

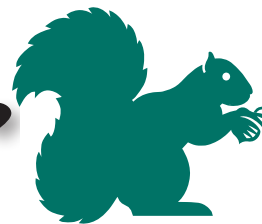
THE AUSBON SARGENT LAND PRESERVATION TRUST

Helping to Preserve the Rural Landscape of the Mt. Kearsarge/Ragged/Lake Sunapee Region

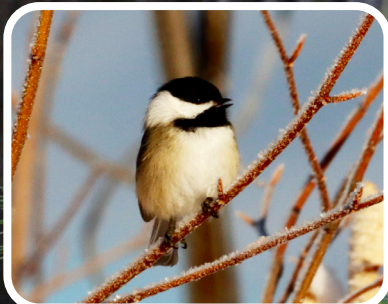
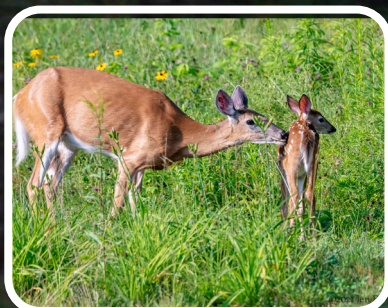
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Chatter



Winter 2022



Investing *in Nature*

From the Executive Director

Photo by Neal Harris



As we celebrate 35 years of land conservation, I decided to spend some time looking back at our history. I ran across an Argus-Champion newspaper article announcing that the land trust was registered with the State on September 25, 1987 and that Woody Blunt, one of the original incorporators, was elected the first board Chairman.

Another incorporator, Sue Clough remarked, “We were so excited about establishing this trust that we wanted to have a special name to capture the spirit of our challenge.” The founding committee approached Ausbon Sargent to see if he would lend support. Two years earlier, retired maintenance worker Ausbon Sargent of no inherited wealth, at age 94 took his life savings and bought the three-acre Main Street “Town Green” parcel from Colby-Sawyer College. Ausbon immediately gave the land to the Town of New London on the condition the parcel remain forever undeveloped.

Sue went on to say, “We thought his love and concern for the town would be an inspiration for all of us. I am pleased to say that he not only consented, but he wanted to sign up immediately for membership.”

According to board member Dale Garvey, a membership drive would kick-off in early 1988. Membership has steadily grown over the years and at present we are approaching 1,400 members. While the Trust’s beginnings were in New London, the organization specifically left the door open for its land conservation work to expand and serve neighboring towns. Today we serve twelve towns in the Mt. Kearsarge/Ragged/Lake Sunapee region and have conserved over 13,000 acres.

During this anniversary year, we will have some staff changes. Sue Andrews is retiring in June after 20+ years as Operations Manager. Sue’s involvement in the land trust goes back to 1993 when she was Chair of the New London Conservation Commission. During this time she helped form the Low Plain Alliance which assisted ASLPT in the purchase of the 108-acre Esther Currier Wildlife Management Area at Low Plain in New London. ASLPT then placed a conservation easement on the property and transferred title to the Town of New London in 1995. Our search to fill Sue’s position began last summer and we are pleased that Jen Deasy has joined the ASLPT team. Sue and Jen will work together for four months ensuring a smooth transition.

Additionally, Bookkeeper Patsy Stevenson who has been on staff for ten years will be retiring at the end of the fiscal year, in June. We are thrilled to have found a bookkeeper with years of accounting and audit experience. We invite you to attend Sue and Patsy’s retirement party on Friday, June 17th at the Ice House Museum.

Another thing going on at ASLPT is the update of our 2012 Conservation Plan to reflect new information including the most updated Wildlife Action Plan, parcels conserved since 2012 by ASLPT and others, removal of areas which have been developed and adding information concerning climate change resiliency. Based on this updated information, focus area recommendations and tiers will be identified, as well as specific parcels within focus areas with the highest priority for protection in each of the towns ASLPT serves. Presently, more than a dozen land projects have been approved by the Board and are in various stages of completion as we continue to conserve lands that we all need and love for today and tomorrow.

***Thank you to all our supporters
You are at the heart of everything we do!***

Debbie Stanley

ABOUT THE COVER >

Photos by Jim Perkins from the Messer Farm property:

Black Bear & Black-capped Chickadee.

Photos by Jen Esten: *Whitetail Deer & Loon with baby.*

Photo by Jonathan Waage: *Turkey.*



Wildlife as a Public Benefit

“Wilderness is not a luxury but necessity of the human spirit.”

— Edward Abbey

Photo by Jim Perkins



Photo by Andy Deegan



Photo by Jim Perkins



By Kristy Heath

The rural setting of our region attracts many people to the area to enjoy. These less developed, peaceful areas where wildlife thrives and can be seen, can be stress-reducing and a contributor to good health. Many find that being able to go for a walk in nature just steps away from their back door, or a short drive away, brings them comfort like no other. We all enjoy deer crossing our path, spotting a bird flying overhead or seeing a bear or moose from afar. For these reasons Ausbon Sargent works to conserve wildlife habitats and expand wildlife corridors to promote diversity and abundance.

Ausbon Sargent's Board of Trustees requires that certain criteria be met before moving forward to purchase or accept a property outright, or to protect a property through a conservation easement. It is no doubt that one of these criteria is “Wildlife Habitat.” You will learn more about this, as well as the Wildlife Action Plan on the following pages; these things help the land trust to identify the most important areas to protect. Much is considered for each conservation project that comes before the Board, as well as each land management plan that is created for the properties owned by the land trust.

Dr. Lisa Firestone posted on her site, PsychAlive.org, in 2016 that nature is beneficial because it provides “bottom-up” experiences which help to unclutter the mind and feel more present in our own bodies. In nature, people use their senses to “drink in sights, sounds and smells, feeling the earth on their feet and the breeze on their face.”

According to the World Wildlife Fund, “Non-material benefits, ranging from spiritual enrichment to leisure pursuits, while difficult to measure and value, are amongst the least recognized yet most important contributions of wildlife to human well-being.”

Among the important elements in nature are the beings that call it home. With your help, we can insure that these animals remain in our region for the generations to come. It is our hope that our grandchildren's grandchildren will one day still be able to see the work of a beaver on a pond, hear a wood-pecker searching for insects in a tree, or spot a salamander crawling over the leaves near a vernal pool. It is up to us to make the provisions now to insure that wildlife in our region will remain. Not only is this important for the health of the wildlife, but also for the humans living near them.

Kristy Heath has been at Ausbon Sargent since 2015. She writes grants, plans events, manages the Ausbon Sargent website, social media, and the “Chatter” newsletter. She enjoys camping and spending time with family and friends.

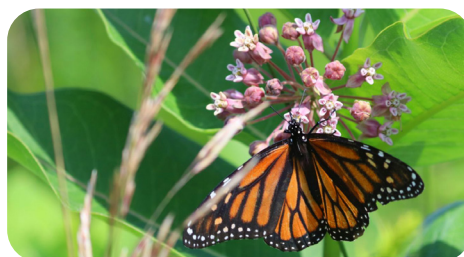


Photo by Andy Deegan

New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan—What is it?

By Andy Deegan

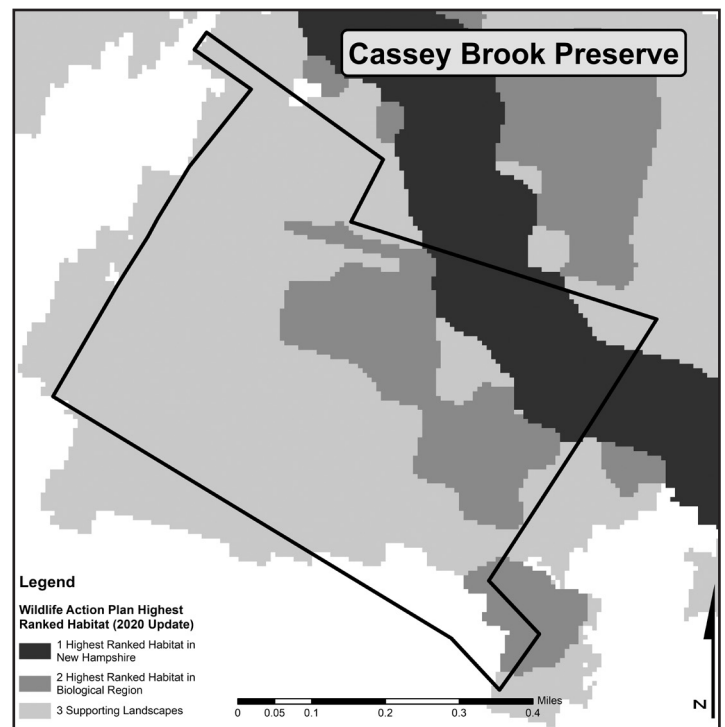
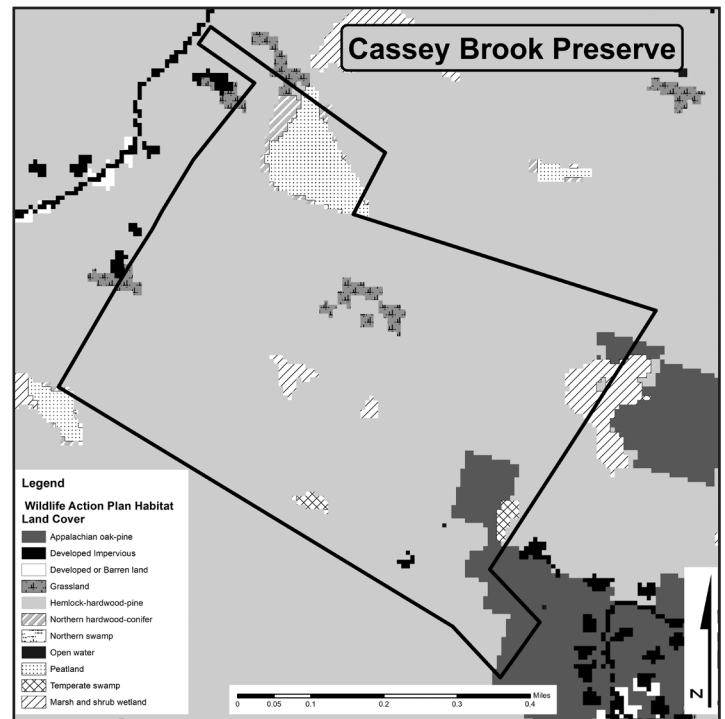
In 2005, the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department had their first Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This Plan was the culmination of two years of work and resulted in strategies for protection of the diversity of wildlife and habitats found in New Hampshire - ranging from salt marshes on the coast to alpine zones in the White Mountains, and everything in between. In addition to listing and describing habitat types, the WAP identifies important areas for wildlife and ranks these in three tiers: Highest Ranked Habitat in the State, Highest Ranked Habitat in the Biological Region and Supporting Landscapes. You may notice that in many of our property descriptions, we make reference to these rankings.

The WAP was revised in 2015 using new data and methodologies to determine which habitats and species were in the greatest need of conservation. This analysis also looked at which activities have the greatest impact on wildlife populations and laid out strategies to protect and manage habitats. These revisions were completed by a broad coalition of organizations, agencies, universities, and municipalities, as well as scientists, professionals and volunteers. As a result, Ausbon Sargent now has a plan that we can use to help prioritize and protect the important wildlife habitat found in our region.

When a landowner approaches Ausbon Sargent to protect their land, we look at factors such as the soils, the location and quality of any wetlands, and whether the property is situated near existing conservation land. The WAP is used to identify wildlife habitat types found on any property, and to determine whether these habitats are highly ranked on a statewide or regional level. We must also determine if there is a public benefit, such as considerable scenic value or recreational opportunities. According to the IRS, the conservation purpose can also be the appreciable natural value of the land, and the WAP allows us to identify and quantify this value.

Ausbon Sargent also has our own Conservation Plan, which helps identify the highest priority lands in our service area for conservation. We use this Plan when we are evaluating new projects but also to be proactive with outreach to landowners in areas of high conservation value. Among other criteria, Ausbon Sargent's Conservation Plan makes use of the WAP's habitat types and ranking to help focus our attention on conserving land that is valuable to the wildlife in our region.

The WAP is an important tool that Ausbon Sargent uses to evaluate projects and focus our conservation efforts in the region, and is a Plan that will continue to be updated and evaluated as science and evaluation tools improve. When we conserve the valuable wildlife habitat in our region, we ensure that the animals we know and love will have the space and resources they need to survive now and in the future.



Maps by Anne Payeur, displaying data from 2020 WAP update.

Andy has been a Land Protection Specialist with Ausbon Sargent since 2008. He lives in New London with his wife and two children. In his free time he enjoys birding, kayaking, hiking and generally being outside.

How ASLPT Uses the New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan

Photo by Anne Payeur



Cassey Brook Preserve

By Anne Payeur

Ausbon Sargent uses the WAP to inform our management decisions on the properties we own. We begin with the habitat land cover map, which identifies types of wildlife habitat occurring on the property. The data was mapped with the accuracy of about a quarter acre, so the next step taken is verification of the habitats on the land. Then we return to the WAP for details on habitat profiles and associated wildlife and plants occurring on the property. It also informs us of recommended management activities and the potential for specific threatened or endangered wildlife or plant species.

The plan also assists in determining which management strategies are appropriate: forestry, agriculture, or protection without activity. In addition, it includes wildlife species profiles which identify management techniques or goals for particular species.

For our Cassey Brook Preserve, the habitat land cover map (top page 4) shows a predominantly hemlock-hardwood-pine forest, but also marsh and shrub wetlands, Appalachian oak-pine forests, and other cover types. Using this map made it easy to confirm or reclassify the habitat types occurring on this 201-acre forest. In this case, the identification of the marsh and shrub wetlands was correct, but the grassland and developed impervious areas were misclassified and are actually young forest growth.

The highest ranked habitat by ecological condition map takes into account biological data, landscape context, and impacts of human activities. As landowners we can only control activities within our property boundaries, but it is important to consider the larger landscape context of our activities. This map helps us look at that bigger picture and is helpful in informing us which areas on our properties may be part of larger, less fragmented habitat, which may translate into larger corridors for travelling wildlife with larger ranges like bears, deer, and moose.

In the case of Cassey Brook Preserve, the highest ranked habitat map (bottom page 4) shows the area surrounding Cassey Brook as Tier 1, while the slopes leading to and surrounding the brook are Tier 2 and the remainder of the property is Tier 3. This data put the property in a larger context and was used as a factor into our trail system design. Past timber harvesting activity opened up many equipment trails that could have become hiking trails. However, this data helped us limit human activity in Tiers 1 and 2 areas as a means to maintain these larger blocks of undisturbed wildlife habitat and possibly more sensitive areas frequented by wildlife.

The Plan and maps are helpful tools for management planning that will continue to be used on Ausbon Sargent owned and managed properties. We encourage other landowners to learn more about the plans on NH Fish & Game Department's website at: <https://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/wildlife/wap.html>.

Anne Payeur has been at Ausbon Sargent for two years as the Stewardship Manager. She oversees the monitoring of conservation easement properties as well as the management of properties owned by Ausbon Sargent.

STAMPER UPDATE

By Kristy Heath

In the last issue of Chatter, we told you about the Stamper property in Grantham, adjacent to the Sawyer Brook Headwaters property (384.5 acres conserved in June of 2020).

The property is mostly forested, has several significant vernal pools, and has frontage on the Class 6 road off of Dunbar Hill Road. The owners of the property were approached and agreed to sell the 5.56 acres to Ausbon Sargent. A fundraising campaign ensued and the \$75,000 needed for the appraised value of the property, and costs associated with due diligence efforts, were raised. The land trust purchased the property on July 30, 2021. Work then began to convey the ownership of the land to the Town of Grantham with a conservation easement on the property, held by Ausbon Sargent. The easement and transfer were completed on January 14, 2022. The land will now be managed by the Town along with the Sawyer Brook Headwaters property. Ausbon Sargent is thrilled to have been able to protect another property in the Town of Grantham, and was overwhelmed by the response from residents and friends of the land trust in the fundraising efforts. Along with private donations, grants were received from the Eastman Charitable Foundation and the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation.

“Why I Gave”

by Kristy Heath

When word went out in an email to our membership and on our social media platforms about the Stamper project and our need to raise funds, donations started to come in. The majority of these donations were coming from citizens of Grantham, however many donations were coming in from individuals outside of Grantham, including Newbury, New London, Newport, Warner, and Wilmot. Curious as to why someone would feel compelled to give to a town outside of their own proximity, we were intrigued to hear the following responses:

Neal & Ann Harris of New London offered:

“The Stamper project was important to us for two reasons. First, Stamper is adjacent to the lovely Sawyer Brook easement, and could provide access and parking for it. Second, the property was either going to be put into conservation OR sold and likely developed, and we didn’t want to see that happen. Ownership by the Town of Grantham with an easement held by ASLPT seemed like a perfect solution.” —Neal

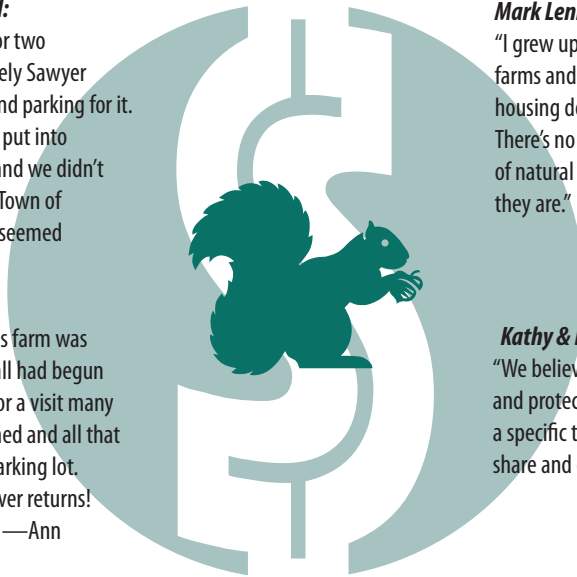
“We lived in Amherst for 10 years. A gorgeous farm was sold and a mall built on the property. The mall had begun to fail before we moved away. We returned for a visit many years later to find that the mall was abandoned and all that was left was the blacktop of the sprawling parking lot. A reminder that beautiful land once gone never returns! The price of saving it is a small price to pay!” —Ann

Mark Lennon of Warner:

“I grew up five miles from peach and apple orchards, dairy farms and fields of pumpkins. They’ve all been replanted to housing developments, big box malls and car dealerships. There’s no issue more important to me than preservation of natural and historically cultivated landscapes. Wherever they are.”

Kathy & David Bashaw of Newbury:

“We believe in the mission of Ausbon Sargent to preserve and protect the rural character of our region. It is not about a specific town or two, but the greater community we all share and enjoy.”



We are fortunate and grateful that members and friends from our entire region answer the call to assist in fundraising for projects, even those not in their own towns. Looking at our region as an overall area worthy of protection, instead of just town-by-town, is very important. After all, the land, plants and animals don’t separate themselves because of town lines and county boundaries. An acre preserved is an acre preserved, no matter what town claims it as theirs. Please check our website frequently to find out what land projects we are working on in our region.

Your support is always appreciated!

Annual Meeting Update

For the second year in a row, the Ausbon Sargent October Annual Meeting was held virtually due to the Covid-19 pandemic. 42 members logged on and joined our Zoom meeting to hear about the land trust's activities and accomplishments over the last year.

Retiring trustees were **Frances Harris** and **Kathy Carroll**, who had both been on the board for six years. Both Frances and Kathy will continue to serve on various committees at Ausbon Sargent. We thank Frances and Kathy for the time and expertise they have shared with us over the years. We look forward to their continued contributions to the land trust in the future!

The newest member of the Ausbon Sargent board is Diane Robbins,

who has been a member of the Development Committee for the last five years and has sat on the Lands Committee. She has been an active volunteer in the area, volunteering at the John Hay Estate and as a board member at LSPA for six years. Diane's background in development within higher education has been a huge asset to the land trust, and we are thrilled to have her as part of the ASLPT board.



Welcome Jennifer Deasy!



Ausbon Sargent is excited to welcome the newest member of our team, Jennifer Deasy. Jen comes to us from Colby-Sawyer College, where she most recently worked in Human Resources. Prior to that, she worked as a camp director at Camp Coniston for 16 years. Jen lives in Sunapee and attended Colby-Sawyer College, so is familiar with the area and loves the outdoors. Over the next several months, Jen will be working alongside the staff, learning the ropes and preparing for her eventual transition to Operations Manager upon Sue Andrews' retirement in June, 2022. Please make sure you say hello and introduce yourself to Jen the next time you're in the office!

Investing in Nature

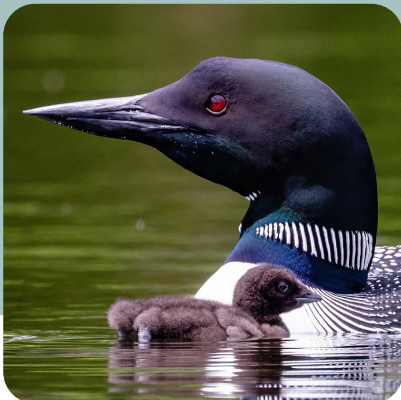


Photo by Jen Esten



Photo by Jim Perkins



Photo by Andy Deegan



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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NEW HAMPSHIRE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION FUNDS

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IN KIND DONATIONS

Pierre J. Bedard and Associates, P.C.
The Country Press and
Kearsarge Shopper
Grounds
On Track Design
PCCHelp

IN HONOR OF ALICE GOTTESMAN'S 25TH BIRTHDAY

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IN HONOR OF JOHN JEVNE

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IN MEMORY OF BOB STEVENS

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MARILYN KIDDER AND THE STAFF AT BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS MILESTONE REAL ESTATE

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

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BETWEEN THE MOUNTAINS PRESERVE

Virginia Mars

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In Memory of Carol McCord
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WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK

Nick Andrews *for shredding
documents*
Woody Blunt *for the donation of the
New London Boy's Club
William Beall Award*
The Fells *for the lovely venue for
our Volunteer Party*
Hannaford Bros. *for their donation
through their "Bloomin' For
Good" program*
The Kearsarge Shopper *for all they
do for us*
Lee Morrill, On Track Design
*for graphic design and
advertising*
Katie and Lyn Potter *for recycling*
Springledge Farm *for the
Kissing Ball*

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Photo by Jen Esten



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

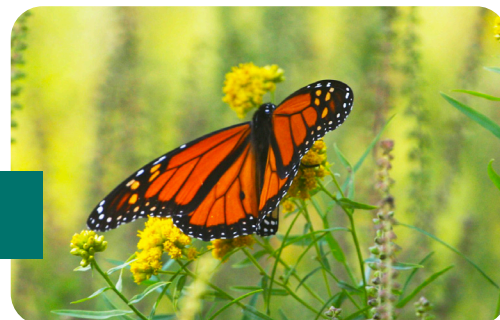
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Mark Lennon
David and Mary MacMillin

Brooks McCandlish and
Janet Sillars
J. Dale McLeod Co.
Monetta Properties, Inc.
Nelson Farm
Newcomb and Ourusoff Families
"Kentlands"
New England Forestry Foundation
New London Outing Club
Town of New London
NH Audubon
Clayton Nowell
Nutting Family Trust
Judith M. Oates
Robert O'Neil Revocable Trust
Otter Pond Protective Association
Dr. Edward C. Parkhurst* and
Loren B. Sjostrom*
Dr.* and Mrs.* Edward C. Parkhurst
Malcolm, Dallas* and
Mabel Patten
Thomas and Janet Paul
Pelfor Corporation
Alice Perry
Mrs. Bessie W. Phillips*
Pine Summit, LLC
Robert and Timothy Poh
Gerald R. Putnam
Ring Brook
Barbara and David Roby
Rachel and Myron* Rosenblum
Janice W. Sahler Trust
Rachel* and Murray* Sargent
Sharon and Duffy Sheehan
Patricia Sorento
Ralph* and Mary Lou Spofford
Stanley Farm Association
Stanley Point Trust
Star Lake Properties, Inc.
Robert Stevens*
Linford E. and Mary Ellen Stiles
Bill and Betty Stockwell
Sugar River Savings Bank
Town of Sunapee
Town of Sutton
Kit and Nancy Tatum
Libby Trayner Trust*
V-Oz Asset Management Co., LLC,
Van O. Webb
R.H. Webb Forest Preserve, LLC,
Van O. Webb
Daniel H. Wolf Trust
Woods Without Gile
Marcia Wright
Sarah Yerkes
Marjorie Young*
Steven* and Susan Youngs

*denotes deceased

Photo by Jim Perkins



Investing *in Nature*

Calendar of **UPCOMING EVENTS**



Ausbon Sargent plans to hold several events this winter and throughout 2022. These events are meant not only to provide opportunities to those who are looking for an excuse to get out and explore, but also to commemorate the land trust's 35th anniversary! Due to possible complications arising from the Covid-19 pandemic, events, dates and locations are subject to change. Registration is required for every event. The best way to get alerts on updates to this schedule is to visit ausbonsargent.org and click "Join our Mailing List." Here are the events we have planned so far:

Sunday, February 6, 2022 – 1-4pm Winter Farm and Forest Tour at the Messer Farm

All are invited to the Messer Farm property in New London to tour the grounds on snowshoe or cross-country skis. Park at Spring Ledge Farm and explore the 1.5-mile trail at your own pace. Warm up with a complimentary hot drink afterwards at the farm. This event is free, but your RSVP is appreciated. (Snow date: Sunday, February 20). Masks and social distancing requested when indoors.

Adult Learning Monthly Series with Lake Sunapee Region Butterfly Society, ASLPT, and NH Fish & Game

Beginning Thursday, February 17, 2022 @ Tracy Memorial Library 6:30-7:30 pm, RSVP required due to a limit on participants.

Friday, March 4, 2022 – 1pm Snowshoe/hike at the Cline property in Andover

Your RSVP is appreciated.

April, 2022 – Celebrate Earth Day!

Check the Ausbon Sargent website in March to find out what we have planned.

Thursday, May 19 or Monday, May 23, 2022 1-4pm Outside Monitor Training in New London

Save the date! Registration will open in May.

Wednesday, May 25, 2022 4:30 – 6:30pm Volunteer Recognition Party @ LSPA in Sunapee

Volunteers will be sent an invitation to this event.

June 2022, Ausbon Sargent Day on the Sargent Green, New London

Check our website in early June to see what we have planned!

Friday, June 17, 2022 4:30 – 6:30pm Retirement Party for Sue Andrews and Patsy Stevenson

Stop by the party at the Ice House Museum in New London to say hello and wish our friends a long and happy retirement!

Sunday, October 23, 2022 3:00 – 4:00 pm Annual Meeting (may be virtual)

Tuesday, December 6, 2022 Holiday Party (TBD)

Investing *in Nature*



Photo by Dede Gladders



Photo by Grace Garvey



Photo by Jim Perkins



Photo by Anne Poyeur



Photo by Andy Deegan



Photo by Andy Deegan

Growing Stewardship Responsibilities

By Anne Payeur

Our conserved lands are growing and so are our responsibilities as stewards to our conservation easements and the properties we own. At the start of 2020 Ausbon Sargent had protected 11,651 acres, of which we owned 143.9 acres. At the start of 2022 Ausbon Sargent has protected 13,138 acres, of which we now own 1,020 acres. To put this in other words, this is a total acreage increase of about 12% and an increase of about 609% in owned acres.

As easement holders, Ausbon Sargent is responsible for visiting every easement property at least once a year and following up with landowners on activities allowed under their easements. This means checking in on timber harvests, following up on agricultural management plans, and the annual monitoring of boundaries and lands. Volunteers conduct much of the monitoring in the fall, while staff follows up with landowners and answers their questions throughout the year.

As landowners, Ausbon Sargent writes management plans for our properties within a year of acquiring them and is responsible for management activities taking place on all 12 properties we own, like Messer Farm in New London and Mountain Brook Forest Preserve in Andover. We also need to monitor these properties at least once a year, with a goal of three visits a year (one each season, spring, summer, and fall). Our dedicated volunteers monitor these properties and others help us maintain trails and open meadows.

As landowners, we have the chance to expand volunteer opportunities to land management activities. New opportunities like removing old fence posts on Two Brook Woods, installing blue bird nesting boxes on Messer Farm, and cleaning up debris with a class of Colby-Sawyer College students at Messer Farm Expansion are just a few examples from 2021. Looking to 2022 and beyond, there will be more opportunities for volunteers to maintain hiking trails, install property signs, and even a little more property cleanup.

To help with these growing responsibilities Ausbon Sargent has created a Stewardship Committee that meets every other month and reports to the Board of Trustees. This Committee helps the Stewardship Manager with management decisions for the properties Ausbon Sargent owns as well as helping manage issues on conservation easements. The committee's seven volunteers have expertise in forestry, agriculture, and multiuse trail planning. Their expertise has been vital in the last few months and is sure to strengthen the stewardship of Ausbon Sargent properties.



Photo by Anne Payeur

Volunteer Fred Sladen and Land Protection Specialist Andy Deegan installing a blue bird nesting box on Messer Farm.



Photo by Anne Payeur

Volunteers removing fence posts on Two Brook Woods.



Photo by Andy Deegan

Extensive beaver habitat at the Wayne and Trudy Beaver Saga Pond Forest in Warner.

ASLPT Properties Included in Fall BioBlitz

By: Kristy Heath

This past September, the UNH Cooperative Extension sent out an invitation to anyone in the state who would help inventory as many species of plant and animal as they could on town-owned lands. This is called a “BioBlitz” and was a program offered in lieu of the usual method of inventory, which entails a large group of people gathering to focus on one property for a day or weekend. To widen the inventory and avoid gathering in a large group, this program was put forth. Town-owned lands were chosen as the focal point of this inventory due to the fact that municipalities generally don’t have a lot of natural resource information about their lands, which amount to about 4% of NH forests. This program was also seen as an opportunity to encourage the public to visit town-owned forests and lands.

The BioBlitz turned out to be a huge success with over 300 people participating and almost 7,000 observations submitted. 1,166 species were found in 106 NH towns. Of special note, six of the towns in Ausbon Sargent’s service area were visited by volunteers, and observations were made at the Bradford Bog, the Kidder-Cleveland property in New London, Wendell Marsh North in Sunapee, and the William Bean Quarry, King Hill Reservation, Russell Pond and the Webb/Crowell properties in Sutton. Even more observations were made on town-owned land within New London, Springfield, Sunapee, Sutton and Warner.

To read the entire results and find out more about the BioBlitz, please check out Haley Andreozzi’s report on the program at: <https://extension.unh.edu/nhbioblitz>

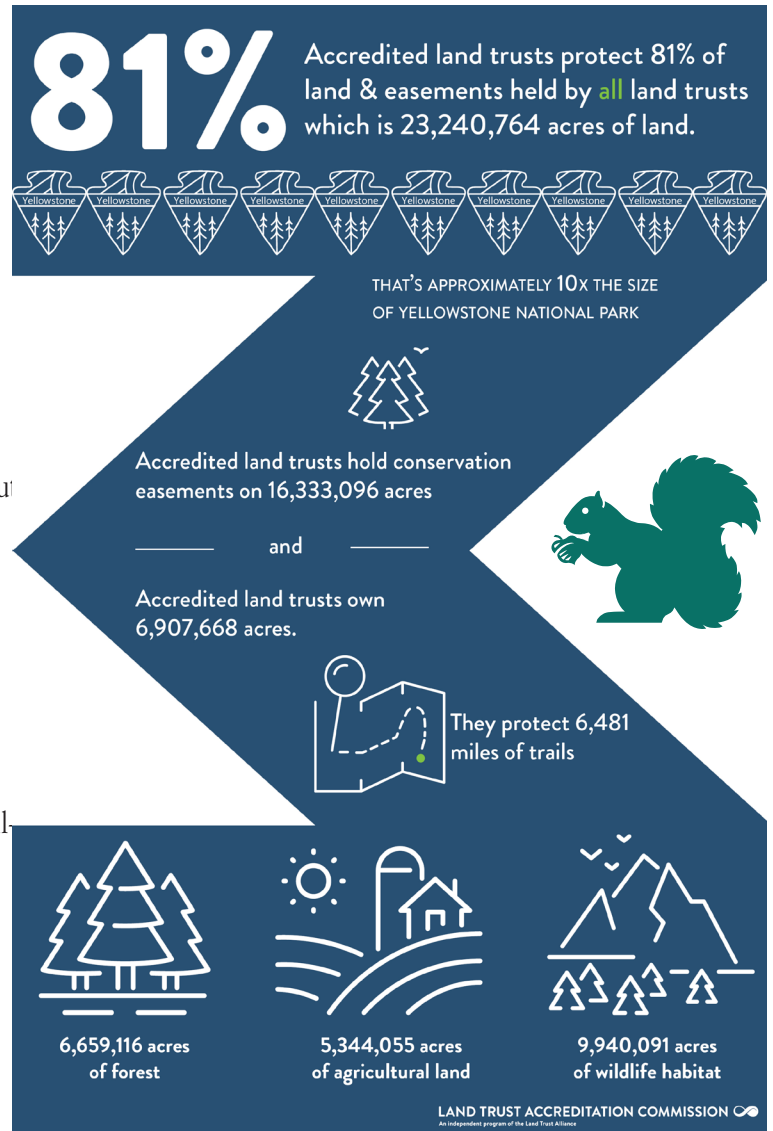
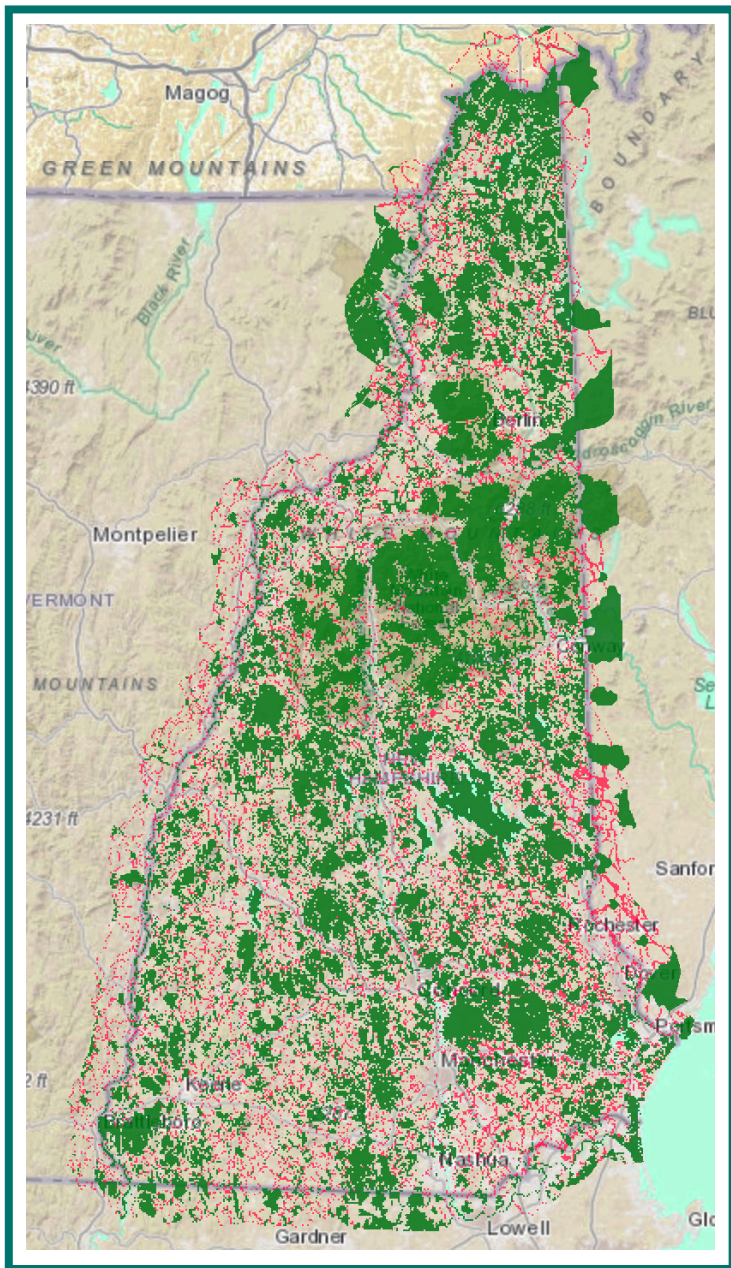


Photo by Loren Valliere



Photo by Jim Perkins



*New Hampshire Wildlife Corridors Map, NH Fish and Game Department.
Dark areas are prioritized habitat blocks.*



Brook Trout

Room to Roam: Wildlife Corridors

By Haley Andreozzi

UNH Extension Wildlife Outreach Program Manager

Wildlife species are not randomly distributed on the landscape — they are using areas that meet their specific habitat requirements. Habitats are a collection of resources (food, water, and cover) in a given area that a specific species needs to survive and reproduce. Farms, forests, wetlands, and even places impacted by humans — like powerlines, gravel pits, and backyards — provide habitat for wildlife. These habitat requirements are specific to each wildlife species and can often vary by age, class or time of year.

But most wildlife species don't just stay in one place. Animals of all types, from weasels to trout and salamanders to bears, need to move to complete their life cycles and find resources. Wildlife move across the landscape for many reasons — for food, breeding, shelter, seasonal migrations, or dispersing to a new territory. A wildlife corridor is a habitat linkage that joins two or more areas of wildlife habitat, allowing for the movement of wildlife or fish passage from one area to another.

Wildlife corridors are critically important for wildlife conservation in New Hampshire. To protect wildlife species, it's important to create a network of connecting habitats that enable a wide diversity of wildlife to move across the landscape, especially in the face of habitat loss and a changing climate. The loss of corridors on the landscape can result in direct mortality, barriers to dispersal, and habitat fragmentation for many species. The risks are especially high for slow moving species (e.g. reptiles and amphibians), species that depend on high adult survivorship (e.g. turtles), species that are long range dispersers (e.g. bobcats or American martens), and species that already have limited populations (e.g. timber rattlesnakes).

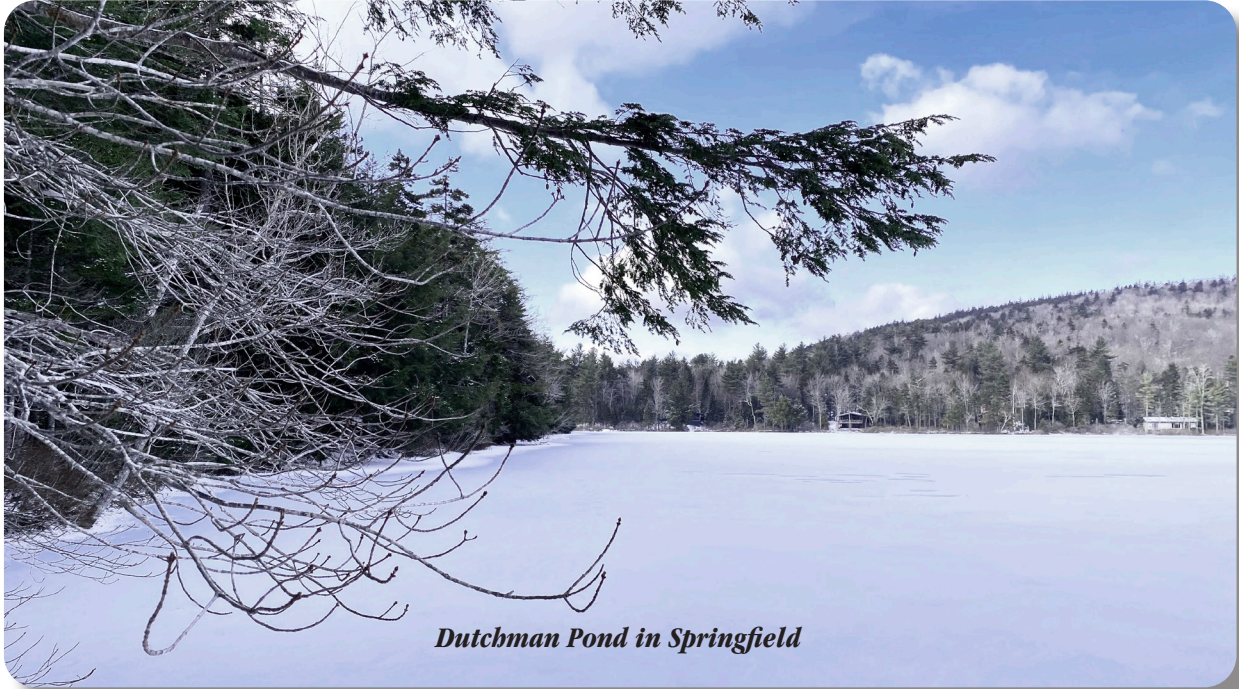
You can help to protect wildlife corridors in your community by determining where the large habitat areas and key corridors are located. NH Fish & Game Department and partners have developed the NH Wildlife Corridors map to help identify these important areas on the landscape. This information can be incorporated into town documents, transportation and infrastructure planning, and conservation and restoration plans. To learn more about wildlife corridors in New Hampshire, visit the Taking Action for Wildlife website and sign up for the e-newsletter.

Investing in Nature

A Lifetime of Helping Others Continues, Thanks to a Meaningful Bequest

By: Kristy Heath

Photo by Dale Milne



Dutchman Pond in Springfield

Pat Thornton, a longtime member and friend of the land trust, passed away on December 10, 2019 at the age of 83.

This fall, after her estate had been settled, Ausbon Sargent learned that we would be the recipient of a bequest from Pat, which after learning about the woman, made perfect sense.

A graduate of Colby Junior College's class of 1956, Pat went on to get degrees at Wheaton College and Boston College in social work. She split her time between a lovely apartment in Cambridge, MA and her simple home and lifestyle on Dutchman Pond in Springfield, NH.

A friend and neighbor from Springfield, Jeff Milne, said he was hired by Pat and John Soleau, also a Dutchman Pond homeowner in the mid to late 70's, to subdivide a large property between Dutchman Pond and Twin Lake Villa in Springfield. Their idea was after the lots were created, the remaining frontage on the pond could be used as a buffer, which would essentially protect it. "She was really interested in preserving the pond forever," shared Jeff Milne. "She loved Springfield because it was near the Gile Forest and the Royal Arch lot." Jeff had been involved in the preservation of the Gile Forest from the beginning, and Pat loved to hear from him how the project was progressing and enjoyed walking the property with him.

Pat was a dedicated member of the Colby-Sawyer community and began serving on the Board of Trustees in 1986. She served on many other committees within the college until 2005 when she concluded her second term. The college has named the "*Thornton Living Room*" in Colgate Hall after Pat in appreciation of her unwavering support and commitment to the college.

The obituary for Pat, found on the Colby-Sawyer website notes that "...Pat spent a lifetime helping others." We at Ausbon Sargent recognize Pat's bequest to us as a continuation of her desire and ability to keep helping. Even after her death, she has provided the means to further protect and watch over the lands and water bodies she loved. The land trust feels privileged to honor Pat's legacy, now and forever.



*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.*
Kathy and David Bashaw
David and Brenda Beardsley
Ann Bemis*
Seth Benowitz
Catherine Bogardus*
Roland P. Carreker*
Michael and Susan Chiarella
Naia L. Conrad*
Emma Crane
Chris and Janice Cundey
Rick Davies
Tim and Lorraine Davis
Joe and Laurie DiClerico
Neil Donnenfeld
Barbara Faughnan
John and Maggie Ford
Cotton Cleveland & John Garvey
Gerard and Jane Gold
George Green
Alan T. Jones*
Dr. Charles Kane*
David Karrick
Doug Lyon
Andrew J. McDonald*
Dave and Bev Payne
Alan Peterson
Rachel and Myron* Rosenblum
John and Sage Scott
John and Nancy Denny Solodar
Virginia Anthony Soule*
Peter and Debbie Stanley
Nathaniel Stevens
John Tilson
Libby Trayner*
Betsy Denny Warner
Mary-Seymour "Sissy" Wastcoat*
Ruth White

*denotes deceased

Volunteer Monitors at Work



Photos by Anne Payeur

ASLPT Monitors Tom Hamlin & Pierre Bedard

Stewardship Wish List

Each year, Ausbon Sargent is required to monitor over 160 protected properties, including land we own and land on which we hold easements. In addition to monitoring, we have now started to manage our own trails. These activities require the use of some tools and materials that either get used up each year, or need replacement after several years of use. If you would like to help us with any stewardship items below, please send along a note with your check or give us a call to let us know your intent. Gift certificates in any denomination to Rocky's Ace Hardware or Belletetes are also helpful.

Monitoring iPad 9th Generation \$609

Wildlife Camera Trap \$375

Trail Work Tools \$200

Monitor flagging and paint for boundaries \$125

*Please contact our Stewardship Manager, Anne Payeur
(apayeur@ausbonsargent.org) to get details on any of the
above items, or other items we may be in need of.
Thank you!*



71 Pleasant Street
P.O. Box 2040
New London
New Hampshire
03257-2040
603.526.6555

STAFF

(From left to right)

Anne Payeur
Stewardship Manager

Kristy Heath,
Development &
Communications Coordinator

Deborah Stanley,
Executive Director

Patsy Stevenson,
Bookkeeper

Sue Ellen Andrews,
Sr. Operations Manager

Andy Deegan,
Land Protection Specialist

Jen Deasy,
Operations Manager



OFFICERS

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

TRUSTEES

Aimee Ayers
Susan Ellison
Ginny Gwynn
Deborah Lang
Diane Robbins
Steve Root
Bob Zeller

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**

☐ \$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.

02/2022

