

THE AUSBON SARGENT LAND PRESERVATION TRUST

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



CHATTER

SUMMER 2006



Photo: Nancy Lyon

3,400 Acres Protected

Honoring Dick Webb -Tree Farmer & Land Protection Pioneer

By Nancy Lyon

Protecting land for forestry is a family tradition for Dick Webb, his son Van, and his grandson Tyler. Now, with the recent addition of 143 acres in two conservation easements in Sunapee – the Dane and Harrison lots – the Webb family has protected 3,400 acres in Sunapee, Springfield, New London,

Wilmot, and Washington. All these properties, which are managed for forestry purposes, are open to the public for recreation. Many have well established trails for hiking and snowmobiling.

It all began, when after WWII, Dick traveled around northern New

England looking for a farm where he could raise a family and earn his living managing and harvesting trees. His second criterion was that it needed to be close to a ski area so he could continue to enjoy his love for the sport. While looking at property near the

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From Our Executive Director:

Picture of Debbie

In keeping with the ASLPT's mission to preserve and protect the rural character of the Mt. Kearsarge/Lake Sunapee region, our conservation goal in 2006 through 2008 is to protect an average of 8 properties a year, approximately 800 acres. This issue of "Chatter" features the Hersey farm in Andover, the two Webb forest lots in

Sunapee and Cordingley Preserve in New London, but there is a lot more activity going on at the Land Trust.

Several landowners in Springfield have committed to working with the ASLPT. The properties include a 460 acre-forest adjacent to the Gile Forest and 306 acres in the Lake Sunapee watershed. Other projects underway include New London acreage in the Lyon Brook watershed, Newbury land along Cunningham Brook and land in the Danbury Bog watershed.

Land conservation is a partnership and often times will involve not only the landowner and ASLPT, but other conservation organizations and local conservation commissions. For example, at Sutton Town Meeting voters approved granting a conservation easement to the ASLPT on three Town owned parcels including Russell Pond, Lefferts Park and the Enroth gift. Bradford residents supported conveying a conservation easement to the ASLPT on Town

owned Bradford Bog and Bradford Springs. We anticipate closing on the Sutton and Bradford easements by year end.

Last summer, the ASLPT and The Nature Conservancy began working with the Courser family to conserve 1,000 acres in Warner and Webster including productive forest, active farm land and significant wildlife habitat. This complex land conservation project will take several years to pull all the pieces together, and it involves partnering with the local conservation commissions and with grant funding organizations.

It has been just one year since the ASLPT welcomed Beth McGuinn as our fulltime Land Protection Specialist. When we hired Beth, we had a backlog of projects, and although more land is being protected, we continue to have a growing backlog. In order to keep up with a steady pace of inquiries, the ASLPT Strategic Plan goal is to increase from 8 properties per year to an average of 13 properties per year (approximately 1300 acres) in 2009 and 2010. In order to achieve this goal, we must count on the financial support of members and friends so that we will be in a position to hire a second Land Protection Specialist in 2009.

As always, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our generous members, committed trustees, dedicated volunteers, talented staff and partnering organizations. With sincere appreciation, I'd like to give special thanks to all of the landowners who had the vision and conviction to conserve their land as part of a living legacy, now and forever.

Thank you,

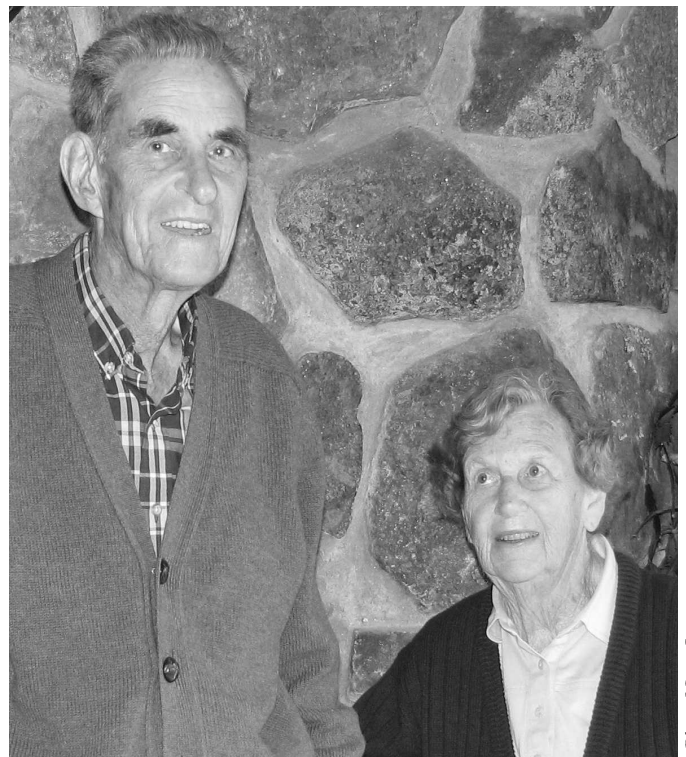
Insert Debbie's signature

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Bromley Ski area in Peru VT, he heard that a new ski area was going to be built in central NH. This led him to what would become his home just a few miles north of the Mt Sunapee ski area. In 1948, Dick Webb purchased his farm located at the corner of Stagecoach Road and Harding Hill Road in Sunapee. Here Dick and his wife Betsy raised their 6 children. Now one of his sons Van, his wife Robin and their 4 children live in the main farm house, and Dick and Betsy live just behind them in a smaller home they built.

Though not formally trained in forestry, Dick Webb has become a pioneer in progressive tree farming methods and the use of conservation easements. Dick realized that for tree farmers to have enough land for sustainable growth and harvesting of trees, they would need relief from property tax rates based on development resale values. In 1967, with the help of other early conservationists like Walter Waters, an attorney with the law firm of Cleveland, Waters and Bass, and Paul Bofinger, President/Forester of the Society for the Protection of NH Forests, Dick crafted a "Deed of Dedication" on 703 acres on Morgan Hill in New London. At the time, this "Deed of Dedication" was the precursor of today's conservation easement and the first of its kind in New Hampshire. This early land protection "easement," which is held by the New London Conservation Commission, predates the 1973 "current use" tax laws.

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Dick Webb and his wife Betsy in front of the stone chimney at their Sunapee home.

Photo: Nancy Lyon



The Webb Family Farm has sheep and cattle in the fields and grows pumpkins and other personal food crops in their organic garden which is Dick Webb's love.

His historic attempt to protect the natural values of the land and to provide tax relief by removing development rights connected many of the forward thinking conservationists in this region. This Morgan Hill project also involved Esther Currier, a professor of botany at Colby Junior College and a member of the New London Conservation Commission. Esther was instrumental in convincing the town of New London to participate in this new method to protect land for forestry and public access. *(You may go to our website www.ausbonsargent.org to learn more about The Esther Currier Wildlife Management Area at Low Plain, which was named in her honor.)*

Thirty-nine years later, Van Webb, in honor of his father's 85th year, has placed conservation easements on the last two Webb family "wood lots." Both properties are located in Sunapee and are identified as the Harrison Lot (69 acres) and the Dane Lot (74 acres). Dick recalls that while working on the Dane Lot, he was taking a break with George Neilson when a friend came running out to ask them if they had heard the news that President Kennedy had been shot. He chuckled remembering when another friend joked that the price he paid for the Dane lot was, at that time, just about the price of a new Cadillac. This led Dick to observe that given the per acre cost of land today "folks interested in forestry can't afford to buy the land to create large enough lots for long term management."

Though the "current use" tax law now offers tax relief for land used for agriculture and forestry, Dick Webb believes that the "forever" protections of a conservation easement are critical because, "forest resources are important to the state of New Hampshire" and we must recognize that "forestry is a long term operation." When asked what will become of forestry in NH if land continues to go into home and business development and it remains unaffordable for tree farming, Dick responded, "Trees are still growing." He speculated that the next generation of foresters will have to create new ways of managing and harvesting our trees.

To afford the large parcels of land needed to be a tree farmer, Dick Webb became a pioneer in the NH land conservation movement. He worked closely with the Society for the Protection of NH Forests, including serving as its Board Chair. When the ASLPT was created in 1987, Dick and his son Van became strong supporters of this new regional land trust. Of the 3,400 acres the Webb family has protected, 549 acres within four separate easements are held by the ASLPT.

Land Protection Specialist Beth McGuinn, herself educated as a forester, said of the Webbs, "I remember over 20 years ago attending a NH Forestry Field Day at Sunapee State Park, when a trip to the Webbs' introduced many in attendance to the up and coming 'feller-bunchers', which severed trees from the stump and carried them to a pile, which was transported to the landing by another machine. These machines and the 'whole tree harvesting' that they enable have been an important development in forest technology. By opening their properties to others, the Webbs have enabled foresters and landowners to improve forestry practices on many additional acres of land."

When asked to reflect on his nearly 60 years of living and working the land in the Mt. Kearsarge/Lake Sunapee region, Dick Webb in his quiet, thoughtful manner said, "When we first moved here in 1948, we'd sit outside on the porch and could hear ovenbirds, yellow warblers, wood thrush and many others. We don't hear them anymore... maybe it's loss of habitat." Drawing on his deep connection to this special place, after a long pause, he quietly concluded, "It should make people think."

The Facts about all of the RH Webb Forest Preserve - The Webb Family Tree Farm

3,429 acres

of protected land

managed for forestry uses providing
wildlife habitat, watershed protection and
open to the public for year round recreation.

Town of Sunapee – 555 acres
Town of Springfield – 244 acres
Town of Wilmot – 900 acres
Town of New London – 1,000 acres
Town of Washington - 730 acres

Webb Lands Celebration:

Join us in celebrating Dick Webb's 85th birthday and the dedication of two parcels of land that complete the Webb family's 3400 acres of protected land in 5 towns – Sunapee, Washington, Wilmot, New London and Springfield. The celebration/dedication will be held at the “Dane Lot” on Cross Road off Rt. 103 in Sunapee.

**Sunday July 30,
10 a.m. – 12 noon**



Photo: Nancy Lyon

Van (right) and his oldest son Tyler (left) continue Dick Webb's farm, forestry and land protection tradition.

“But I Did Really Mean It!”

By Van O. Webb

Dick Webb's son, Van, reflects on his father's legacy of land protection for forestry purposes.

It has been six months of effort to bring the last two conservation easements in line for R.H. Webb Forest Preserve, a family Tree Farm that I manage from Sunapee. These last two properties are in a line of easements that we have completed with ASLPT and others over the last several years. It has been a very interesting learning experience to say the least! On each parcel that we have done, there is always something new and different that we learn about a particular piece of land. And each time we finish dotting all the “i”s and crossing all the “t”s both my father and I feel that the time and energy spent gathering data, doing parcel research and having a tightly written easement binding protections to the property in perpetuity is well worth it.

Now we have come to the last two pieces in the Tree Farm - the Dane Lot and the Harrison Lot, 74 and 69 acres respectively. An interesting fact about the Dane Lot for us has been to watch it grow; at one time Town tax maps listed the acreage as 40, and when we did timber volume surveys that was the acreage we used. When the Town of Sunapee redid the Tax Maps, our lot grew from 40 to 70 acres because we never really had a proper survey of the parcel, something that is required of a conservation easement held by the ASLPT.

Another interesting piece has been the granting of easements in perpetuity. The parcels I inherited and managed

were restricted from subdivision and development, but not in perpetuity. With enough time and money by a determined owner, there would have been a way to make those deed restrictions disappear. These newer easements protect the owner from going down that path with newer language and better documentation and monitoring.

Granting these easements has allowed me to enjoy many conversations with my Dad about his intentions and how he feels about the land that he purchased. We have talked about the ability to remove the restrictions and develop the property at some point in the future, and I once said in an off-hand way it was as if he “didn’t even mean it” when he had those restrictions placed on the property many years ago. We were sitting at his dining room table (a place where many of the best conversations can take place) overlooking a 5 acre, easement protected, organic field where we grow pumpkins. I could see him seriously consider the possibilities. He has always had the ability to cut to the heart of many issues, and he said “But I did really mean it.” I think those six words can sum up his feelings on land conservation.

(Van is a logger and farmer who was born and raised in Sunapee where he lives with his wife Robin and their 4 children. He manages the RH Webb Forest Preserve. Active in the Sunapee Conservation Commission since 1981, he's been chair for the last 12 years. He is also a member of the ASLPT Lands Committee, and the SPNHF Lands Committee.)

“Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.”

Theodore Roosevelt, 26th President of the United States (1858-1919)

Talking with Tyler Webb – Third Generation “Forester/Farmer/Land Conservationist”

By Nancy Lyon

Tyler Webb is one of Dick Webb’s grandchildren and the oldest of Van Webb’s four children. He has two more years at Paul Smith’s College in upstate New York to finish his Bachelor’s degree in Forest Operations. And in the forward-looking forestry tradition of his family, he is also planning to get a minor (Associate Degree) in Urban Tree Management, which he describes as the wave of the future because nearly every home owner has a tree in their backyard and every town has streets lined with trees that need care. Urban tree management is not the same as landscaping – rather it focuses on the health and management of the individual trees that we live with closely on a daily basis. In this case instead of managing entire forests for harvesting, the urban tree manager is enhancing and preserving individual trees for the quality of life values they provide to each of us. Tyler also laughingly admitted that he also just “loves to climb them,” which is part of the job when cutting is needed to keep them healthy.

Tyler wants to do it all! He wants to do some forestry on a large scale, he wants to do some urban tree management and he wants to continue expanding their maple syrup business, which he calls “his passion.” He describes the sugaring he is currently doing on their property as a small business project, which he would love to expand into a year-round business. He estimates that would mean being able to harvest another 200 gallons a year. Give him another 3-5 years and, as he says, then “we’ll see!”

When he graduates, Tyler plans eventually to return to the Webb Family Farm in Sunapee, but as long as his Dad is still earning his income from the farm, their challenge will be to develop enough revenue from the different aspects of the farm to support two salaries for Tyler and his Dad.

Asked how he feels about the legacy of forest and farm started by his grandfather and continued by his Dad, Tyler said, “It’s really neat! It’s very unique and very special. I am very happy to be part of it. It has decided where I want to go.” He went on to say it is because of this legacy that, “I decided to go to forestry school and I decided to be in the outdoors all the time.”



Photo: Nancy Lyon

The Harrison lot has a mixture of soft and hardwoods, logging trails and views of Mt. Sunapee’s ski slopes in the distance.

Facts about the Dane & Harrison Lots

Easements granted to the ASLPT
by the RH Webb Preserve

Dane Lot - 74 acres

Cross and Brook Roads, Sunapee

Harrison Lot - 69 acres

Young’s Hill Road, Sunapee

Important conservation values:

- Active working forestland with exemplary forest management since the 1960s
- Open to the public for non-commercial recreation (hunting, walking, skiing, snowshoeing, etc.)
- Excellent wildlife habitat
- Scenic views of Mt. Sunapee
- Helps retain the rural landscape of the Town of Sunapee

Partners in this project:

The Sunapee Conservation Commission is the executory interest holder and funder.

Consider leaving a “living legacy” - please remember the ASLPT in your will.



Jerry Hersey and his brother Jim are seen here haying the fields of their farm located on both sides of Rt. 11 in East Andover.

For the better part of the past century, Jerry Hersey, his parents, or his grandparents have been farming the side of a small green valley at the foot of Chase Hill in Andover. Even today, trucks rumbling along Route 11 barely interrupt lush green pastures that spread down the hill toward the woods shading Sucker Brook.

There's a timeless look to the Hersey Family Farm, one of only two working farms left in Andover today. But Jerry knows too well that development pressure can make a mockery of a timeless landscape. Neither he nor his parents want to see the land developed, so Jerry is working with ASLPT to protect 267 acres of farmland and forest with a conservation easement. It's a large and complex project for a small town like Andover, but the Farm is such an icon that the community is rallying in a big way to make it happen.

One of the many things that makes the Hersey Family Farm so special is its location, straddling Route 11 shortly after this busy state highway crosses the town line from Franklin. Andover couldn't ask for a more succinct and appealing introduction to the town and its values than the Farm's rugged, well-tended pastures and its timeless New England farm buildings.

Donna Duclos' family used to haul home from the Farm 700 bales of hay every 4th of July. Those special memories are renewed every time she drives by. "The Hersey Family Farm is an icon in Andover," says Duclos. "Its lush hay fields make me smile and realize how lucky we are to have such a wonderful working farm in Andover. And I want to be

able to show my granddaughters where Mommy and Daddy used to get hay for the horses."

But the Farm is much more than a pretty picture and a warm memory. It's also a great place for wildlife, a productive landscape for many area hunters. "Farms like Jerry's offer a good variety of habitat for all wildlife species," says Heidi Murphy, New Hampshire Fish & Game's Conservation Officer for Andover. "They provide game animals with advantages such as forest edges for cover and agricultural fields as a food source."

Another very special aspect of the property to be protected is that the Northern Rail Trail borders it. "One of the most picturesque stretches of the Rail Trail between Boscawen and Andover runs right through Jerry's property," says Alex Bernhard, vice president of the Friends of the Northern Rail Trail – Merrimack County. "Unlike his farmland, Jerry's land on the rail trail is wooded and crisscrossed by Sucker Brook. It's beautiful and is a great way of getting from Dyer's Crossing Road to East Andover village."

On top of all these benefits to the community, protecting the Hersey Family Farm promises some serious, long-term economic rewards for Andover taxpayers. Perhaps Dennis Fenton, Chairman of the Andover Board of Selectmen, understands the long-term benefits best. "Protecting the Hersey farm from development preserves some of the bedrock that the character of Andover was

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established on," Fenton says. "It also helps slow down the upward pressure on the town's total tax rate, because residential property costs the town much more than it generates in taxes. Protecting the Farm should be a high priority for those of us who call Andover home and also for people who just pass through and enjoy the farm scenery."

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



Sucker Brook is a town designated prime wetland seen here from the Rail Trail where you look north into forestland that may become part of the Hersey easement.

The ASLPT Joins The Andover Conservation Commission To Protect The Hersey Family Farm

NH is losing working farms at an alarming rate. This means our rural character changes with each farm lost. Certainly our scenic landscape changes when prominent farms are abandoned or developed. By working together we can find creative ways to help farm families protect the land they love.

The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust is working closely with the Andover Conservation Commission to raise the funds needed to purchase the development rights to the farm and forestlands of the Hersey Family Farm on both sides of Route 11 in East Andover. The value of the easement is \$492,000. The landowner will donate \$232,000 of the value. This leaves the ASLPT's Land Protection Specialist Beth McGuinn busy coordinating the fundraising effort to secure the remainder. The plan includes a grant from the FRPP (Farm & Ranchland Protection Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture) for \$173,000 with the difference being met by private and town monies. Because grant monies need to be secured and voters at Andover's 2007 town meeting will need to be heard, if all goes as planned the project should close in June of 2007.

Here are the facts of why this project offers such significant public benefit to more than just the residents of Andover:

- Active working farm with a 6 decade tradition in the Hersey Family
- 90% of the land is rated as prime agricultural soils
- Scenic views of rolling farm fields on both sides of the gateway access road of Route 11
- Frontage on Sucker Brook
- Town designated prime wetland
- Frontage on the newly designated Rail Trail (which provides a rural backdrop for year round outdoor recreation)
- Recently determined as eligible for the State and National Registers of Historic Places
- Active working forests

Outreach Committee



Photo: Nancy Lyon

Outreach Committee: (front left-right) Frank Perrotta –Newbury, Rebecca Courser-Warner, Linda Ray Wilson-Danbury, Debbie Stanley –ASLPT Executive Director, Leslie Enroth-Sutton. (Back left-right) Laura Alexander-New London, Ann Davis-Wilmot, Beth McGuinn-ASLPT Land Protection Specialist, Mary Anne Broshek-Andover., Gerry Gold-SRK Greenway, Trailmaster. [Not shown: Tim Fleury-Sunapee, Cynthia Hayes-Springfield, Chuck Hersey-UNH Cooperative Extension, Marcia KellerBradford, Bea Jillette-Goshen and Nancy Lyon-ASLPT PR volunteer]

By Rebecca Courser, Outreach Committee Chair

The newly formed ASLPT Outreach Committee met in May to discuss the goals and strategies assigned to them in the ASLPT's Strategic Plan for 2006-2010.

Committee members representing the 12 towns in the ASLPT's coverage area discussed conservation concerns challenging their communities and how, with the ASLPT's support, we might all work together more effectively.

The Committee will now focus on two aspects of the Strategic Plan: community outreach, and planning a regional "Land Summit" to focus on land protection issues, growth/development challenges, and concerns about land protection priorities. The "Land Summit" is planned for 2007 in celebration of ASLPT's 20th anniversary.

The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust

Membership & Gifts from July 1, 2005 through June 1, 2006

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Bill and Sue Conaty
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cottrill



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Postcard photo courtesy of Ron Garceau

Sitting above Lake Sunapee, Soo Nipi Lodge attracted many visitors who returned year after year. Robert Stevens gift of Cordingley Preserve (see page 13) is his way of honoring his many summers on the lake with his family.

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 The Country Press and Kearsarge Shopper for all they do!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ROBERT STEVENS FOR MAKING CORDINGLEY PRESERVE POSSIBLE!

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All donations to our Evergreen Point project were listed in the Winter 2006 edition of the Chatter. We had 153 donors for a total of \$113,545.86

DISCLAIMER

Membership listings are as of June 1, 2006. The list reflects all tax deductible donations by individuals for our fiscal year which runs July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006 except those who were previously acknowledged in the Winter 2006 Chatter. In case of errors or omissions, please accept our apologies and call Sue Andrews (Operations Manager) at 526-6555 so we can make the correction.

Together – *the mantra for a special couple...*

By Janet Miller Haines

1998 - He came from Skidmore College in upstate New York to the University of Florida in Gainesville to train with a bike-racing coach. Just so happens – this coach was hers too. The introductions were made, and the rest is history – the kind you and I smile at and benefit from.

OK, let's back up. I'm at Jack's of New London. Jack and Jody Diemar have once again pledged the proceeds from the Grower's Dinner (on September 9th) to go to the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust. So do we just say – thanks! – and let it go at that? Or do we dig a little deeper and look into a partnership that is young and vibrant and participating in its community at a level that is admirable – whatever the age.

From fellow bikers to owners of a successful restaurant and catering business ~ the journey seems only natural to hear them tell of it. Seven years ago while on vacation in New London, where Jack's parents have had a summer home on Little Lake Sunapee for 30 years, they were looking around for a place to relax and have a cup of coffee and read the paper. Nothing even came close. With Jack's degree in Business and Jody's in Journalism and Marketing, they dusted off the business plan Jack had developed as part of his senior class in entrepreneurship and opened Jack's Coffee of New London in May 1999.

They've learned a lot in 7 years. From the day they opened, they've been listening to their customers and responding. Jody comments, "We didn't have cream or mayonnaise on our first day. We didn't use them, and it didn't cross our minds that folks would want them." Today, coffee is the number two revenue-producer as the food and catering business has really taken off. And this summer, again in response to their customers, in addition to the regular hours, Jack's of New London will be open for dinner Tuesday through Sunday.

Two years ago, when the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture began the Farm to Restaurant initiative, it seemed only right for them to embrace the program. "Local farmers sold their produce to us and we gave our customers fresh fruits and vegetables; that seemed like a win all around," adds Jack. And then they learned that Spring Ledge Farm had been placed under a conservation easement arranged by the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust. A natural extension of that partnership has been the



The Diemar family (from left to right: Jack Jr., Jody, Haley, Jack and Courtney) together on one of the sofas in the cozy fireplace sitting area at Jack's of New London.

Photo: Nancy Lyon

donation to ASLPT. "An idea was born, and we are the grateful beneficiaries," adds Debbie Stanley, Executive Director of the ASLPT.

Jack still recalls a Ben and Jerry's sign that his father had framed in his office. "Business has a responsibility to give back to the community." So when it came to changing their name recently, they only dropped 'coffee' and not New London. Jody serves on the Board of New London Hospital and Jack is on the town of New London Budget Committee, New London Barn Playhouse Board, the Mount Sunapee Advisory Board, and recently was President of the Chamber of Commerce. "When we go to some of these meetings, we're clearly the youngest ones there, by many years," observes Jody. "But there's so much talent around; it's very energizing."

And how are they going about instilling their values in their children? For now, the notion of balancing growth and protecting land means that Haley, 4, and Courtney, 2, go on weekly walks with their parents along the Lyon Brook easement. And young Jack, now just fourteen weeks, will toddle along soon, for sure. The notion of giving back – together – will follow, you can bet.

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

Cordingley Preserve

By John Warren

About 100 years ago William R. Cordingley and his family began a love affair with the area of Soo Nipi Park Lodge, so much so that in 1913 they bought the nearby Currier Farm renaming it the “Meadowlands.” Part of the land so cherished by the family was the Putnam Parcel, a 13 acre tract located on the south side of Soo Nipi Park Road off Route 103A in New London and sloping down to King Hill Brook on the eastern shores of Lake Sunapee.

Now in honor of his grandfather and to protect this critical watershed, King Hill Brook being the second largest tributary to Lake Sunapee, Robert Stevens and his family have made a gift of this land to the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust to protect it from development, assure continuance of this natural area, and invite the public to experience the beauty and history that brought, in Robert Stevens own words, “so much summer joy and pleasure to subsequent generations of the Cordingley family.”

The ASLPT will lay out and construct a nature path to King Hill Brook named the “Molly Charles Trail” in honor of Mr. Stevens’ mother. She “loved Sunapee and brought her children to a house on the Soo Nipi shore about 1930, where she often walked the trails and roads in the Park with her children, who after her death arranged to keep cottages on the lake.” Eleven grandchildren and ten great grandchildren now habitually enjoy the shore each summer.

The property may at one time have been pastureland, but the forest has reached “climax” stage where trees tolerant of shade predominate, consequently there is an abundance of large hemlocks, red maples, and white pines. There is also a wildlife corridor along the brook, which will remain undisturbed and as the older trees decay will provide nesting and feeding habitat for a variety of insects, birds, and mammals.

The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust is both pleased and proud to join with the Robert Stevens family in this “watershed” gift to purchase part of his family’s history at Soo Nipi Park.

(John Warren is a monitor for the ASLPT, a regular contributor to Soo Nipi Magazine, and lives and dies with the athletic fortunes of his beloved Boston College Eagles.)

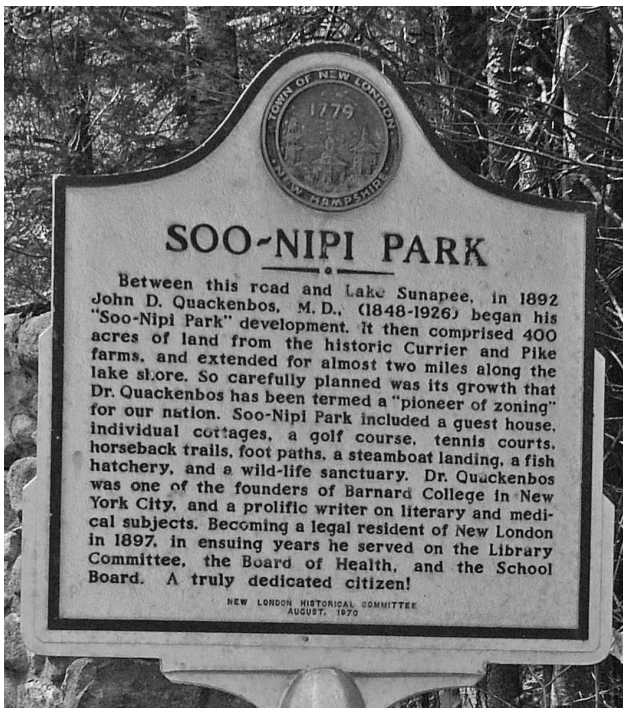


Photo: Ron Garveau

The Facts about Cordingley Preserve

13 acres, New London

Water Resources:

- Includes a portion of King Hill Brook, the second largest tributary to Lake Sunapee.

Public Use:

- The ASLPT will lay out and construct a public trail to the Brook.

Forestry/Agriculture:

- Some pastureland 40-50 years ago.
- A special place to view very large hemlocks, red maples and white pines.

Wildlife:

- Protects a wildlife corridor along King Hill Brook.
- As large trees begin to decay, they will provide important feeding and nesting opportunities for insects, birds, and mammals.

Historical Significance:

- There is an old stone-lined well – approximately 8’ in diameter and a pump house associated with it. The donor believes that it may have been associated with the Soo Nipi Hotel.

Want to be the first to know?

Share your email address with us and you’ll be the first to hear about land protection projects, educational and recreational programs, and hikes and celebratory events. We won’t fill your email box - we’ll just let you know when we have good news to share!

Just email Sue Andrews (ASLPT Operations Manager) and let her know you want to be added to our email list.
aslptsea@tds.net

The Annual Preservation Fund

By Maggie Ford

Ausbon Sargent set the gold standard with his gift. A man of modest means, at age 94 he took his life savings - \$150,000 - and bought the three-acre town green on New London's Main Street. He immediately gave the land to the town on the condition that the parcel remain forever undeveloped. The year was 1985.

In the years since its founding, the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust has made modest and steady progress and now our plate is overflowing.

Today, nearly 4,000 acres in the Mt. Kearsarge/Lake Sunapee region are under conservation. At any given time, we are working on about 8 projects. We have a backlog of 25 properties awaiting conservation, as people seek to conserve larger and more complex parcels every year while our region grows dramatically. Our Strategic Plan calls for the ASLPT to increase the number and size of properties conserved to 13 properties of 100 acres each every year.

We are preserving the special places, a way of life, the reasons that brought many of us to or back to New Hampshire. We're doing what Ausbon Sargent did in New London – the preservation of the natural resources that make the Mt. Kearsarge/Lake Sunapee region important to all of us.

Next spring, you will be receiving our first request to support the Annual Preservation Fund. That appeal in the spring and the annual membership renewal in the fall will be the only times we ask for funds each year. While annual memberships are the base of support for the ASLPT, they are not sufficient to meet the growing demands for land conservation in our region. Without your gifts to the Annual Preservation Fund, our conservation goals will not be met.

Key parcels of unprotected land include highly visible properties along the ridges, valuable wetlands, watersheds, productive fields, and woodland corridors. Of all the factors needed to ensure that the ASLPT is able to continue its good work, an active, vibrant and strongly committed community is the most critical ingredient. We hope that when you receive our appeals, you will be in a position to give generously and will respond positively to our requests. Thank you.

(Maggie Ford's firm—Ford Consulting, LLC—offers counsel on organizational and resource development. She is a member of the ASLPT Board of Trustees and chair of the Development Committee.)

Who Was Ausbon Sargent?

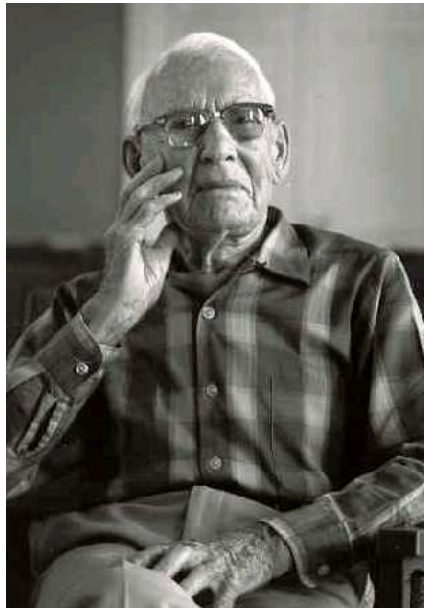
Ausbon W. Sargent, a retired maintenance worker from Colby-Sawyer College, saved the town green for New London at a time of soaring land prices and a building boom. Fearing the town green, the center of community life of his boyhood, would go the way of the mini-mall, Sargent guaranteed its preservation with his gift.

Wishing to remain anonymous, Sargent only took credit for this "living legacy" to the people of New London at the urging of his friend Mary Haddad.

"I don't care one cent about any fanfare," Sargent told a reporter at the time. "The main thing is to keep it the way it was."

The green has been renamed the "Sargent Common" and the only structure permitted is the Mary D. Haddad Memorial Bandstand.

Sargent, born June 11, 1891, not only honored his hometown by deeding the green to New London, he also memorialized his family, who settled in the area in 1781. His great, great uncle, Ezekiel, originally cleared the land and built his home, "The Elms," which is now the New London Inn. A fieldstone from Sargent's grandfather Ransom's farm on



Ausbon Sargent seen here in his late 80s.

Seamans Road has been moved to the westerly corner of the Main Street tract near the Old Academy building.

It was from the "old" Colby Academy that Sargent graduated in 1911, giving a commencement address in which he said if people "are true to the homeland it becomes a palace and a temple."

Sargent went on in 1931 to work for the then-Colby Junior College, retiring in 1956. He remained active in the community, his garden and his lifelong love of outdoor recreation. In fact, Sargent climbed Mount Kearsarge on his 90th birthday!

Sargent lived to see his life and his values honored in 1987 by a fledgling non-profit group that took him as its namesake: The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust.

Since its founding, the ASLPT has worked for the same goals exemplified by Sargent's love of place and commitment to preserving the rural character of the Kearsarge-Sunapee region.

Sargent died at his Main Street home on Aug. 27, 1988. He was 97.

With gratitude and pride, we thank Ausbon Sargent for his example and inspiration. In dedication and service, we endeavor to continue his work.

Please check out our website – www.ausbonsargent.org

Volunteer, visit our offices, or walk the trails on our conserved properties. We want to protect the special places in the Mt. Kearsarge/Lake Sunapee region. We need your support and involvement.



Colby-Sawyer's Katie Srednicki

was honored for her senior year capstone project—a DVD she wrote, directed and filmed featuring 5 ASLPT easement donors. Her DVD is so professional the ASLPT will be using it as part of its potential easement donor information packet.

Professor Don Coonley, Katie's advisor comments, "Since she initiated the project in November 2005, Katie became a first-rate producer: she was well organized, able to anticipate problems and formulate ways to solve them, and respectful of the schedules of other people. Working with Katie was a genuine pleasure."

This is what Katie wrote in her final assessment of the project: "... the best part of the project is that I'm doing it for a really great organization, and I hope I'll be making a difference because what the ASLPT stands for is so important and so necessary. One of the reasons that I've felt so passionate about this project is that this is not just another grade, but real life and real people are counting on me."

If you would like to borrow a copy of Katie's DVD call the ASLPT office or email Laurie DiClerico to make arrangements.

526-6555
aspltd@tds.net

Calendar:

July:

Progressive Dinners: Our delightful progressive dinners for members only will be held on two days this July. Put these dates on your calendar and send your reservations in as soon as you receive the invitations as they are sell-out favorites!

Thursday July 13, 5:30 p.m. Thursday July 27, 5:30 p.m.

Webb Lands Celebration: Join us in celebrating Dick Webb's 85th birthday and the dedication of two parcels of land that complete the Webb family's 3400 acres of protected land in 5 towns – Sunapee, Washington, Wilmot, New London and Springfield. The celebration/dedication will be held at the "Dane Lot" on Cross Road off Route 103 in Sunapee.

Sunday July 30, 10 a.m. – 12 noon

August:

Cordingley Preserve Dedication: Join us in dedicating this property once part of the Soo Nipi Park area. The protection of this 13-acre parcel abutting King Hill Brook adds to the protection to the Lake Sunapee watershed. Take Soo Nipi Road off Route 103A and park along the road edge at the signs.

Sunday August 6, 11 a.m.

September:

Growers' Dinner: Jack's of New London once again enthusiastically sponsors the third annual New Hampshire Grower's Dinner. The meal, entirely of locally grown food, is Jack's creative response to *The New Hampshire Farm to Restaurant Connection* (NHFRC) whose mission is to promote the benefits of:

- Cooking with an indigenous food supply with its unparalleled taste experience
- Strengthening our local agricultural communities
- Educating consumers and diners about locally grown food
- Consuming more nutritious & healthy foods
- Blending the distinctive resonance of place and landscape

\$125 per person - **all proceeds are donated by Jack's to the ASLPT for land protection.**

Saturday September 9, 6 p.m.

at Hilary Cleveland's barn, Main Street, New London

October:

Using GIS/GPS for Environmental Conservation: *The Fells, Newbury, NH* Come hear Dr. Laura Alexander, Professor of Community & Environmental Studies at Colby-Sawyer College, discuss how GPS and digital mapping technologies can be used to assist local environmental organizations to identify conservation priorities and to map important natural features. The Fells, Lake Sunapee and Pleasant Lake Protective Associations, Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust Members: \$8, Nonmembers \$10. Limit 20; advanced registration and payment required. To register, call 603/763-4789, ext. 3 or email to Fells@tds.net or www.thefells.org

Tuesday, October 10, 7 p.m.

ASLPT Annual Meeting: Join us at the New London Historical Society for our annual meeting, including Committee and Financial reports, Executive Director's slide show update of properties and ending with delicious snacks.

Sunday October 29, 4-6 p.m.