement in Danbury (near the Danbury Bog)

Thursday, July 12 & July 26 – 5:30 pm

Progressive Dinner

Sunday, October 28 – 4:00 pm

ASLPT Annual Meeting

Check our website and *The Kearsarge Shopper* for additional events as well as start times and directions. Call or email with questions: 526-6555 or aslpt@tds.net

A Conversation with Farmer Jerry Hersey

East Andover

by Charlie Darling

At the heart of the ASLPT is “land preservation,” of course. But it’s important to recognize that it’s much more than land that gets preserved when a family decides to create a conservation easement.

You couldn’t ask for a better example of this than the Hersey Family Farm, a working farm in East Andover that will soon have 267 acres protected by a conservation easement. Jerry Hersey, who has farmed the land all his life, talked with *Chatter* about some of the important intangibles – history, a place to raise a family, a way to earn a living, hopes for the future – that will be preserved by preserving the land.

Chatter: Jerry, tell me a little about the history of the Hersey Family Farm.

Jerry Hersey: The old farm down the hill, the place with the red doors, my grandfather bought that in 1904 when he married my grandmother. My father grew up there. Just after my father married my mother in 1944, they bought the property next door, the property we’re protecting now.

They raised four boys on the farm. The old barn attached to the house only had room for 10 or a dozen head of dairy cows. There were a lot of small dairy farms in town in the ‘50s with a half dozen cows selling 40 quarts a day. My father had the barn built across the street where he could milk 30 head. That was a good-sized dairy farm in the 1950s, before high taxes and expensive fuel.

Chatter: What was it like for you and your brothers growing up on the farm?

JH: Most of the time there was work to do, but there was time to play a little baseball or go fishing in Sucker Brook, right



photo by Christopher J. Kontos

Jerry Hersey works the farm where his family has made their livelihood for the last 60 years. The Hersey Family Farm land will now remain a community landmark forever.

The Hersey Family Farm Alliance

The Andover Conservation Commission, The Andover Historical Society, and the ASLPT met their goal to raise the funds necessary to purchase the development rights to 267 acres of fields and forestland of the Hersey Family Farm. This effort combined federal grant money with town and private contributions culminating in early December of 2006 when the Virginia Cretella Mars Foundation donated \$45,555 – exactly the amount needed to complete the project.

The Mars family has summered for 30 years on Lake Sunapee in Newbury. Though the family has no direct connection to Andover, the family feels a deep connection to New Hampshire and its landscape. The foundation was looking for a way to make a difference in preserving New Hampshire’s unique heritage, and the opportunity to be the capstone on the Alliance’s fundraising effort was just what it was looking for. The ASLPT is proud to have coordinated this project’s fundraising and land protection efforts.

on the property.

We helped take care of the young cattle, fed ‘em and cleaned out the stalls. My father did the milking twice a day, but we helped feed the cattle. In the summer we had to help get the hay in the barn to feed the cattle for the winter.

Chatter: What has it been like running the farm as an adult?

JH: My father sold the dairy cattle in 1980 and retired, and I started with beef cattle. At one time we had up to 60 head of dairy, milking them twice a day. I only kept 35 to 40 beef cattle, which meant we could sell more of the hay we harvested, and they didn’t have to be milked twice a day, so we started doing more firewood.

My dad helped at first, then my brother (Jim Jr. from Contoocook) helped a couple of days a week. For about the last year and a half he’s been working with me five days a week. With the extra help, we’ve been able to harvest some of the more mature timber for saw logs and let the younger trees come on.

Chatter: What are your hopes for the future of the farm?

JH: I hope somebody’s still working the land. You have to keep the brush cut around the stone walls or the fields start growing in.

I have four nephews – hopefully one might be interested in farming in the future. At least they’ll have the chance – the farm won’t be split up into house lots.

If it does get sold to somebody outside the family, they’ll have to honor the easement and keep the fields open. Maybe they’d sell hay or something, or raise some other kind of livestock, depending on the market.

Charlie Darling is editor of The Andover Beacon, former Andover Conservation Commission member, and a monitor for the ASLPT.

The Courser Project - Phase 3

Warner/Webster

by Beth McGuinn

On a sunny September afternoon, I walked along the Schoodac Brook in Warner, preparing the documentation necessary for the Courser Farm easement, the second phase of our conservation work with the Courser family. It had been a wild flurry of paperwork over the previous 2 months to get to within a week of finalizing all the details, but we were nearly there. Tall wildflowers bloomed in pink and gold across the brook which gurgled by, and there was not a mosquito in the air. It was a perfect time to enjoy this important wildlife habitat. Moments like this define the benefits of working in land conservation. I thought not only of this property, but of the 950 additional acres the Courser family would like to conserve in this watershed, and of how this easement protected area would not be changed by development, but by the course of nature. Upstream and downstream, there was still much work to make this dream a reality.

In 2007, Phase 3 of the Courser project will be our focus. We have the opportunity to add 480 acres to the 450 acres already conserved by the Courser family in the past 2 years under Phases 1 and 2. With a \$200,000 grant expected from the Landowner Incentive Program through the NH Fish and Game Department and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, we are over 40% of the way to our fundraising goal! The cost of Phase 3 is expected to be \$475,000. The Town of Warner Conservation Commission plans to contribute \$50,000, and seek \$50,000 more via a vote at March's Town meeting for a total of \$100,000. This funding will be critical to making Phase 3 a reality. Even if the Town funding comes through, ASLPT will need to raise \$175,000 from personal donations, foundations and other grant funds to make the project a reality.

All of the Courser land being conserved contains important upland and wetland habitat for three wildlife species of special conservation concern – species that are not yet listed as endangered, but require habitat protection today in order to prevent their decline to that point in the future. The Schoodac Brook and its associated wetlands provide habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species dependent on moving water, wetlands and riparian areas, including mink, otter, snowshoe hare, bats; a wide variety of birds, including owls and hawks, warblers and sparrows; turtles, frogs and salamanders. The Courser easements protect the important buffers along this stream, and the uplands that filter the water coming into the brook.

The Courser family has managed their forestlands in a sustainable manner over generations, providing firewood and lumber to the local economy. The Courser easements require the family and future owners to work with licensed foresters to plan for forestry using best management practices. This will protect the quality of the water, the wildlife habitat and improve the quality of the forest products over time. The family's current forest management and the forest management required under the easement stand in stark contrast to the recent large scale clear cutting in Webster, highlighted by articles in the *Concord Monitor*. The clear cut land is located in the same Schoodac Brook corridor as the Courser land, and contained the same quality wildlife habitat for species of special conservation concern. One hundred and forty seven acres of the Courser land slated for conservation under Phase 3 lies adjacent to the clear cut land, and is now even more important to conserve.

The easements will ensure that the land is open to the public for outdoor recreational uses today and in the future.

These properties contain a network of woods roads and trails that are used for snowmobiling, hiking, cross country skiing, nature observation and hunting.

The Phase 3 easements also contain several farm fields which grow hay, squash, corn and pumpkins, supplying the family farm stand and the family's popular pumpkin festival.

Residents of Warner can play an important role in protecting the Phase 3 properties by attending Town Meeting in March and voting for the \$50,000 appropriation to help conserve the Courser lands. Anyone can help make this project a reality by making a donation to the Courser Phase 3 Fund at ASLPT. Checks may be made out to ASLPT and sent to us at PO Box 2040, New London, NH 03257. Credit card donations or donations of stock may be made by calling us at 526-6555.

Beth McGuinn is Land Protection Specialist at ASLPT. She works with landowners who wish to conserve their land, drafts ASLPT's conservation easements, collects the field data and creates the documentation to complete land conservation projects. Her background is in forestry, land management and easement stewardship.



The dam and public boat access at Knights Meadow Marsh.

The Facts about Phase 3 Courser Project - 480 acres, Warner/Webster NH

- 480 acres of productive, well managed forest land and farm fields in Warner and Webster
- Visible from Poverty Plains Road, and Connors Mill Road in Warner and Knights Meadow Marsh in Webster
- Protects significant wildlife habitat for species of special conservation concern in the Schoodac Brook Watershed
- Abuts 1400 acres of other conserved lands owned by the family and the NH Fish and Game Dept. to provide wildlife habitat for species with large home ranges including bear, moose, deer, coyote, fox
- Public access for hiking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, nature observation, hunting and other similar pedestrian recreational activities
- Snowmobile trail corridor passes through parts of the land

The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust

Membership, Gifts & Thank You's

In the previous issue of Chatter, we listed our active membership as of June 1, 2006. The names appearing below represent those members who made their donations after that date for the fiscal year 2006. Our fiscal year runs July 1 - June 30. Our membership list for the fiscal year 2007 will be published in the next issue. If you made a donation after July 1, 2006 it will be reflected next time. If you have any questions concerning your membership status, please call Operations Manager, Sue Andrews at 526-6555 or email aslptsea@tds.net.

BENEFACTORS

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Marshall
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel K. Thorne

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Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Woeltz

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DONATIONS TO EVERGREEN POINT:

Ann and Jerry Walls

DONATIONS TO THE HERSEY FAMILY

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Paul and Patricia Buddenhagen
Lee and Bert Carvalho
Ron Charles
Larry and Susan Chase
Oscar and Ann Clark



The success of all our ASLPT special events depend on our volunteers. Above are just some of the many folks who made this year's Annual Holiday party at Foxstand fun for all and successful for the ASLPT. From left to right: Sandy Rowse (owner of Foxstand), Heidi Lauridsen, Peg Andrews, Sue Andrews, Laura Powers, Pat Sheehan, Karen Ebel, Laurie DiClerico, Beth McGuinn, and Wendy Johnson.

John and Jacqueline Donovan
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Dufault
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COLBY-SAWYER COLLEGE INTERN:
 Stephanie Seavey

MAILING HELPERS: Rosana Andrews, Bee Chambers, Carol Foss, Janet Prew, Janis Taylor, Lee Warriner, Cami, Nikki & Zach Zeller.



ASLPT squirrel mascot, Seymour, waves to those attending Musterfield Farm Days last summer.

EVERGREEN POINT WORKERS: Dan Allen, Dave Bowen, Bob Crane, Jen Ellis, Steve Ensign, Carol Foss, Walt Goddard, Gerry Gold, Don & Mary Lou Hinman, Beth McGuinn, Wayne Nicholl, Jeanie Plant, Jack Sheehan, Ralph Spofford, Debbie Stanley, and Nancy Teach.

CORDINGLEY PRESERVE TRAIL WORKERS: Sandy Brenner, Dave Harris, and Frank Perotta

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Our web site is constantly updated,
 so be sure to come back and visit often at
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PRESERVING OUR RURAL LANDSCAPE FOREVER

Annual Preservation Fund

by Debbie Hall

The ASLPT is celebrating its 20th birthday this year. They say nothing succeeds like success, and the ASLPT is a case in point. We now manage easements on 86 properties, totaling 4,613 acres, throughout the Mt. Kearsarge/Lake Sunapee region. In 2006 alone, we completed easements on eight properties and took title to Cordingley Preserve. We anticipate doing 13 or more easements each year, and have a rolling backlog of about 25 properties in process. Without question, ASLPT will be a permanent leader in preserving the special places dear to all of us. Without a doubt, we couldn't have gotten to this point without you. Our vision today is achieving a balance between preservation of our natural assets - farms, wildlife habitat, watersheds and scenic views - and the need for homes and jobs arising from the increasing population pressures in the I-89 corridor.

You, our members, have always provided the core of our funding through your annual memberships to the ASLPT, and memberships will continue to be a critical source of our income. As we enter our 20th year, however, memberships alone are no longer sufficient to generate the funds necessary to maintain our momentum. For that reason, the ASLPT has decided to add a second annual fund raising cycle, called the Annual Preservation Fund, in the spring of each year. The Fund is intended to build our financial resources devoted to land conservation in perpetuity. The solicitation for the Annual Preservation Fund in the spring and the annual membership renewal in the fall will be the only general fundraising campaigns we will do.

In March, you will receive your first solicitation for the Annual Preservation Fund. We ask you to consider ASLPT's central role in maintaining the special character of the Mt. Kearsarge/Lake Sunapee area even as its population grows, and to make as generous a gift as you can to protect the fragile beauty and rich ecosystem in which we are lucky enough to live and work. With your support, we will surely be able to meet the ambitious conservation goals that all of us share.

Debbie Hall is the chairman of the ASLPT Major Gifts Committee and a member of the Development Committee. She is a "semi-retired" attorney who lives with her husband Arthur on the west slope of Pleasant Lake in New London.



Lawyer Mike Chiarella generously donates his professional services to the ASLPT.

Michael Chiarella –

ASLPT Volunteer Profile

by Janet Miller Haines

As so often happens, a teacher makes an impression on you, and it winds up impacting you later in life in a very fundamental way. Such was the case with Michael Chiarella's math teacher way back when. You might be thinking – so was Michael a math teacher or a CPA before he became a lawyer? No – not even close. Turns out his high school math teacher was the sponsor of the Environmental Club, and because he was such a neat person, many kids who otherwise might not have gotten interested in the outdoors, got involved. (The next time you see Michael, ask him about the igloo he and the other members of the club built.)

But growing up near West Point and the nearby Military Park probably planted the seeds of appreciation for the outdoors and open spaces long before high school. In fact, he majored in Environmental Studies at Dartmouth. So maybe it wasn't his math teacher at all...maybe it was where his family lived that got him started.

What does all this have to do with the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust (ASLPT)? Lots. Michael Chiarella has been providing legal services for us for the past few years. And he's done it on a *pro bono* basis. Needless to say, we are very appreciative of his help and support.

In speaking with Michael, the commitment he has to preserving the landscape of the area comes across in a very natural way. It helps that he's an avid skier and hiker. But he takes this commitment seriously as the Springfield representative on the Sunapee Ragged Kearsarge Greenway Board. For those of us not familiar with what this entails ~ it means that he's responsible for maintaining the ten miles of trails in his town. So when he's out hiking, he often has a pair of clippers with him; and in the warmer weather, sometimes even a chainsaw.

Since most of us don't have land we can entrust to the good care of ASLPT, I asked Michael what the rest of us can do to continue what Ausbon Sargent started some twenty years ago. He didn't have to think for long before suggesting that attending Town Meetings – of Planning Boards, Zoning Boards, Conservation Commissions – would be a great start. Sounds like a good idea. Thanks, Michael.

Janet Miller Haines minored in Journalism in college and likes to keep her hand in the writing game, especially when it involves one of her favorite organizations = ASLPT. She is also a member of the ASLPT Development Committee.

Financial Report: Revenue & Expense Summary

Statement of activities and changes in net asset detail year ended June 30, 2006 and comparative totals for year ended June 30, 2005.

REVENUES, GAINS and OTHER SUPPORT	2006 Total	2005 Total
Grants	5,500	2,000
Donations	30,247	67,743
Special events	22,625	25,325
Membership dues	182,407	149,053
Memorials	1,350	7,450
Monitoring donations	1,500	3,600
Special projects	435,416	53,526
Investments	17,014	22,558
Miscellaneous income	67	886
Total revenues, gains and other support	696,126	332,141
EXPENSES and LOSSES		
Program:		
Land protection	472,862	90,037
Education and community relations	104,915	85,804
Stewardship and monitoring	11,304	13,856
Supporting services:		
Management and general	36,271	25,376
Fundraising	4,542	2,025
Total expenses and losses	629,893	217,097
Increase in net assets	66,233	115,044
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING of YEAR	509,898	394,854
NET ASSETS, END of YEAR	\$576,131	\$509,898

The financial statements of the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust are audited by Rowley & Associates P.C. of Concord, NH in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.



Treasurer Larry Armstrong discusses ASLPT business with Board Chair Nancy Teach.

If you have any questions regarding this financial information, including wishing to see our complete financial statement, contact: ASLPT Treasurer Larry Armstrong at 526-2066

Outreach Committee Plans Land Summit

by Laura Alexander

In the Summer 2006 *Chatter*, we reported that a newly formed ASLPT Outreach Committee had convened for the purpose of assisting ASLPT staff in spreading the conservation message to the 12-town region covered by the land trust, and bringing news of potential projects to the ASLPT office.

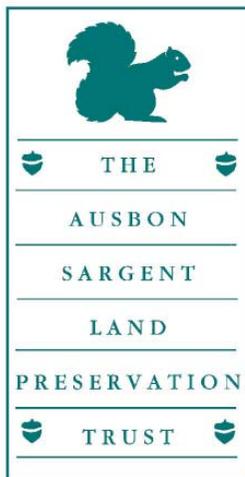
Committee members representing the towns in the ASLPT region have met several times and are learning a lot from each other including: the outlook for future conservation projects, barriers that hamper conservation efforts, and what kinds of information resources would be helpful to draw on when conservation possibilities arise.

As committee members, our role is to monitor the pulse of conservation in our individual towns by monitoring select, planning and zoning boards in our towns. Upon learning of potential conservation projects, we can offer networking resources and/or pass along the information to ASLPT staff for follow up.

Currently committee members are working diligently to plan a "Land Summit" designed to provide information about conservation – now & for the future – within our 12-town region. The Summit will be held in the fall of 2007 in celebration of the ASLPT's 20th anniversary at a location yet to be determined. About half of the committee members are planning the logistics of the Summit, and the other half will be developing public relation-type materials to support the Summit and to create a library of regional conservation information resources.

One of the things committee members are most excited about is the opportunity to think about conservation projects regionally rather than within the political boundaries of our individual towns and to learn from each other "what works" with respect to conservation approaches. We have shared with each other how much money each of the towns allocates for conservation purposes, how each of the towns have approached funding for conservation projects, and how individual towns go about establishing conservation priorities. In October, we arranged for Dijit Taylor of the Center for Land Conservation Assistance to present a slide show and talk titled: "The Dollars and Sense of Saving Special Places." This presentation reminded us of the importance and timeliness of the ASLPT's work, and renewed our resolve to promote greater understanding of conservation in general and the work of the ASLPT in particular in each of our towns.

Chair of the ASLPT Outreach Committee, Laura Alexander is an Assistant Professor at Colby-Sawyer College, teaching in the Community & Environmental Studies Program and Natural Sciences. A life-long resident of New Hampshire, she is currently researching North Country residents' relationship with the land in pursuit of her PhD in Environmental Studies at Antioch University New England.



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photo: Ruth White

One of the many benefits of land conservation is the protection of wildlife habitat.

“How many children will we allow to grow up without the touch of nature close to home?”
 -Peter Forbes

Thanks to Newsletter Editor Nancy Lyon for coordination, layout and editing.
 And special thanks to all our guest authors!

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