

THE AUSBON SARGENT LAND PRESERVATION TRUST

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



Chatter



Summer 2020



Land Brings Us Together *and Benefits Us All*

From the Executive Director:



Photo by Douglas K. Hill



While the coronavirus pandemic is impacting all of us, we are quickly learning how to ensure that our land conservation work continues now and in the future. This issue of Chatter highlights the many properties recently protected and features the opportunity for Ausbon Sargent to acquire the undeveloped 144-acre Messer Farm.

Early March was the kick-off for the \$1.6M Messer Farm fundraising effort and two weeks later we put a temporary halt to those one-on-one visits with donors. Ausbon Sargent went back to the seller and negotiated an extension on the closing from May 26th to October 30th. Fundraising resumed May 1st and will continue throughout the summer.

When I was hired in 1988, one of my first projects was working with landowner Bob Messer, Sr. to purchase the development rights (conservation easement) on 31 acres of the Messer Farm. We had a signed agreement with Bob which permitted Ausbon Sargent to secure grants from the Land Conservation Investment Program (LCIP) and the NH Department of Agriculture. There was also overwhelming support at New London's Town Meeting. But two years later, Ausbon Sargent notified all funding partners that efforts to permanently protect the Messer Farm were unsuccessful as Bob had decided to not sell the development rights.

Messer's Dairy Milk Bottle
Courtesy of Sally Morrill
Photo by Lee Morrill



ABOUT THE COVER >

An aerial view of a portion of the Messer Farm property that is leased to Spring Ledge Farm each year for the growing of produce.

Photo by Peter Bloch, EarthAerial Productions

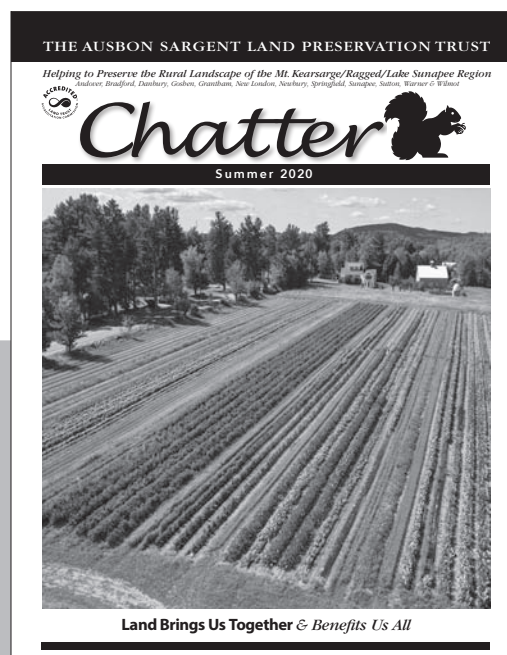
In June 1990, Ausbon Sargent approached neighboring Spring Ledge Farm landowners John and Sue Clough about protecting their 53 acres with a conservation easement. After all due diligence steps were completed and funding was secured from the Town and the LCIP, Spring Ledge Farm was permanently protected from future development in December 1991. The terms of the easement allow for commercial agricultural activity and trail access.

If you shop at Spring Ledge Farm, there is a good chance that some of the fresh produce you purchase is grown on the Messer Farm fields. It is the land trust's intention to keep the Messer Farm fields in crop production and available for lease to adjacent Spring Ledge Farm. There is also a network of trails on the Messer Farm property that could be linked to the New London Conservation Commission's very accessible trail system in the center of town.

Excitement and support for the Messer Farm project is growing.

We are enormously grateful to those who have generously given. Please join us in protecting this incredibly important property so that we can close on October 30th, Thank you.

Debbie Stanley





"Perhaps, after all, our best thoughts come when we are alone. It is good to listen, not to voices but to the wind blowing, to the brook running cool over polished stones, to bees drowsy with the weight of pollen. If we attend to the music of the earth, we reach serenity. And then, in some unexplained way, we share it with others." —Gladys Taber

The Importance of Conserved Land

By Kristy Heath

Our world has certainly changed; and it has changed quickly.

Events have been canceled, schools were closed and kids were taught online, employees relocated to home offices to work remotely, masks are worn and "social distancing" is a common term. In the midst of the upheaval and change, there has been one constant: the land.

People have flocked to the trails to breathe in the clean air and get a change of scenery. Isn't it wonderful that the land is where people go to find that simple connection and feel a bit of relief that not everything has changed? Some things have stayed the same. For those properties that have been protected through a conservation easement or owned by the land trust, they will stay the same, forever.

As a relative "newbie" working in the field for just five years, I thought I knew all the reasons why land conservation is important. It *does* have to do with the protection of watersheds, wildlife habitat, soils, views, and the rural character that we all value. But conservation is also vital to give the people a place to go; to offer a space to regain a bit of solace and peace in times like these.

Before mid-March it is true that some people had been visiting conserved land for exercise and to enjoy the outdoors. But now that entertainment has been limited to watching television, reading, house work/projects, and old hobbies, many more are taking to the trails. It may have been years since they've heard the sound of a woodpecker searching for insects, a brook babbling nearby, or the rustle of dry leaves as a chipmunk scurries along a crumbling stone wall. It may have been a lifetime ago that they have gone out on a trail to find themselves completely surrounded by nature, without another person in sight; the smell of the earth and the feel of the sunlight through the leaves bringing comfort.

Most of us have fond memories of being outside. Whether hiking to a favorite picnic spot, building forts in the woods, or learning to hunt or fish, being outside was the norm. By being asked to put aside much of the "busy-ness" that dictated our lives, we remember how it used to be and what we used to do. We remember the calm that we felt in nature and how we could clear our minds and really think whilst among the trees. Many of the properties we hold conservation easements on welcome walking and hiking and can help us remember and relish in the feeling of a simpler time. And what an opportunity for those children who haven't grown up outside, now is their chance! I truly hope that the kids who are growing up in the midst of this pandemic will remember it most as a time that they got to reconnect with their families and themselves. They have a chance to discover another place to feel comfort in this world, and that is within nature.

Those entrusting Ausbon Sargent to steward their land were thinking about future generations who would one day enjoy it. They want everyone to feel what they felt while hiking or walking on the land, or even when driving by a particularly beautiful view that they wanted to preserve. Those who conserved their lands in the past did it for us; they did it for you! So please, keep going out and exploring. Keep making yourself familiar with the land and making it a new part of your routine. When and if our lives ever go "back to normal" maybe these events have caused you to step back from your busy lives, or the lives that have caused you to step back from nature. There are virtually hundreds of places to explore in our region. We invite you to take advantage of the preparations others have made before you, and visit one of our conserved properties!

Kristy Heath has worked for Ausbon Sargent for five years, writing grants and planning events. She has recently taken on the additional role of Communications Coordinator. Kristy enjoys camping and outdoor activities with family and friends.

A Brief History of the Jacob Messer Farm

By Jim Perkins

During the 1840s, Jacob Messer farmed atop Morgan Hill near James and Micajah Morgan. Exchanging labor, implements, and oxen, the three men raised and sheared sheep, planted potatoes, harvested and processed grains, and cut timber and cordwood. Family misfortune prompted each to move down to Main Street (whose extension is now called “Little Sunapee Road”), where Jacob Messer farmed 90 acres next to today’s Spring Ledge Farm, James Morgan farmed 122 acres nearby, and Micajah Morgan farmed 60 acres—much of it behind his house, which is now Tracy Library.

They were among the more prosperous of New London’s 136 farms in 1860, after which the number of farms declined as grain production shifted to the Midwest and demand for wool collapsed after the Civil War. In 1865 there were over 2,000 sheep grazing on 105 farms in New London; five years later there were 575 sheep on just 57 of its farms. Jacob Messer tended 30 sheep in 1870, but he also raised beef cattle, working oxen, and dairy cows—along with wheat, corn, potatoes, hay, maple sugar, and forest products. Altogether these items yielded \$1,106 in annual income.

Jacob Messer’s land on Little Sunapee Road was first farmed by James Colby, who moved to New London from Hopkinton, New Hampshire, in 1792. James was a brother of Joseph Colby, patriarch of the Colby family in New London, but James stayed only five years before returning to his native town. In 1809, however, James’ 16-year-old son, James Colby, Jr., settled at the homestead started by his father. He and his wife improved more of its acreage and had eight children before moving back to Hopkinton around 1825. The property then reverted to Joseph Colby, who sold it to Joseph Herrick, but taxes on the 90-acre parcel were often split between Herrick and Moses Adams, Jr., who leased a portion.

In 1855 Herrick sold the James Colby homestead farm to George Gardner, principal at the struggling New London Literary and Scientific Institution. A year later, Gardner swapped properties with Jacob Messer on Morgan Hill. Messer enlarged his holdings during the 1860s by purchasing the remnants of the Moses Adams farm across the road and two parcels back on Morgan Hill.

After Jacob Messer’s death in 1871, his oldest son, Edwin, paid \$2,000 to his siblings for their inherited shares of the property. He carried on his father’s work, including a dairy with five cows, and harvesting the same crops and wood products. In 1888, however, Edwin curtailed his farming and added a second story to the James Colby house, which in 1890 he opened to summer guests as Pleasant View House, offering fine views of Mount Kearsarge and Colby Hill from its new porch. The property was divided after Edwin’s death in 1927, with Pleasant



PLEASANT VIEW HOUSE,
EDWIN F. MESSER, Proprietor.

Visitors can testify that this house is not misnamed. Besides a wide range of mountains and hills it commands one of the most attractive prospects of the village, as well as a glimpse of Lake Sunapee. Located about midway between the village and Little Lake Sunapee, it combines the advantage of nearness to church, post-office, and stores with opportunity for boating, bathing, and fishing. Tennis court and croquet set supplied. The chambers are newly furnished, and will accommodate eighteen to twenty guests, whom every effort is made to please.

View House passing to his three daughters and its farmland passing to his youngest son, Charles Messer, then living across the road on the old Moses Adams property. In 1939 Charles bought his older brother’s Highland House, another summer guest house located just down the road at “Bucklin’s Corner.”

After a year at UNH, Robert Messer bought the Highland House and all the farmland from Charles, his father, in 1941. Bob expanded their milk processing, bottling, and delivery business. In the 1950s, they milked 80 cows and sometimes imported milk from Vermont to meet local demand. When asked in 1977 about his farm’s future, Bob said, “When I retire, it’ll probably be turned into a real estate development.” Between 1950 and 1982, he witnessed a 70% decline in New Hampshire pasture land and an 87% decline in cropland — even as the state’s population increased by 80% and New London’s nearly doubled. Local food production was disappearing.

Messer’s Dairy was the last of New London’s four commercial dairies. After auctioning his cows to the federal government during the Whole Herd Buyout of 1986, Bob Messer sold baled hay from his fields until his death in 2003. His wife, Mary, kept boarders at Highland House until her own death in 2014. Then her estate sold the boarding house with its 170 acres, severing the property’s link to the Jacob Messer family after 159 years.

Jim Perkins has served as New London Town Archivist since 2009 and works as a preservation consultant and independent historian. He has lived near the Jacob Messer Farm and enjoyed its woodland trails since 1993.

MESSER FARM



The Messer Farm Fields: A Farmer's Perspective

By Greg Berger

The world is a bit topsy-turvy right now. We are all experiencing physical distancing, uncertainty and the “new normal.” In the farming world, we are faced with those same challenges. Our job and our passion is to grow crops using the natural resources of the land and the sun. The pandemic flipped many things around for us, but the arrival of spring and the stability of the land remain constant.

We at Spring Ledge Farm are fortunate to be able to lease and grow on one of the last remaining agricultural fields in New London. This field, historically known as the Messer Farm field, is adjacent to Spring Ledge Farm. The 22 acres of open fields are designated as “prime” farmland of statewide importance. But these fields, which have been cultivated for centuries, are now up for sale.

The fields are part of a 144-acre piece of land that ASLPT has a unique opportunity to acquire and conserve: 22 acres of fields plus 122 acres of beautiful woodland that sustains natural wildlife habitat (we saw a moose walk out of the woods and across the fields a few weeks ago!), offers a vast network of recreational footpaths and holds the headwaters of White Brook, which feeds into Pleasant Lake. The footpaths connect with other recreational trails in town and will offer all of us the ability to walk, snowshoe, and cross-country ski. These are activities we can all enjoy throughout the year, no matter what topsy-turvy events grip the world.

The property is a high-priority conservation piece listed in New London's Master Plan. It sits adjacent to the protected 53 acres at Spring Ledge Farm. Productive farmland in this area of New Hampshire is scarce to begin with (we are the granite state!). Add the intense pressure of development in our towns and those flat, open fields with few rocks make for easy-to-build house foundations.

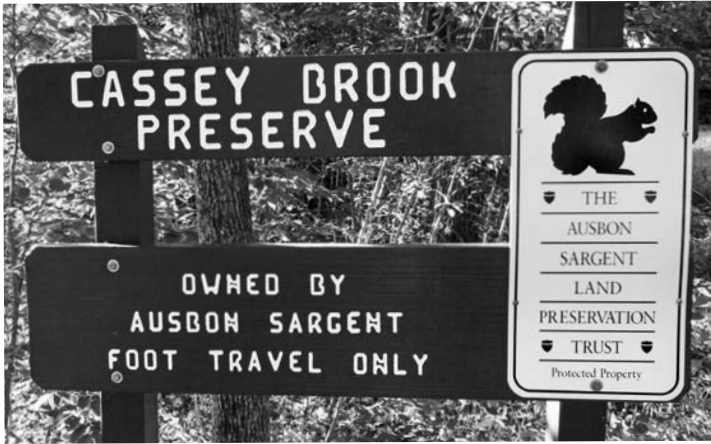
These great soils were created over the millennia, with characteristics you just can't replace. From a food crop growing standpoint, an acre in this field is quite different from an acre somewhere else in town. Protecting prime farmland is a critical part of the local food system and is critical to our resiliency as a community.



And that view! As you drive into town on Little Sunapee Road and see Mt. Kearsarge rising above the “skyline” of New London, the view is framed by the old barn on your right and the edge of the woods on your left. It's easy, as well as distressing, to envision four or five houses popping up in the field.

Whether you're driving by the fields or hiking through the woods, the land anchors us and provides stability. We now have an opportunity to protect a vital part of our rural landscape; an active landscape that supports local foods, employment, tourism, outdoor recreation and the environment. Let's protect this land as a constant presence in our community, one that will be here for generations to come. Please join us!

Greg Berger grew up in New London, started working at Spring Ledge Farm in 1985 and purchased the farm from John and Sue Clough in 2005. He and his wife Astrid, and their kids Erin and Calvin, live on the farm. Greg was on the board of ASLPT for eight years, serving as Chariman for two years.



Cassey Brook Preserve

Ausbon Sargent's Newest Acquisition!

By Anne Payeur

On February 13, 2020 Ausbon Sargent accepted full ownership (also known as Fee-Ownership) of the Cassey Brook Preserve on Wilmot Center Road in Wilmot, NH. Of the 152 properties that Ausbon Sargent has assisted in protecting, the Cassey Brook Preserve represents the sixth property that is owned by the land trust. This means that Ausbon Sargent owns and manages the property. The land trust pays taxes on the land (at Current Use rates) and it is Ausbon Sargent's responsibility to manage the property consistent with its mission.

Cassey Brook Preserve gets its name from Cassey Brook which runs across the northeast corner of the property. Cassey Brook flows southeast from the preserve into Tannery Pond, becoming part of Cascade Brook and then the Blackwater River.

Stone wall boundaries and segments throughout the woods tell us that this land likely had an agricultural history during the 1800s, which slowly returned to forest in the 1900s. Today, Cassey Brook Preserve adds to a network of conservation land in the region. The forest here is a mixture of hemlock-hardwood-pine forests and oak-pine forests, with wetlands dotting the landscape in low-lying areas between rolling hills and glacial erratics.

Previous timber management for wildlife have thinned dense forests and created patches of open areas. This diversity of age and density throughout the preserve aid wildlife in their search for food and cover. Walking quietly on the network of trails it is easy to see the abundance of wildlife. Whether it be seeing moose tracks in the mud, spooking a deer in the dense hemlock cover, spotting coyote scat on the trail, or coming up over the hill with enough time to watch the turkey run behind the trees, this forest is full of thriving wildlife.

Cassey Brook Preserve is open to foot travel. Come explore the forest on woods roads which ASLPT will be maintaining as trails and see if you can spot some wildlife along the way. Hike through the forest up to the eastern hilltop and enjoy the view of Mount Kearsarge. Visit the Ausbon Sargent website for directions and a map of this property.



Welcome Anne Payeur!



Anne Payeur joined the Ausbon Sargent staff as our new Stewardship Manager in March. You may bump into her out on one of our properties doing trail maintenance. Anne will be overseeing ASLPT's stewardship of conservation easement and owned properties, conducting monitoring visits, maintaining boundary lines, and working with our volunteers.

Anne grew up in New York, graduated from Stony Brook University with a BA in Environmental Studies and Duke University with a Masters of Forestry. She now lives in Boscawen, NH with her husband Hunter, a Forester with New England Forestry Consultants, Inc.

Anne most recently worked as the Special Projects Manager at the Lakes Region Conservation Trust in Center Harbor, NH where she oversaw AmeriCorps volunteers and assisted with land acquisitions. She has also been a Natural Resources Assistant for Virginia State Parks where she maintained trails, interpreted resource management for park visitors, and treated invasive plants.

Anne adds "I am very excited to be part of the Ausbon Sargent team!"

Photo by Anne Payeur



Mountain Brook

Facts about the
**Mountain Brook
 Forest Preserve**
*A gift of land from
 Frederick & Patrice Ficken*

*Town: **Andover**
 Location: **Elbow Pond Road**
 Total Acreage: **234 acres***

This property:

- Is adjacent to thousands of acres of conserved land, including Ausbon Sargent's Old College Road Preserve.
- Has been managed for forestry in the past and has good forestry soils.
- Protects Mountain Brook, which flows into Elbow Pond.
- Is open to the public for low impact recreation and has a trail network.
- Is highly ranked for wildlife habitat in the 2015 Wildlife Action Plan.

Photo by Anne Payeur



Beaver pond on the Daniels' Property.

Facts about the
**Wayne & Trudy Beaver
 Saga Pond Forest**
A gift of land from Trudy Daniels

*Town: **Warner**
 Location: **Pumpkin Hill Road**
 Total Acreage: **143 acres***

This property:

- Is near other conserved land, including the Brown Family's Frazier Brook Farm.
- Includes an extensive beaver pond wetland and Frazier Brook.
- Is open to the public for low impact recreation and has a trail network.
- Is almost entirely Highest Ranked Habitat in the State in the 2015 Wildlife Action Plan.
- Will be conserved for wildlife.

Photo by Pam Martin



A close encounter with one of the beavers at the Daniels' pond.



Photo by Andy Deegan



Facts about the
Webb Forest Expansion
Conservation Easement Donation
from Van Webb,
R.H. Webb Forest Preserve, LLC

Town: Sunapee
Location: Stagecoach Road
Total Acreage: 6.1 acres

This property:

- Adds acreage to the existing 370-acre Webb Forest Preserve.
- Has prime agricultural soils and is managed for hay production.
- Has scenic views from Stagecoach Road.
- Is highly ranked for wildlife in the 2015 Wildlife Action Plan.
- Is open to low impact outdoor recreation.



Photo by Peter Bloch, EarthMaterial Productions



An aerial view of the Sawyer Brook Headwaters property.

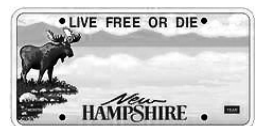
By the time you receive this newsletter, we hope the
Grantham's Sawyer Brook Headwaters Project
will be complete.

By Kristy Heath

After two years of planning, fundraising, and working

on the numerous details to help the Town of Grantham purchase the Sawyer Brook Headwaters Property and put a conservation easement on it, the project is about to be completed. Papers will be signed and we are happy to share that this wonderful property will be conserved, forever. Ausbon Sargent is pleased to note that this is our first conservation easement in the town of Grantham. We hope that this example will encourage more landowners within the town to think about the benefits of a conservation easement on their own property!

Peter Garland, chair of the Grantham Board of Selectmen said, "We are thrilled to have completed the final step in the Sawyer Brook Headwaters conservation project. Recent events have made local places to recreate and enjoy nature more important than ever, and the Town is grateful that our residents and our partners in this project value our natural resources and what they mean to our quality of life. Thank you to Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust, The Conservation Fund, NH's Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) and the NH State Conservation Committee's Moose Plate Grant Program, The Eastman Charitable Foundation, The Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation, Grantham residents, and generous private donors for coming together to save this special place."





Earth Day turns 50!

by Kristy Heath

The first official “Earth Day” was arranged on April 22, 1970 by a handful of citizens who had been fighting individually against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, freeways, the loss of wilderness and the extinction of wildlife. The concept of Earth Day saw support from people from all walks of life; from the poor and the rich, from the city and the country, and from both sides of the aisle. The celebration led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the National Environmental Education Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act.

To commemorate the anniversary of this special day, Ausbon Sargent thought it would be a nice gesture to put together a series of eight hikes throughout eight different towns in our service region. Promoting these walks in the woods is our invitation to you to experience some of our lesser-known trails and explore some of our beautiful properties. Whether hiking, driving by a picturesque conserved area, or enjoying some locally sourced produce or meat/dairy items from a farm in your area, take a minute to look back and be thankful for what has been done in the years prior, to insure that some of the special places we enjoy will be forever protected. Then, you might even start to think about what you can do now and in the future to keep even more of our rural character intact.

Visit AusbonSargent.org to download and print our Earth Day hiking brochure, along with directions to each trailhead. Hike all eight trails by 12/31/2020 and receive a special prize from Ausbon Sargent!

Where will you begin?

Bradford: Bradford Bog

The .3 mile boardwalk winds through a rare Atlantic White Cedar swamp with many native wildflowers until it reaches a wooden viewing stand. Climb up to enjoy great views over the bog to Lovewell and Haystack Mountains. Back at the parking area, head south on East Washington Road to visit the site of the former Bradford Springs Hotel, marked by a kiosk and plaque and cellar holes.

Goshen: Ruth LeClair Memorial Trail

This 3 mile loop takes you around Gunnison Lake (aka the Goshen Ocean) and passes by Wayne's Woods, which is protected by Ausbon Sargent. The hike goes through the woods, and along Baker and Blood Brooks which flow into the lake.

Grantham: Sawyer Brook Headwaters Property

Walk on Croydon Turnpike about a mile where you will find an access point to the property. Explore old woods roads to the log landing. From here, take a left onto Dunbar Hill Road which is a class six road that will take you back to Walker Brook Road. Approximately 2.5 miles round trip.

Newbury: Kidder Tract—Sunset Hill Trail

Follow signs for Sunset Hill which initially follow a dirt road and then bear right through a dense wooded area. At the top, you will have lovely west and southwest views of Lake Sunapee and Mount Sunapee. The one-way distance is about .9 mile.

New London: Clark Pond

The trail is about a 1.6 mile loop through the woods with views of Clark Pond. Good for snowshoeing in winter months. There is a kiosk with trail information at the start.

Springfield: Pitcher Hill on Star Lake Farm

Walk uphill past the orange gate and you will see a large wooden sign for Pitcher Hill Hike on the left side. The trail winds uphill through the woods and ends on a rocky top with views of Otter Pond and Lake Sunapee. Roundtrip distance is about 1 mile.

Sunapee: SRK Greenway on Frank Simpson Reserve

Follow the SRK trail blazes to the left of the sign. The trail meanders through the woods, past glacial erratics, next to ponds, and former beaver dams. Walk about 2 miles to the Sunapee playground, 2.5 miles to the Sunapee Town Hall, or retrace your steps when you've gone far enough.

Sutton: Webb/Crowell Forest

The trail is marked with blue blazes and goes into woods, over a unique iron bridge on the Lane River, and then follows a loop back to the same bridge. On the trail there are views along the river, large glacial erratics, and views across the wetlands. Total loop distance is just over 2 miles.



The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust

Membership & Gifts



Membership, Annual Fund and Gifts are from June 6, 2019 to June 1, 2020. Some names are followed by symbols:

*denotes donors who have given to both Membership and the Annual Fund, +denotes donors who have provided us with their company's matching gift information, ^denotes deceased. This list has been prepared with care. However, if we have inadvertently omitted your name, please contact Operations Manager, Sue Andrews at sandrews@ausbonsargent.org.

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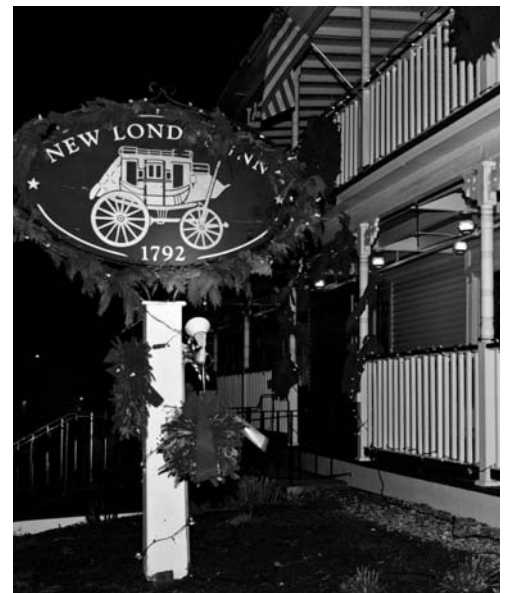
Highland House, c. 1900



Highland House, guests, c. 1900



Highland House, decorated, c. 1900



A Change of Plans

by Kristy Heath

A big part of what defines Ausbon Sargent as an organization that balances work and fun, are our events. Each year we hold numerous hikes/showshoe walks, property tours, educational workshops and trainings, and signature events like our Progressive Dinner and Holiday Party. We collaborate with various towns' Conservation Commissions to hold "Landowner Options Workshops" so people can ask questions/listen to discussion about how conservation easements play a role in their land purchase/maintenance. We work with groups like The Barn Playhouse and The New London Inn to host fundraising nights and dinners at their establishments. We share space with the New London Historical Society, The Fells and the Lake Sunapee Protective Association to hold volunteer appreciation gatherings and our annual meeting. We join together with the UNH Cooperative Extension to provide informational talks on subjects such as invasive species, wildlife habitat, and pollinators. But due to current events and our role in helping to responsibly limit exposure of the Covid-19 virus, all of these gatherings have had to be put off for another time.

It is true that we can all enjoy a hike on our own. We can learn about conservation easements on the Ausbon Sargent website, or talk to Land Protection Specialist, Andy Deegan about the ins and outs of the process. We can even keep up to date on projects and happenings at Ausbon Sargent (we are still keeping busy) by visiting our website. But what you may not be aware of, is that some of these events, and the funds we raise by holding them, are factored into our yearly budget. All of our hikes and informational workshops are and have always been free. But our Progressive Dinner, Thursday's Child Dinner, and Holiday Party account for a percentage of our operating income each year. Like most businesses and organizations, this is a time where

creativity flourishes and different ways of thinking are explored, all in an effort to reserve funds and plan for the future. Ausbon Sargent is working to continue its work despite these uncertain times, and maintain the promises we have made to over 150 families and individuals who have trusted us to watch over their special places, forever.

We hope that you will keep Ausbon Sargent in mind when thinking about your yearly giving. If you are someone who regularly attends one of our paid events, we hope that you will consider giving an extra donation in the coming months. An anonymous board member has offered to match up to \$10,000 in funds that we might receive related to the canceled Progressive Dinner, so please let us know if you would like your donation to go towards that event.

Any additional funding we receive will be greatly appreciated and put where it is needed most. With fiscally responsible planning and creative organization, Ausbon Sargent will make it through this unprecedented time. But as always, your support is important. Donations may be made on our website, through the mail, or over the phone. We thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust. We can't wait to see you all in person, when it is safe to do so.



Past Generosity Brings Current and Future Benefits

by Ginny Gwynn

This spring, my husband and I decided to hike the 75-mile Sunapee-Ragged-Kearsage (SRK) Greenway which meanders around Lake Sunapee. Many sections of the trail pass through properties protected by ASLPT. Views of glistening water and distant mountains, signs of turkey, deer and bear, and the sounds of multiple birds are all around. The slow pace of hiking allows the opportunity to relish these benefits—and to reflect on past generosity which has made this experience possible. Two examples are the Simpson Reserve and Wright Easement in Sunapee.

Seventeen years ago, ASLPT joined with the Lake Sunapee Protective Association (LSPA), the Sunapee Conservation Commission, and the SRK Greenway Coalition to protect Sunapee's 115-acre Red Water Creek wetland. Now known as the Frank H. Simpson Reserve, this project is a tribute to over 360 individuals and organizations who gave time and money to make it a reality. One very generous donor, Marcia Wright, learned of the project and donated a conservation easement on her adjacent 27 acres to ASLPT. Thus, over 140 acres of prime wetlands and upland forest buffers were permanently conserved.

Today, these woods and wetlands abound with wildlife. Those hiking and snowshoeing can enjoy the SRK Greenway as it meanders on Ausbon Sargent conservation land past glacial boulders, an old beaver dam, towering trees, and spring wildflowers. Less visible is the vital role that this conservation project plays in purifying the water flowing into Lake Sunapee. Natural filtration and slowing of the waterflow through the wetlands protect the clarity and purity of Red Water Creek, a significant tributary of Lake Sunapee. Kayakers, swimmers and loons benefit from the clean water.

All of this is thanks to the vision and generosity of hundreds of residents. As a single acorn grows into a towering oak tree with its multiple benefits, so does each gift contribute to the quality of our lives. We appreciate ASLPT's past, present and future supporters for making this area so special.

Ginny Gwynn is a trustee of ASLPT and chairman of its Development Committee. She and her husband expect to complete the SRK soon.



*If you have already
named the Ausbon Sargent
Land Preservation Trust
in your estate plan and
would like to become
a member of
The Acorn Society,
please let us know.*

*If you would
like more information,
feel free to call the
Ausbon Sargent office at
603-526-6555
or email
dstanley@ausbonsargent.org*

*Members who prefer
not to be recognized
can remain anonymous.*

*The individuals listed below have
notified us that they
have provided for Ausbon
Sargent in their estate plans.*

Mr. and Mrs. James D. Abbott*
Anonymous (11)
Rich and Heidi Anderson
Theodore D. Bacon, Jr.*
Ann Bemis*
Seth Benowitz
Catherine Bogardus*
Roland P. Carreker*
Michael and Susan Chiarella
Naia L. Conrad*
Chris and Janice Cundey
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Rachel and Myron* Rosenblum
John and Sage Scott
John and Nancy Denny Solodar
Virginia Anthony Soule*
Peter and Debbie Stanley
Pat Thornton*
John Tilson
Libby Trayner*
Eric Unger
Betsy Denny Warner
Mary-Seymour "Sissy" Wastcoat*

*denotes deceased



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Special Thanks to all of our guest authors!

Newsletter layout & design by Lee T. Morrill, On Track Design.

Won't you become a Member?

Won't you join us and become part of the living legacy created through land conservation?

You can find out more about us on our website at: ausbonsargent.org

Please make checks payable to: **Ausbon Sargent** and mail to: **P.O. Box 2040, New London, NH 03257-2040**

or make your secure donation on the Ausbon Sargent website or over the phone at: **603.526.6555**

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Donations to Ausbon Sargent are tax deductible as provided by Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code.

07/2020

