

# THE AUSBON SARGENT LAND PRESERVATION TRUST

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



# Chatter



Winter 2021



*Partnerships*



## From the **Executive Director:**

Photo by Neal Harris



**The theme of our Winter Chatter 2021 is partnerships.** While there was a lot of uncertainty this past year, partnerships helped make 2020 a very busy and successful year for Ausbon Sargent. Over 1,000 acres were conserved bringing our total conservation acreage equal to 20 square miles!

Ausbon Sargent works to keep the Mt. Kearsarge/Ragged/Lake Sunapee region a wonderful place to live. During the pandemic, people have discovered conservation land and are finding joy and comfort in the outdoors. As we look forward to a new year, our land conservation work will continue and our stewardship obligations have grown significantly. Not only is ASLPT required to monitor its conservation easement properties annually, but we must manage the properties we own. ASLPT acquired ownership to six new properties recently. It is our policy that each ASLPT property should have a management plan written as soon as practical, but no later than 12 months after acquisition. Plans take into account any donor restrictions that may have been placed on the property, state ASLPT's management objectives, identify important natural, cultural and human-made resources found on the property, and identify a timeline of management activities to accomplish the goals we have set out.

One of our newest acquisitions, the 201-acre Cassey Brook Preserve in Wilmot, has a great network of trails to explore. Be sure to visit our website and "Connect with the Land" to find trail and parking information. We also encourage you to join our email list, which will announce when new trails are completed on ASLPT properties. There are many opportunities for you to volunteer as ASLPT depends on the energy, ideas and hard work of its volunteers.

With the acquisition of the Messer Farm property, ASLPT has entered into a ten-year lease with Spring Ledge Farm to grow vegetables and insure that you have a more secure local food supply. Farms in our community do not stand alone and as a partner, ASLPT's efforts to protect productive farmland has helped neighboring farms and farm businesses to not only feed us, but to contribute to the local economy.

Ausbon Sargent appreciates the significant operating support from the Virginia Cretella Mars Foundation and the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. We are most grateful for the support from both our new and longtime members. *Every gift makes something good happen . . . Thank You.*

*Debbie Stanley*

### ABOUT THE COVER

A snowy view of the Messer Farm property in New London. The farm is one of Ausbon Sargent's latest acquisition (10/30/2020) and was only made possible by the many, many donors and partners who came together to reach a common goal. Read an update on this property on page 5.

Cover photo by Jim Perkins



## **Partnerships:** *An Important Element in Land Conservation*



*by Kristy Heath*

In the business of land conservation, an initial partnership is a given; there must be an interested landowner who wants to protect their property, and an organization that can help them accomplish this task. One without the other just doesn't work, and the success of a project between the two is based on their cooperation to reach a final, shared goal. Although it may appear as though a property was conserved by just the landowner and the land trust, oftentimes the process actually includes several groups and many partnerships. The key is that each partnership is formed by like-minded groups or individuals, with a common goal in sight. In many cases, these partners join together to become a team.

The assistance from other "teammates," when conserving a property, provides benefits far beyond just the preservation of the land in question. One of the first teammates sought, once a property has met the criteria from the Ausbon Sargent Lands Committee and Board of Trustees, is the town the land falls within. The 12-towns in our region all have Master Plans that include a "Land Use" chapter, identifying certain properties or areas of town that are a high priority for protection. Most of these towns also have a Conservation Commission and many have funds available for land conservation projects to protect watersheds, wildlife habitat and/or scenic views. These funds are made possible by a vote among citizens at the annual town meeting. When a town is approached to help with the costs associated with a conservation project, not only is there a chance to cost-share, benefiting both the town and the landowner, but there is also an opportunity for public awareness about conservation close to home. When citizens find out about a project through their town's news sources, word of mouth, or a featured article in the "*Chatter*," it serves as a teachable moment to educate someone about conservation. It may make them want to learn more, to volunteer with us, to become a member of the land trust, or maybe even look at their own property with a new lens; what will happen to my land when I am gone? And am I OK with this?

Other teammates come in the form of state, public and private foundations which provide funding to assist in the protection of a property, either through conservation easement, purchase of the land by the land trust, or by the provision of stewardship funds, which will help the land trust oversee the property forever. Each foundation is different and has its own guidelines that must be followed exactly in order to be considered to enter the competitive process. Most often the applications are lengthy and detailed, and if funds are awarded, oversight of the funding is required, as is reporting back to the source upon completion of the project. Several foundations have become familiar with the work of Ausbon Sargent over the years and trust that their generous support will be used responsibly and as expressed in the grant request. When our mission and our results match the beliefs and goals of a donor/foundation, trust is earned and they are more apt to partner with us again on future projects, strengthening the relationship and achieving common goals.

Relationships of all kinds have been formed over time with the land trust, which have become part of a team that contributes to the success of Ausbon Sargent, our projects, and the execution of our mission. These partnerships include, but are not limited to:

- *Private and public foundations, and State and town agencies.*
- *Other local non-profits, schools, and businesses which partner with the land trust on events and workshops.*
- *Major donors and foundations, and those who step up and offer a "matching gift" pledge, encouraging others to join together in reaching a fundraising goal.*
- *Members who support the land trust regularly.*
- *Individuals who provide "in-kind" donations of their time and skills to help promote our projects and the land trust.*
- *Volunteers who donate their time on committees, boards, monitoring properties, and at events.*

Partnerships and teammates in the land protection field can be large or small, but goals are more easily reached when efforts are combined. If we love this region, its rural character, and the special places that we would hate to lose, we should all investigate how we can become part of the team.

*Kristy Heath has been at Ausbon Sargent for almost six years. She writes grants, plans events, manages the Ausbon Sargent website and the "Chatter" newsletter. She enjoys camping and outdoor activities with family and friends.*

**Unity is strength. "When there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved."**  
—Mattie Stepanek



## ***Stories Behind the Acres: The Nutting Family Farm***

*by Kristy Heath*

On October 19th, in partnership with the Town of Sunapee Conservation Commission and dozens of generous private donors, the Nutting family granted a conservation easement to Ausbon Sargent on their 84-acre farm on Stagecoach Road.

This property connects over 500 acres of already-conserved land, creates a vast wildlife corridor, and further accentuates the rural character of the area. It lies just across the road from the Webb Forest Preserve, also protected by a conservation easement with Ausbon Sargent, now totaling 376.1 acres after it was expanded this summer. The Nutting property is highly ranked for wildlife habitat, and lends itself to some beautiful views as it sits along Stagecoach Road. The Nutting Family Farm has prime agricultural soils, forestland, wetlands, and has been managed for forestry in the past. Now that the property is conserved by a conservation easement, it is forever protected from development and subdivision.

Joanne Menard, trustee of the Nutting Family Trust, shared, “The heirs of the Nutting family are pleased to honor their family members from past, present and future by adding a portion of its acreage to the growing list of properties protected from future development by placing it within the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust. The conserved land is a piece of a community vision to conserve the natural habitat, rural heritage, and scenic open space in perpetuity.”

Through working with the Nutting family on this project, we came to learn a bit about the history of this property and those who worked the land and lived there. We learned of two sisters, Helene and Hazel Nutting, who were born and raised in Sunapee. Helene was born in 1910 right at the family farmhouse on Nutting Road, and at four years of age, the family moved to the farm on Stagecoach Road. In 1918, Hazel was born. Three more siblings joined the family later on. The sisters both attended Sunapee schools and went on to college. Helene got her degree from the Hesser College of Business, and Hazel graduated from Keene State College and went on to get her Masters in Education from Boston University. What an amazing accomplishment for these women, for at the time they were living, it was rare that girls would venture on to seek higher education. But the sisters were hard workers both in the classroom and on the farm. They loved being outside, working the land, and helping to support the family's way of life.

Once Hazel graduated from Boston University, Helene congratulated her with a trip to Hawaii. Later, the two went on to visit most of the states in the continental US, they took a trip through the Canadian



Photo by Andy Deegan

Rockies and on to Alaska, traveled to Switzerland, Australia, England, Sweden, Denmark, Scotland, Italy, and Austria.

In 1981, the sisters began growing gladiolas on the farm to sell to area florists and to those who wished to stop by and purchase them right from their gardens. Some years, the sisters planted as many as 1,200 bulbs and each year looked forward to seeing what a new variety would look like. Dubbed “The Glad Girls,” people would come faithfully every year to bring home some of their beautiful glads and jams. Hazel and Helene looked forward to seeing their old friends and meeting new ones at the farm. The sisters have since passed away, having lived a life of hard work, rewarding experiences, and the deep love and commitment of family. In an article published in the July 2002 issue of *SooNipi Magazine*, an excerpt reads, “They do think about the land and what will happen to the acreage once they have gone from this world, but for now it brings them great joy and happiness and a secure sense of peace and family.” We hope that Hazel and Helene are somehow comforted by the fact that the generation that came after them felt a similar sense of joy, happiness, peace and family from the land they held so dear. Thanks to Kenny Nutting and Joanne Menard (representatives of the Nutting Family Trust) and their decision to protect the family farm, it will always remain one of those special places, rich with history and love.



## Messer Farm Stewardship Update

Photo by Peter Bloch/Earth Aerial Productions



*By Anne Payeur*

Since the purchase of the Messer Farm on October 30, 2020 by Ausbon Sargent, we have been busy. Owning the farm, it is our responsibility to manage the land. To keep the fields along Little Sunapee Road as working farmland, we have entered into a lease agreement with Spring Ledge Farm that began on January 1, 2021.

Spring Ledge Farm is leasing approximately 21 acres of fields, 10 acres to be managed for growing crops, and the remainder for wildlife and maintaining the view of Mount Kearsarge in coordination with Ausbon Sargent. The lease will run for an initial term of 10 years with the option to extend for another 5 years to January of 2036! We are excited to enter into this long term agreement with a great partner, which will allow the fields to remain as productive agricultural land serving the community.

The fields are only 21 of the 144 acres of Messer Farm; we are working on a 10-year management plan for healthy forests with sustainable harvests, protection of water quality, enhancement of wildlife habitat, and suitable recreational opportunities. While it may be a while until a trail system is cleared, marked and mapped, we invite you to explore the woods of Messer Farm this winter, as the snowshoeing will be a fun exploration.

We look forward to the day where we can gather together with all of our members to celebrate the protection of this property.

*Anne Payeur has been with Ausbon Sargent for almost a year as the Stewardship Manager. She oversees the monitoring of conservation easement properties as well as the management of properties owned by Ausbon Sargent.*

## Virtual Land Trust Rally 2020

*by Susan Ellison*

You have to look hard to find the positives amidst the COVID-19 crisis. We are tired of Zoom and miss in-person connections. But one benefit of the shift to virtual is that online meetings and conferences can be made available to a wider and more diverse audience.

This year the national Land Trust Alliance's annual "Rally" conference, scheduled to take place in Portland, Oregon, was held virtually and as a result I was able to attend. According to the organization's website, the average Rally attendance from 2000 to 2019 was 1,768. In 2020, with the conference being offered online, more than 3,700 individuals from across the United States and other countries attended.

For me, a newer member of Ausbon Sargent's Board of Trustees, the ability to participate in the conference from my home office in New London presented an excellent opportunity to learn more about the work land trusts do. The meeting brought together conservation leaders, land trusts, government agencies, landowners and others to share ideas and to inspire each other to build and strengthen communities with open spaces and natural habitats.

Over the course of three days, I attended five Rally sessions focused on caring for and protecting land, engaging the community, and addressing climate change. It was encouraging and heartening to hear speakers from diverse places and organizations talk about the work they are doing in their communities. I heard how land trusts can make a positive impact by promoting the concept of natural climate solutions, such as absorption of carbon in soils and grasslands to mitigate the effects of climate change. And I heard about creative ways to engage community members and stakeholders, especially our youth, who will be faced most seriously with the impacts of climate change, and for whom land conservation and protection efforts are the most critical.

Attending Rally gave me a much better understanding of and appreciation for the work Ausbon Sargent does to protect and care for our regional lands. While I am hopeful that organizations like the Land Trust Alliance will be able to meet in person again soon, I am grateful that I could take part this year.

*Susan Ellison has been on Ausbon Sargent's board of trustees for one year, and is the Director of the Office of Visa and Immigration Services at Dartmouth College. Susan lives in New London with her husband Scott and their two teenage daughters.*





## Mountain Brook Forest Preserve:

### *A Gift of Land in Andover*

Photo by Anne Payeur



by Kristy Heath

On June 15, 2020 Ausbon Sargent was gifted a 234-acre parcel of land in Andover by Fred and Patrice Ficken. It is forested with a mix of hemlock, northern red oak, beech, birch, maple, and white pine. The property is highly ranked for wildlife habitat, and with Mountain Brook running along its northwestern boundary, is in the Elbow Pond watershed. Past timber management operations have left a large network of old woods roads throughout the property, so it is easy to explore and is open to the public for low impact recreation.

The property had been under the ownership of the Fickens since 2011. They shared, “When we bought the property, the signs of timber management, though done sustainably, were heartbreaking. It was important to us to allow the land to rest, recover and heal. We knew we wanted to place the land in conservation from the get go, not only to protect the abundant wildlife, watershed and diverse ecology, but also in some small way do our part to address climate change. We are thrilled that the Ausbon Sargent Board approved the property for conservation so that its natural beauty will be enjoyed for generations to come.”

The Mountain Brook Forest Preserve is rich with history, evidenced by telltale signs of agricultural use including barbed wire in the trees, and stone walls throughout the property. Large sloping areas with mounds of stones nearby show that fields had been cleared. Some stone wall configurations appear to have been used as enclosures for animals in a farm setting. Cellar holes give some insight about those who may have lived on the property when the Town of Andover was first settled.


The property lies in an area of town that was known for frequent bear activity, and was coined “Bear World” between the years 1751 and 1906. It has been said that bears would come down from the slopes of Ragged Mountain to feed from area farms, killing sheep and causing havoc.

Farmers would scare the bears away from their properties into this area, which was described in Andover history books as “the Mountain Brook Ravine” and “adjacent rough territory.”

Around 1820, the brook began to attract entrepreneurs, who built various mills, including a grist mill, a sawmill, and a shingle-mill. Remnants of these mills can still be found along the brook to the west of the preserve along the old mill road.

Special properties like the Mountain Brook Forest Preserve are a treasure to explore. It is almost impossible to meander through the trails and along the brook without thinking about the people who used to live and work there. What an escape it is to step back in time and envision how life was 200+ years ago. Although the homes, mills and pastures are long gone, there is just enough remaining to see how it may have looked. We are so fortunate that the Fickens decided that this property and its history were important enough to keep intact for future generations to enjoy. This wonderful gift to the land trust is now a gift to all who wish to take a step back in time and walk among the nature that has flourished there for hundreds of years.

*If you have a special place that you would like to protect, please call and talk to our Land Protection Specialist, Andy Deegan. He would be happy to explore the conservation options available to you.*

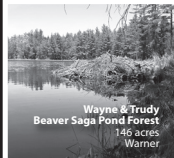

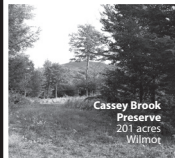
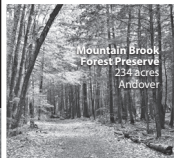
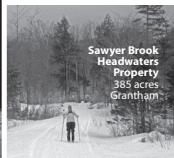
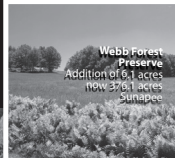


AUSBON  
SARGENT  
LAND  
PRESERVATION  
TRUST

## 2020

Thank you for the support  
you provide that helps us  
to fulfill our mission to  
preserve the rural  
landscape of the  
Mt. Kearsarge/Ragged/Lake  
Sunapee region.

### Land Brings Us Together

 <p>Wayne &amp; Trudy Beaver Saga Pond Forest 146 acres Warner</p>	 <p>Nutting Family Farm 84 acres Sunapee</p>	 <p>Cassey Brook Preserve 201 acres Wilton</p>
 <p>Mountain Brook Forest Preserve 234 acres Andover</p>	 <p>Sawyer Brook Headwaters Property 368 acres Grafton</p>	 <p>Webb Forest Preserve Addition of 6.1 acres now 376.1 acres Sunapee</p>



## Stewardship Wish List

Each year, Ausbon Sargent is required to monitor and watch over all of our protected properties in addition to the properties we own and manage, to insure that the terms of the conservation easements are being met. This requires some tools and materials, such as compasses, flagging tape, wood, paint, sign materials, and other miscellaneous items. Every so often, equipment has to be replaced and/or replenished. Here are some items for which we could use funding. Should you like to sponsor any of the items below, please send along a note with your check, or specify to us in some way what you would like your money to go towards. If you prefer that we use it for the items we need most, simply state "stewardship wish list" and we will use your support to go towards the items for which we have a shortfall.

Again, we aren't asking for the actual items, but funding to purchase the following:

- \$400 for 10 Suunto Quadrant Compasses, \$40 each.
- \$39.60 for 2 dozen rolls of red flagging tape, \$1.65 each.
- Gift certificates in any denomination to Clarke's Hardware or Bellettes for boundary paint, wood for signs, and trail tools.



Photo by Lee Morrill

## New Land Acquisition

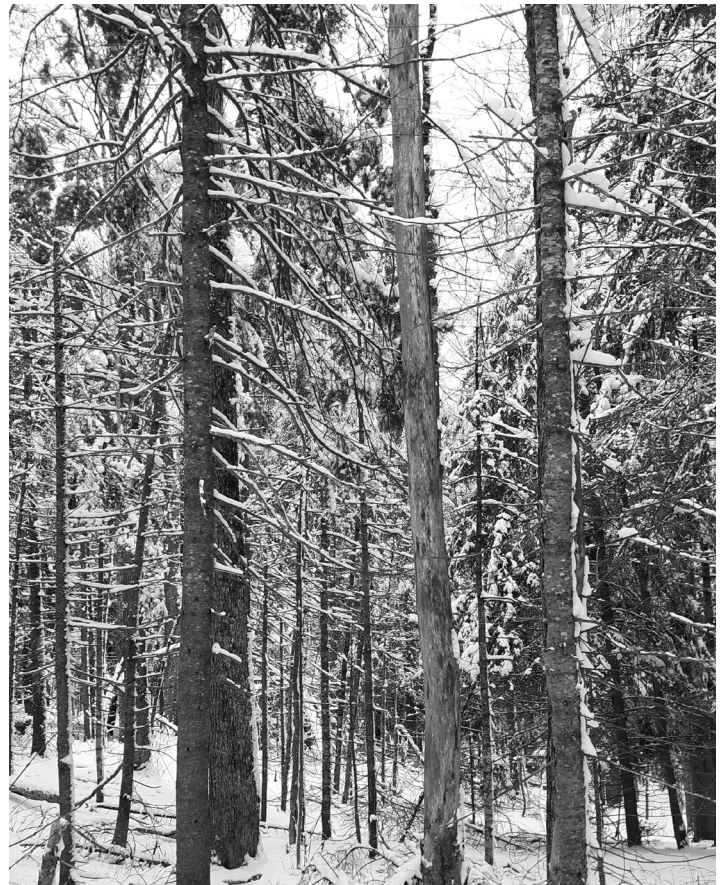


Photo by Anne Payeur

### Facts about the Christopher Cummer Preserve

*A gift of land from Cheryl Cummer*

**Town: Springfield**

**Location: Nichols Hill Road**

**Total Acreage: 24 acres**

#### *This property:*

- is adjacent to the present Cummer/Lyle conservation easement (24 acres)
- was donated to Ausbon Sargent to own in fee, representing the 11<sup>th</sup> fee-owned property by the land trust
- is highly ranked for wildlife habitat in the 2015 Wildlife Action Plan
- is steep, forested, and is in the Quabbin-to-Cardigan corridor
- is in the Sawyer Brook watershed



## *The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust* GIFTS, THANK YOUS & LAND/EASEMENT DONORS



*We only print the list of our Membership and Annual Fund donations once a year, in the summer issue of Chatter.*

*If you have any questions concerning your membership status please call Operations Manager, Sue Andrews at 526-6555 or email sandrews@ausbonsargent.org*

*This list has been prepared with care. However, if we've inadvertently omitted your name, please contact us.*

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*(for donating a portion of their sales commissions to Ausbon Sargent)*

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**LAND PROJECT**  
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### **WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK**

Nick Andrews  
for shredding documents  
The Kearsarge Shopper  
for all they do for us  
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Johnson/Thistlewaite property

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*Our sincere appreciation to those who share their passion for natural places through land and easement donations.*

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\*denotes deceased



Photo by Anne Payeur

*Stewardship Volunteer Glennie LaBaron cuts a snowshoe trail at the Philips Preserve.*



## Ausbon Sargent is thrilled to have received a 3-year Community Grant

from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation (NHCF) to help with operating costs over the next three years. This support was made possible by gifts from the following fund(s): Caroline Cressman Riggs Fund, Fergus Fund, John F. and Dorothy H. McCabe Environmental Fund, Kineo Fund, Louise W. Schmidt Fund, and the Upper Valley Region Community Fund. The land trust will receive a gift each year for the next three years to help with costs associated with overhead, salaries, and general expenses associated with running a non-profit! We are extremely thankful to NHCF for this opportunity, which will help us to continue our mission during these challenging times.



## *Thank You to all our*

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Spring Ledge Farm

Photo by Peter Bloch, Earthaerial Productions



Photo by Kristy Heath



Messer Farm lease signing December 31, 2020.

(left to right) Sue Andrews, Andy Deegan, Greg Berger and Debbie Stanley.



## HIKING CHALLENGE 2020 RECAP



### SOME OF OUR FINISHERS — 8 HIKES COMPLETED!

*by Kristy Heath*

In our last issue of “*Chatter*” we offered a hiking challenge that was inspired by the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day. As you likely recall, it was also the beginning of the Coronavirus pandemic, when we were told by our governor that it was best to “stay at home.” Going outside to exercise was an allowable escape from the house, and so the timing of the challenge was ideal. The response from those accepting the challenge was amazing! Members and friends, people who had recently moved to the area, and those who come for the summer months started hiking and sending us photos, comments and words of thanks for putting the series together. People of all ages enjoyed this series; our youngest finishers were just 2 and 6! Congratulations to all!

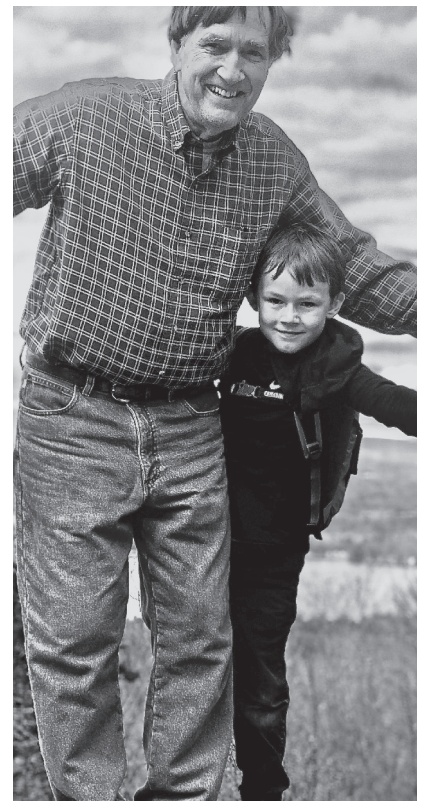
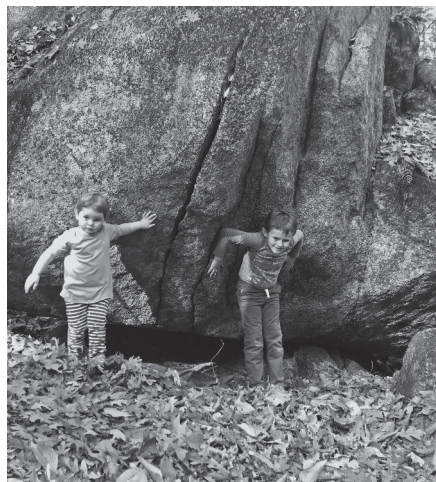
We are hopeful that by this summer, we can resume our regularly scheduled hiking programs, but until then, we hope you will enjoy our “DIY” Winter Snowshoe Series. If you have any questions about these trails, please give the office a call or email our Stewardship Manager, Anne Payeur [apayeur@ausbonsargent.org](mailto:apayeur@ausbonsargent.org). And as always, we love to hear about your experiences and observations of the trails. Photos are also great! Send them to [kheath@ausbonsargent.org](mailto:kheath@ausbonsargent.org).

### *Thanks to all who participated in the 2020 Earth Day Hiking Challenge!*



*“Thank you for encouraging us and others to get out and enjoy. Especially this year, a walk in the woods is among one of the best things we can do.”*

— Peter and Nancy Keenan, Newbury

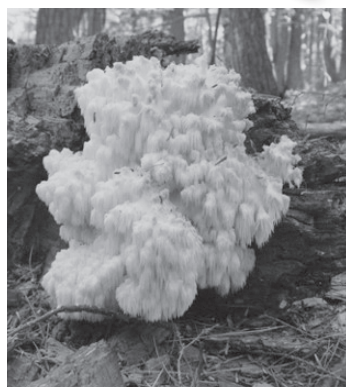






*"Just started working my way through the Earth Day Challenge with a beautiful walk up Sunset Hill today."*

– Sally Harris, South Newbury



## AUSBON SARGENT'S WINTER SNOWSHOE SERIES

# 2021

Our winter hiking series includes these five trails in our region:

- Webb Forest Trail - Sunapee
- King Hill Reservation - Sutton
- Sawyer Brook Headwaters Property - Grantham
- Courser Farm - Warner
- Phillips Preserve - New London

Please remember to maintain social distance on the trails and wear a face mask if unable to do so. Winter hiking can be tricky depending on the weather. Be sure to check weather conditions, wear appropriate clothing and footwear, and bring necessary equipment. If hiking alone, be sure to tell someone where you will be.

Please pick up after your leashed dogs, and most important:

## HAVE FUN!!

Find downloadable directions and trail descriptions at:  
[www.ausbonsargent.org/trails](http://www.ausbonsargent.org/trails)

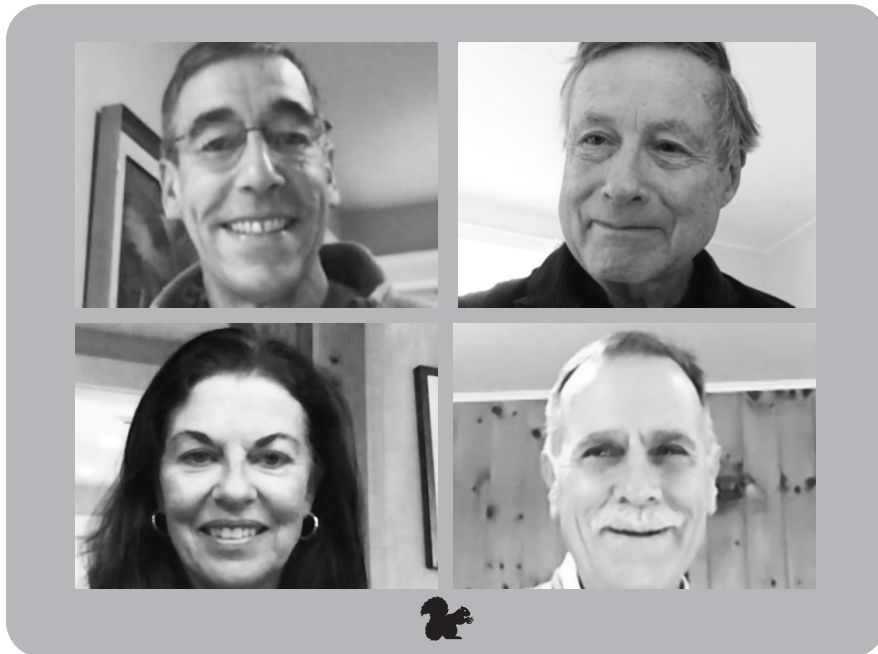
Contact [apayeur@ausbonsargent.org](mailto:apayeur@ausbonsargent.org) with trail questions.  
Send your photos and stories from the trails to:  
[kheath@ausbonsargent.org](mailto:kheath@ausbonsargent.org)

**There was so much positive feedback that we decided to put together a winter snowshoeing series to continue the fun!**

These five winter "DIY" snowshoe outings will hopefully encourage the exploration of our lesser-known trails. The weather will determine if they are best hiked by foot, spikes, or snowshoes! Use your best judgement!

## Annual Meeting Update & Leadership Changes

*The October 2020 Ausbon Sargent Annual Meeting looked much different than in prior years, in that it was held online, over "Zoom." Invitations were sent out in the mail, as in years past, but this year's RSVP requested that members email us to receive a Zoom invitation. The usual agenda was followed, including an update on projects that had closed over the last year, reporting on the financial health of the organization, and news about changes in the staff. There were two bylaw changes which were voted on, and one change in the leadership committee. Unfortunately, there was no opportunity to mingle and sample from the delicious hors d'oeuvres usually provided by the trustees and staff.*



**Ausbon Sargent officers**



**A special thanks to Past-Chair, Frances Harris,** for leading Ausbon Sargent through the past two years with professionalism, inclusiveness, and care. We are extremely happy that she will continue to sit on the board as a trustee for another year, and participate as a member of the Executive, Membership, and Finance committees.

**Jeff Hollinger, Chair** (top left)

Jeff's family first started coming to New London in 1968 as early members of the Slope-N-Shore Club. He and his wife, Roberta moved to New London in 1983 and raised four children. Jeff has been a member of Ausbon Sargent for over 20 years and in 2017, joined the Investment and Finance Committees. He has taken on the role of Chair from Frances Harris, who has stepped down but is continuing to sit on the Board of Trustees.

**Lisa Andrews, New Vice Chair** (bottom left)

Lisa and her husband David, have frequented the Sunapee area since 2000, and in 2014, moved to the lake full-time. She has been on the Membership Committee for two years and took over as Chair in July 2019. Lisa has hosted both the dessert and the cocktail portions of Ausbon Sargent Progressive Dinners, and looks forward to working with and joining additional committees at the land trust.

**Jim Owers, Secretary** (top right)

Jim and his wife, Leslie are full-time residents of Concord and have been seasonal residents of Sunapee since 2005. Jim was a partner at the Concord Law firm of Sulloway & Hollis PLLC for 35 years, retiring in January 2016. Jim has assisted Ausbon Sargent with land acquisitions, trail development, and is Chair of the Lands Committee.

**Mike Quinn, Treasurer** (bottom right)

Mike and his wife, Froncie moved to New London from the Burlington, VT area in 2011. In 2017, he retired as CFO of Pathways of the River Valley, a New Hampshire non-profit. Mike spent most of his career in commercial lending at banks in northern New England with an intervening tour as Vermont's Commissioner of Economic Development in the early 2000s. He has been a trustee and treasurer of the land trust for the past two years.



## ***In Memoriam Gifts***

### **Continuing a Legacy**



*By Laurie DiClerico*

Following their retirement, Dean and Clare Bensley settled in Newbury at “Between the Mountains Farm” where they enjoyed the great outdoors. Wanting others to be able to have a similar experience, Dean and Clare donated an easement to Ausbon Sargent in December 2002 on 63 acres of their land. The tract of land includes an excellent trail network open to the public for walking, hiking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The easement was also essential to the preservation of an important wildlife corridor between Bald Sunapee and Mt. Sunapee.

Dean Bensley passed away this past November 2020. It was not the end of his commitment to the conservation of the rural landscape of this region. His obituary indicated that the family wished memorial donations be made in his honor to Ausbon Sargent.

Asking that donations be made in a family member’s memory to ASLPT is a meaningful way to perpetuate the deceased’s conservation legacy following their passing. It assures that ASLPT can continue to fulfill its mission to protect the rural heritage of our region.

We are grateful to have been chosen for this honor. In the words of Clare and Dean Bensley upon the protection of their property, “we hope our actions will attract the attention of our neighbors, and we hope that they will consider doing likewise.”

*Laurie is a long time resident of New London and a former employee of Ausbon Sargent where she worked for 15 years as the Development Associate. Currently, Laurie serves as a member of the Board of Trustees, a member of the Development Committee and volunteers as an easement monitor. She and her husband, Joe, are members of the Acorn Society.*



*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 (13)  
Rich and Heidi Anderson  
Theodore D. Bacon, Jr.\*  
Ann Bemis\*  
Seth Benowitz  
Catherine Bogardus\*  
Roland P. Carreker\*  
Michael and Susan Chiarella  
Naia L. Conrad\*  
Emma Crane  
Chris and Janice Cundey  
Tim and Lorraine Davis  
Joe and Laurie DiClerico  
Neil Donnenfeld  
Barbara Faughman  
John and Maggie Ford  
Cotton Cleveland & John Garvey  
Gerard and Jane Gold  
Alan T. Jones\*  
Dr. Charles Kane\*  
David Karrick  
Doug Lyon  
Andrew J. McDonald\*  
Dave and Bev Payne  
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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#### STAFF (L-R)

**Anne Payeur**  
Stewardship Manager

**Andy Deegan**  
Land Protection Specialist

**Kristy Heath**  
Development and  
Communications Coordinator

**Sue Ellen Andrews**  
Operations Manager

**Deborah Stanley**  
Executive Director

**Patsy Stevenson**  
Bookkeeper



*Special Thanks to all of our guest authors!*

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

#### OFFICERS

Chair: Jeff Hollinger  
Vice-Chair: Lisa Andrews  
Secretary: Jim Owers  
Treasurer: Mike Quinn

#### TRUSTEES

Aimee Ayers  
Sheridan Brown  
Kathy Carroll  
Laurie DiClerico  
Susan Ellison  
Ginny Gwynn  
Frances Harris  
Deborah Lang  
Steve Root  
Bob Zeller

## 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**

- ☐ \$10,000+ Ausbon Sargent Society
- ☐ \$5,000+ Legacy Circle
- ☐ \$2,500+ Leadership Circle
- ☐ \$1,000+ Benefactor
- ☐ \$500+ Patron
- ☐ \$250+ Steward
- ☐ \$150+ Protector
- ☐ \$60+ Advocate
- ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Donations to Ausbon Sargent are tax deductible as provided by Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code. 02/21

