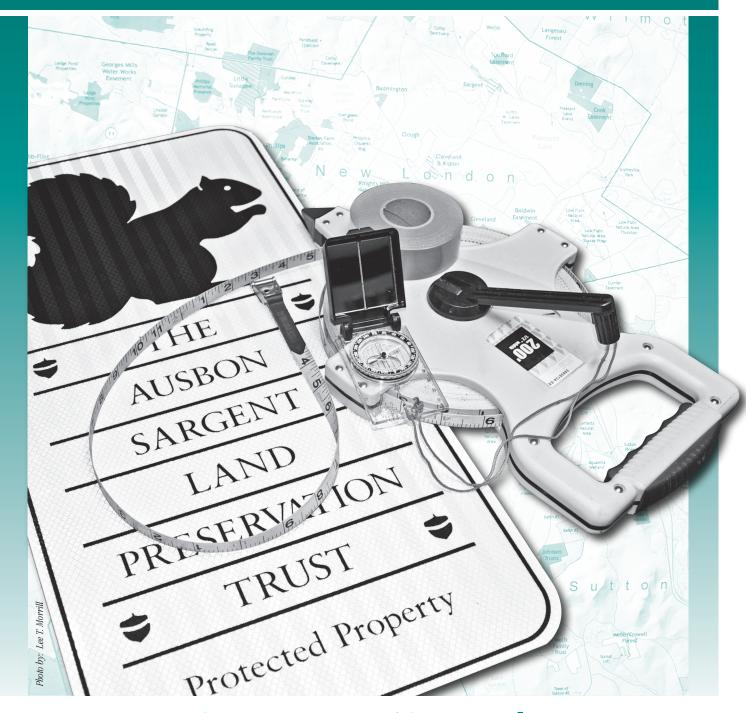
THE AUSBON SARGENT LAND PRESERVATION TRUST

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



Summer 2015



Conserve and **Steward**

From the **Executive Director:**

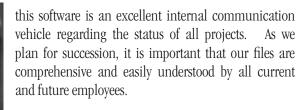
Photo by Douglas K Hill

Successful non-profit organizations are the ones that have a clear vision and mission statement. Ausbon Sargent's mission is clear—to preserve the rural landscape of the Mt. Kearsarge/Lake Sunapee Region. Our members share and enjoy

the benefits of our 135 protected properties totaling 11,010 acres. We strive to be a healthy, well-run organization which is effective, efficient and achieves our conservation goals. Ingrained in the staff and board culture is the thought that we will not be lulled into complacency. A lot of hard work has been going on behind the scenes which I'd like to tell you about.

In February, we were awarded renewed accreditation. Renewal of accreditation was rigorous and 362 staff hours went into the application process. Additionally, the board and staff conducted a detailed assessment by following the guidelines of the Land Trust Alliance's resource tool "Assessing Your Organization." We realized that during the 5-year period since we were first accredited, there had been a number of changes at Ausbon Sargent. Our findings resulted in modifications to policies and procedures ensuring that we continue on the path of excellence, trust and permanence.

Technological and software advancements continue to play an increasing role in the productivity of our conservation work. Support from the Norcross Wildlife Foundation made it possible for us to purchase customized *Landinfo* software this spring. The software tracks land protection projects from initiation to our ongoing stewardship obligations. It is a time saver and has made us more efficient. We are able to track all aspects of a project including baseline documentation, fundraising and stewardship. Our staff has found that



We are also very pleased that an anonymous foundation will provide funding for an integrated digital marketing program which includes email marketing, social media and an update of our website. It has been a fascinating process for those of us on staff to be involved

in the redesign of our new website which will be launched in late summer. Our objective is to have a website that conveys vibrancy and energy in an easily-navigated and easy-to-manage system. The design will be mobile-friendly and is intended to be compatible across all platforms and devices.

The Ausbon Sargent Board has been focusing on Strategic Planning at trustee and committee meetings. Last year's Market Study confirmed that our vision and mission statements are on target and supported by our membership. The Board is in agreement about increased emphasis on the goals of communications, community building and succession planning, as well as, the goals of conservation, stewardship and fund development. At each board meeting, we focus on one of the strategic planning goals and an all-day board retreat will be held this fall. Woven into our discussions is the topic of how to connect and engage the next generation as stewards of the land.

As you can see, we are committed to upholding donor trust and doing our best. Your support means a lot and inspires us to not just hit a goal . . . but to ascend even further!



GREAT NEWS!

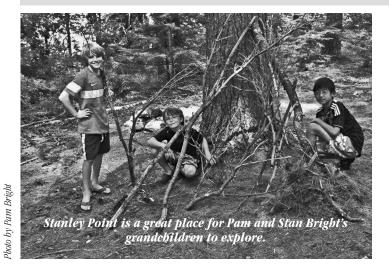


Ausbon Sargent has achieved renewed land trust accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission! We are one of only 301 land trusts of the more than 1,700 from across the country that is now accredited. Accredited land trusts are authorized to display a seal which attests to the organization's ability to successfully run an ethical and sustainable non-profit land trust and that we meet national standards for excellence. Currently, over 75 percent of the conserved land in American is held by an accredited land trust.

Preparing and applying for accreditation takes a significant commitment of time from the board and the staff. Throughout the application process a land trust conducts important planning to make our operations more efficient and strategic to help ensure that our conservation work is permanent. It is a rigorous process and we are proud of this achievement! It is an assurance to our members and the public that we meet exceedingly high standards of quality.

"Through land conservation, we give people the opportunity to taste something of what it is like to be authentically human: children rolling in the grass of an urban park; a grandfather teaching his granddaughter the quiet art of fishing; a fifth-generation farmer growing vegetables on his family's homestead—nourishing his community with both fresh food and a farm stand where neighbors gather. We set out to save land, but, in the end, we build community, preserve beauty and instill hope."

-The Land Trust Alliance



Why Land Trusts?

by Peggy Hutter

We are creatures of habit. My morning routine always includes brushing my teeth in front of my large bathroom window while perusing the fields and woods of my backyard. It gives me great pleasure to begin my day assessing the weather, the new growth, the projects my husband has going on and slowly scanning the area for any possible wildlife movement.

I do this because I can. Growing up in the suburbs of Wilmington, Delaware, every house in my neighborhood was built from a similar blueprint and the view from our windows overlooked only the neighbor's windows and yards. Certainly, Delaware has conservation lands and we were very close to Chadd's Ford, PA and the rolling hills where Andrew and Jamie Wyeth painted some of my favorite scenes. But I lived in "suburbia" and I was a car ride, never a walk, from these very special, protected properties.

I was an adult before I visited New Hampshire. What several trips to the state established was that I preferred this setting and the lifestyle New Hampshire afforded. I spent most of my life not understanding what a land trust was, but I truly appreciated all of the benefits that a land trust provided me. I am in my fifth year working at The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust and it has been a daily learning experience. As with most things in life, a greater knowledge of the subject provides a better perspective, and my knowledge has instilled in me a greater appreciation for the value of a land trust.

New Englanders have always had a true appreciation for the beauty of the landscape. In the mid-1800s, many "village improvement societies" were formed throughout New England intended to improve the quality of life and the environment. These small, non-profit organizations were the forerunners of today's land trust movement.

Currently, there are over 1,700 land trusts in the United States. In 1950, there were fifty-three land trusts in only twenty-six states. Today, land trusts operate in all fifty states, the US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. In recent years, the Northeast has shown some of the greatest growth in the number of new land trusts. A common mission in all of these non-profit organizations is to work with the landowners and the communities to protect scenic vistas, streams, old forest stands, wetlands, deserts, city parks, greenways, farmland and more. The protection of these entities is important, but the monitoring and stewardship that must follow to ensure that the properties will retain their natural qualities forever is an essential component.

The rural character of our area, the beauty that we love and that attracts others to visit, is important enough for us to preserve for our next generations—a great answer for "Why Land Trusts"? We understand that there must be a balance between growth and land preservation, but as the message from the Land Trust Alliance states in the opening quote, although land preservation is the mission, "in the end, we build community, preserve beauty and instill hope."

Peggy Hutter is the Communications Coordinator for Ausbon Sargent. After teaching school for 36 years, Peggy transitioned to Ausbon Sargent in 2011 and has learned everything she knows about land trusts using "on-the-job training" from the very talented specialists on the Ausbon Sargent staff.

Spring Ledge Farm is New London's local "meet and greet" farm stand.





Criteria for Selecting a Land Project

by Andy Deegan

When we approach landowners about conserving their land, we're sometimes told that they did not believe that their land was worthy of conservation. Often, people think that their property isn't large enough for conservation, or that it isn't as special as some of the land that has been conserved in the past. The truth is that we look at many different criteria to determine if a property is worthy of conservation. Each property is unique, and many are good candidates for conservation.

When we are contacted by landowners who are interested in obtaining more information on conserving their land, we start by talking to them about what their goals are for protecting their property. Goals can vary from protecting a piece of land that has a special significance to the landowners to obtaining a tax deduction. The landowners' goals can help us determine whether and how to go forward with the project. In some cases, if a landowner insists on retaining rights that are inconsistent with conservation, we may decide not to go forward with a project.

After our initial conversations with a landowner, the next step is to arrange a visit to take a look at the property. Between the initial conversation and site visit, the Ausbon Sargent staff will review resource maps from the Gran-ite Data Mapper to determine the various resources that would be protected if the land was conserved. Some of these resources may include valuable soils, water resources, critical wildlife habitat, uncommon plants, animals, or natural communities, and the property's location in relation to other conserved land. In order for Ausbon Sargent to approve a land conservation project, we must be able to demonstrate a "public benefit" for conservation. Protection of valuable resources is one type of public benefit.

Another place that we turn to for information on a property is the town in which the property is located. We will review the town's master plan to determine if the property or the resources contained on it are referenced in the plan, and we often speak with town administrators and/or conservation commissioners. This will help us determine if the town would also be interested in seeing the land protected. A town's interest in a particular property is important to our decision-making process.

Conducting a site visit to the property allows Ausbon Sargent staff to see the condition and resources of the land first hand. Does the land have trails that are open to the public? Does it have scenic views or protect significant road frontage or frontage on a water body? During the site visit we also look at the past management history of the property, as well as whether there are any structures or sources of contamination on the land (old dumps, spill sites, etc.). If a property is found to be contaminated it can result in the project being rejected, though this is rare. In the end, it all comes down to whether there is a significant public benefit to conserving the land. Public access is clearly a public benefit, but it is not the only benefit we consider when we are protecting land. Protection of water quality, significant wetlands, wildlife habitat, or prime agricultural soils can also benefit the public. Similarly, adding to an existing block of conservation



An Ausbon Sargent Lands Committee meeting

land can be a public benefit, as can preserving particularly scenic views. There are a lot of different ways that conserving land can provide a public benefit, but each project must meet this benchmark in some way.

Following the site visit, all of the data about the land, the goals of the landowner and the interest from the town are compiled into a report that is presented to our Lands Committee. The Lands Committee is a group of 16 volunteers from many different backgrounds who review each potential conservation project on its merits to determine whether it is a good candidate for protection by Ausbon Sargent. The committee may raise potential issues or point out other benefits of conservation, and occasionally, members of the Lands Committee will need to conduct a site visit to a property themselves. If the Lands Committee determines that the property is important for conservation, they will present the project to Ausbon Sargent's Board of Trustees and recommend that they approve the project. If the full board votes to approve the project, then the process of conserving the property can officially begin!

The process for protecting a piece of land is slightly different for each property Ausbon Sargent works to protect, since each property and every landowner is unique. The basic steps, however, remain constant, and we're happy to talk about the process with landowners at any time. If you are interested in talking to us about your land, please give us a call.



Dan and Bev Wolf on their Route 103A protected property.



The Aiken Town Forest is one of a number of properties that Seth Benowitz has helped to monitor. Pictured (L-R) are George Beaton, Kim Lowe, Patty Furness and Ed MacLeod.

Why I am an Easement Monitor "Think globally; act locally."

by Seth Benowitz

I have been a volunteer easement monitor for Ausbon Sargent for about 7 years. Easement monitoring has given me the opportunity to get to know many beautiful and unique parcels of land that I would otherwise never have seen. It has been a real opportunity to intimately connect with fields, forests, wetland, ledges—all manner of special places that you will never see from a road. When you are an easement monitor for a property, you really get to know it—walking the perimeter year after year, appreciating all it has to show.

Being an easement monitor has also brought me into contact with the Ausbon Sargent community—other volunteers, staff, board members, landowners—all of which have made living in this area a much richer experience for me.

We are fortunate to live in an area that has not been completely overrun by the relentless march of the human-made landscape. And we are fortunate to have a local organization that has been successfully preserving our natural environment for over 25 years. I want to do what I can to help in that effort.

As Ausbon Sargent continues to be more and more successful at protecting properties, the need for easement monitors keeps growing! I hope some of you who have not considered it yet, will consider becoming an easement monitor, too.



Seth Benowitz, valued Ausbon Sargent monitor.

What is Easement Monitoring and Stewardship?

by Andy Deegan

When Ausbon Sargent closes a conservation project, it is the culmination of months and sometimes years of hard work. However, the "closing" is just the very beginning of the next phase of our relationship with a conservation property. As the easement documents are signed, Ausbon Sargent's responsibility shifts from a focus on protection to one of perpetual monitoring and stewardship. But what is monitoring and stewardship?

Monitoring involves an annual visit to each one of the properties that Ausbon Sargent has under easement, to observe any changes that may have occurred on the property. To accomplish this work, Ausbon Sargent relies on monitoring volunteers. Prior to an annual monitoring visit, volunteers contact the landowners and ask them a series of questions about the landowners' current and future management of the property. After the questions are answered, the monitor walks the boundaries of the property, as well as any trails that may be on the land. The monitor is looking for any changes from the prior year—either natural changes like storm damage, or man-made ones due to property management. The monitor will then return a report to Ausbon Sargent describing the condition of the property and detailing any changes. This report is reviewed by the staff at Ausbon Sargent and we will follow up with the landowner if there are any questions or issues needing to be resolved.

If there is an issue detected on an easement property, or an easement landowner is planning some active management on a property, this is where stewardship comes in. Ausbon Sargent has the perpetual responsibility to ensure that all activities and/or management on a property are consistent with the terms of the conservation easement. When management is planned, such as a timber harvest, agriculture, or the erection of a structure, this often requires a site visit by staff, as well as a review of the conservation easement deed and the property's management plan. Ausbon Sargent staff work closely with landowners to plan acceptable management practices, remedy issues when they arise, and to ensure the terms of every conservation easement are being upheld. Stewardship can be quite time consuming, but it is essential to ensure the land is protected in perpetuity. So the next time you learn that Ausbon Sargent has wrapped up protection of a new conservation property, you'll know that this is really just the beginning for us! If you are interested in assisting by becoming a volunteer easement monitor, contact Andy Deegan at adeegan@ausbonsargent.org, Sue Andrews at sandrews@ausbonsargent.org or call 603-526-6555.

After graduating from the Vermont Law School in 2004, Andy Deegan practiced law in Essex, Vermont. In 2008, he joined the Ausbon Sargent staff as a Land Protection Specialist and Stewardship Manager. He and his wife, Carrie, and their two children enjoy the outdoors, especially bird watching. Andy also serves on the New London Conservation Commission.

The Value of Wendell Marsh

by Kiki Schneider

Preserving Wendell Marsh from development has been a cooperative effort by Ausbon Sargent and the Town of Sunapee. It protects an important aquifer, provides a large area for recreation, and maintains significant wildlife habitat. As Sunapee residents, my husband, Dan, and I certainly feel that this project deserves our full support.

I always thought that the marsh was owned by New Hampshire Fish and Game—if I thought about it at all. After all, there is a big sign that says so! We were very surprised to find that Fish and Game only has water rights to the marsh itself, and controls the dam. The lovely hills beyond the marsh were privately owned, for sale, and in danger of development.

When I was a child, my family used to drive from Connecticut to Sunapee most weekends. It was a long drive, and by the end we kids were getting itchy. We went through Claremont and Newport which slowed us down, and when we got to Wendell Marsh, I knew we were almost home. The marsh was always quiet and peaceful, often with herons and other water birds, and provided a wonderful entry into the very rural Sunapee.

As adults and permanent residents, Dan and I have seen the marsh at all times of the year, and it is always beautiful. It is often mentioned on WMUR television as an area to enjoy the amazing fall color, and it never disappoints. The hills beyond the marsh are on fire with color, and the water is full of birds resting on their way south. Without protection, this welcoming view could be lost. Thanks to Ausbon Sargent and the Town of Sunapee, it will remain natural forever.

Kiki Schneider and her husband, Dan, are Sunapee residents. She has been an Ausbon Sargent Trustee since 2011, and serves on both the Lands Committee and the Development Committee, and helps to plan and organize the Ausbon Sargent hiking events. The Schneiders made a donation to the Wendell Marsh Project in memory of Kiki's mother, Kay Murray.





Facts about the Wendell Marsh South

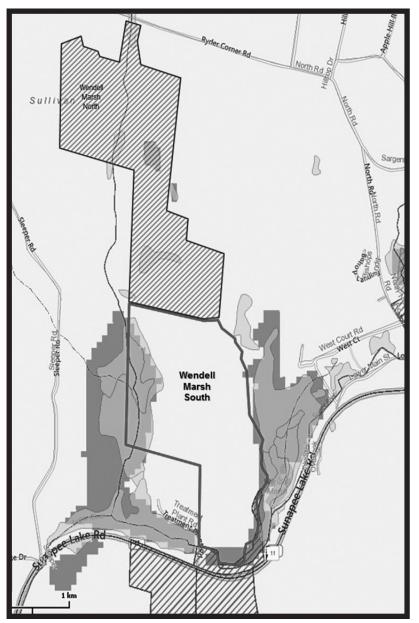
Conservation Easement

Town: Sunapee
Location: Off NH Route 11
Acreage: 143.4 acres

- The property has over 480 feet of frontage on the Sugar River and also protects a floodplain forest which is a valuable habitat.
- It is listed as Highest Ranked Habitat in the Biological Region under the NH Wildlife Action Plan and protects habitat for native species.
- The property protects the water quality of Wendell Marsh.
- The property provides access for low impact public recreation including an important snowmobile corridor.
- The property protects wellheads that can be used in the future for municipal water production.
- The property was protected with the help of the Town of Sunapee, the State of New Hampshire's Land and Community Heritage Investment Program, The Burton D. Morgan Foundation, Fields Pond Foundation and many people who appreciate the marsh.
- The property is now owned by the Town of Sunapee and managed by the Sunapee Conservation Commission.
- Ausbon Sargent is the conservation easement holder and is responsible for perpetual stewardship.



The Wendell Marsh South closing at the Sunapee Selectmen's Meeting on June 1, 2015. (L-R) Lela Emery, Tim Fleury, Debbie Stanley, Andy Deegan, Josh Trow, Van Webb, Suzanne Gottling, Doug Lyon, Emma Smith, Fred Gallup and John Augustine.



Donors to the Wendell Marsh South Project

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Have you considered a conservation easement on your property?

Some believe that tax relief is the driving force behind private land conservation. Ausbon Sargent's experience indicates that landowners are driven to donate land for easements due to their love of the land and their desire to keep it protected from development both today and after they're gone.

Each conservation easement is unique. It may be tailored to meet the needs of the landowner while still considering conservation objectives. The landowners may have the desire to protect the water quality or a wildlife habitat; the intent may be to preserve a view, open space or farmland. Landowners may also gain income from the property through agriculture or a managed timber harvest. In some cases the landowners may determine to exclude a portion of their acreage from the conservation easement to provide a possible house lot should family or future owners wish to build.

If any of your neighbors have placed a conservation easement on their property, it is likely that some of the same characteristics of their land may be present on your property. Placing a conservation easement on your property may help you to fulfill a vision that you have for the future of your land.

Adding one conservation easement at a time can make a big difference in preserving our natural landscape. Contact The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust if you have questions.

www.ausbonsargent.org • 603-526-6555



The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust Membership & Gifts



Membership, Annual Fund and Gifts are from June 4, 2014 to June 1, 2015. Some names are followed by symbols:

*denotes donors who have given to both Membership and the Annual Fund, +denotes donors who have provided us with their company's matching gift information, ^ denotes deceased. If you have questions concerning your membership status, please call

Operations Manager, Sue Andrews at 526-6555 or email Sue at sandrews@ausbonsargent.org.

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Wish List

iPad tablet for use by our Land Protection Specialist/Stewardship Manager when visiting a property. We are transitioning to mobile technology so that camera, notebook, pen and GPS are no longer lugged into the field by our staff. \$650

OtterBox iPad Case - \$100

Countertop Brochure Holders for Trifold literature - \$75

"Catch the Bug"

by Peggy Hutter

As we look around our area, dragonflies and damselflies are everwhere, especially on a bright sunny day and particularly, if you are near a body of water. The increase in sightings is a sure sign that summer is here.

Dragonflies and damselflies are part of the order of insects called Odonata ("Odes"). Both are fairly large, often very colorful, flying insects; however, the body of the dragonfly is known to be stouter, while the damselfly body is more slender. Damselflies, for the most part, appear more fragile than dragonflies. Another notable difference is that dragonflies rest (perch) with their two sets of wings pointed straight to the sides; damselflies usually rest with their elegant, teardrop-shaped wings close together and away from or above the body. Dragonflies and damselflies are fascinating to watch as they zip forward and back, flying forward at speeds up to 25-30 mph. They can pivot in a flash and hover with ease causing us to think of a helicopter.

The "Odes" are considered aquatic insects because they live near freshwater (rivers, streams, ponds, even marshes and swamps) and their larvae (known as nymphs, which are the young stage of the species) actually live for years in these bodies of water. Dragonflies and damselflies are insectivores since they hunt and eat other insects, but they are harmless to humans as they neither sting nor bite. They can be beneficial as predators because they help to control pests—they eat the bugs that will bite you. The Odonates can also serve as indicators of good ecological health and clean water quality.

In 2011, NH completed a 5-year survey of dragonflies and damselflies. Dr. Pam Hunt, a NH Audubon Society biologist, noted from data collected from as far back as the 1800's that 46 species, about one third of those found in the state of NH, were listed as being a "protected conservation concern." Dr. Hunt says "this was the first justification to launch the survey, since you can't conserve what you don't know."

Ausbon Sargent's Land Protection Specialist, Andy Deegan, and his wife, Carrie, of the Society for the Protection of NH Forests, contributed to this study. They have planned two dragonfly events this summer in Sutton and Bradford, each on an Ausbon Sargent conservation property, to share their interest in dragonflies with others. The NH Survey indicates that 11-24 different species were sighted in Sutton and Bradford, though this is most likely fewer than the actual number that exist in the towns. Andy and Carrie will offer a catch and release session to net, identify and observe these amazing creatures. As Pam Hunt says, "Once bitten by the dragonfly bug, it's really hard to put down your net." We hope you'll check our Calendar of Events and join the Deegans to "catch the bug."



Photo by Andy Deegan



Enjoy Our Protected Properties

Russell Pond is a picturesque 17-acre pond located along Route 114 in South Sutton. It affords a variety of recreational activities such as boating, fishing and picnicking, or you could just stop at the town-maintained parking area at the edge of the pond in hopes of seeing a great blue heron, red winged blackbirds, beaver, Canada geese, painted turtles or an occasional moose or deer. The protected property on the west and north sides of the pond is owned by the Town of Sutton and the easement is held by Ausbon Sargent. On August 5th, Ausbon Sargent and the Sutton Conservation Commission will co-host a Dragonfly Event on the property from 2-4 PM. So many of our Ausbon Sargent protected properties offer public access for recreational use.

Check out our website **www.ausbonsargent.org** to find more information about our properties when you're looking for an outing.

Photo by Andy Deegan



The Lennon barn on Pumpkin Hill Road in Warner

Facts about the

Lennon

Conservation Easement

Town: Warner

Location: Pumpkin Hill Road

Acreage: 26.46 acres

- The property has over 400 feet of frontage on Pumpkin Hill Road and protects scenic views over the property that are accessible to the general public.
- It is listed as Highest Ranked Habitat in New Hampshire and protects habitat for native species.
- The property protects the northern end of a large beaver pond wetland.
- The property is adjacent to a Class VI road and will allow for low impact public recreation.
- The property protects valuable forestry soils.
- The property was protected with the help of the Quabbinto-Cardigan Partnership.

Mark Lennon cut school in 7th grade to go to Earth Day, and that pretty much set the pattern for his life. When he's not outside with a pack, a paddle, a camera, or a pair of skis, he runs a company that matches surplus furnishings from schools, hospitals, and private companies with charities around the world, IRN Surplus surplus reuse and recycling.

Conservation Was Always Part of My Plan

by Mark Lennon

My wife and I bought the house and land on Pumpkin Hill in 1990. I can't say it was love at first sight. The house dated from the 1790s with a later addition, and was last "updated" in the 1950s. The barn was sagging and a corner of the roof was gone. When spring came we discovered that there was an acre or so of knotweed around the house and barn, and infesting the field.

But we were young and dumb, and I had always figured if I was going to live in a nice old house, the only way I could afford it was to fix it myself. So we plunged in.

The land was farmed into the 1940s, which must have made it one of the last working farms in Warner. But it was never a rich farm, that was clear. The barn is the jewel on the property, 40' x 50', gunstock posts flared at the top to receive the beams, the beams all single pieces of hand-hewn chestnut, the roof structure as beautiful as any I have seen. As finances permitted, we put six rounds of renovations into it, to get it ready for another 200 years.

Below the barn, most of what was once a pasture had grown up to pine, but it was clearly not a good pine site. We thinned it once in the 1990s, and then last winter I had nearly all the pine removed, working with my forester friend, Charlie Levesque. Below the pine stand is a lovely active beaver bog, and the beaver will be having a long feast as the pine stand regenerates to hardwoods. Past the meadow the land is rough, with some wet patches, and long since reverted to forest. It appears that it was cut over in the 50s or 60s, and it is coming back with a lot of nice young oak. It has a variety of habitat and wildlife are abundant: deer, moose, bear, turkeys, grouse, along with the beaver. I have spent many contented hours cutting trails through the property, and I'm sure many fewer hours using them.

It never dawned on me to do anything other than conserve the land. Every year when I was growing up, another and then another and then another of the farms where we went to pick apples and pumpkins and watch the cows got bulldozed and turned into another and then another and then another subdivision or strip mall. Preserving land for the natural systems and species that need it has always been at the top of my wish list. I'm really glad Ausbon Sargent agreed, and thinks enough of this property to take it under their wing.

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The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust

Thanks



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WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK:

- Scott Allenby for sharing his Marketing and Communications expertise
- Charlie Belden for office recycling
- The Coach House Restaurant and New London Inn for Thursday's Child
- Rebecca Courser and Rich Cook for hosting the Snowshoe Hike
- Mary Jane Ellis for granting so many wishes!
- Nick Giaccone for running errands
- Janet Miller Haines for the donation of safety vests
- \bullet Cindy Lawson and Becky Underhill for the baskets for the Thursday's Child raffle
- Thomas and Sandra Peacock for the donation of 3 battery back-ups
- Betsy Forsham for proofing easement deeds
- The Kearsarge Shopper for all they do for us
- \bullet LSPA for the use of the Knowlton House for our volunteer party
- Mark Lennon for his beautiful notecard creations
- \bullet Tom Masland & Paul MacDonald for the significant discount for their legal work
- Jeanie Plant for organizing the Little Sunapee Reunion at Thursday's Child
- TNC for co-sponsoring the Snowshoe Hike
- Debbie and Bob Zeller for the donation of cleaning equipment



Waukeena Lake at the LeBaron-Brewer property

July

LeBaron-Brewer Hike in Danbury

This hike, led by Land Protection Specialist Andy Deegan, will cross through the 159-acre LeBaron-Brewer property and skirt beautiful Waukeena Lake.

Thursday, July 9 3:00-5:00 pm

Dragonfly Walk on the Blitzer property in Bradford

Learn more about dragonflies and damselflies and their significance in nature. This is always a great adventure for adults and children as you'll net, identify and release a variety of dragonflies. Limited to 25 people with no walk-ons.

Tuesday, July 28 (rain date, Fri, July 31) 2:00-4:00 pm

August

Dragonfly Walk at Russell Pond in South Sutton

Enjoy visiting Russell Pond along Route 114 while Andy and Carrie Deegan share their knowledge and love of dragonflies and damselflies. This will be a fun adventure for all ages and a nice activity to share with summer guests. Limited to 25 people with no walk-ons.

Wednesday, August 5 (rain date, Aug 7) 2:00-4:00 pm

4th Annual Kearsarge Klassic Bike Randonnee

Our popular bike event on the back roads of many of the twelve towns that Ausbon Sargent serves will be held in August this year. You'll receive a breakfast snack, a lunch, a dinner and a full support team when you choose to ride one of the scenic routes prepared for you. See more information and register at www.bikereg.com and view photos of our 2014 event at http://www.ausbonsargent.org/pboto-gallery.

Saturday, August 29

All Day

September

Monitoring Refresher

We invite our easement monitors to join us for a compass and survey skills refresher with Sue Andrews and Andy Deegan just before you head out to complete your fall easement monitoring. For more information, contact <code>sandrews@ausbonsargent.org</code>

Wednesday, September 9 3:00-4:30 pm

October

Ausbon Sargent 28th Annual Meeting

All members and friends of Ausbon Sargent are encouraged to attend the business meeting and the social that follows at the New London Historical Society Meeting House.

Sunday, October 25 3:00 pm

December

Ausbon Sargent Holiday Party at the New London Inn/Coach House Restaurant

This is always a beautiful and festive event that's a favorite of our members. Mark it on your calendar since we usually fill to capacity early.

Monday, December 7

5:30-7:30 pm

Please visit www.ausbonsargent.org (News/Calendar) for more details on all events for 2015. We request that you RSVP for all events.

Who Doesn't Love a Deer?

by Peggy Hutter



The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust must demonstrate that its land protection projects are consistent with the goals established by the land trust and that the projects provide a public benefit. One of the criteria we consider is whether the new property contains significant wildlife habitat, as identified by the NH Wildlife Action Plan.

This year the NH Fish and Game is updating its 10-year Wildlife Action Plan. The Plan is a blueprint that guides partner organizations to protect wildlife species and manage wildlife habitats. Five working sessions were held to gather input. A recurring concern voiced by conservation partners was the impact of white-tail deer populations and their contribution to the increase of invasive species on NH's scenic landscape, and the effect on forest health and the state's economy.

Deer populations are at or near all-time highs in New Hampshire. Although we love to enjoy the beauty of these gentle creatures in our woods and fields, we have a dilemma that raises a number of important questions. Why have the white-tail deer become so numerous? How do these increases affect our forest ecosystems? Why should landowners, forest managers, and the general public be concerned and what are the solutions?

Many natural predators of the white-tail deer such as wolves and mountain lions are no longer found in New Hampshire. Though we still have black bears and coyotes that will periodically prey upon the deer, they do not always hunt the deer as they can also be satisfied with berries, shrubs and smaller animals. There was a time that our hunters helped to control the deer population; however, hunting has greatly diminished in recent years.

The increase in the deer herd has been very detrimental to forest health and sustainability. Trees naturally mature and die or are harvested from the forest. The saplings and shrubs in the forest that would normally fill the gaps in the canopy succumb to the effects of chronic deer browsing. The white-tail deer particularly love to nibble on oak and maple saplings, leaving the less appealing saplings and the more invasive species behind. In addition to the food sources in the forests, deer have successfully invaded agricultural fields, orchards, roadsides, lawns and gardens. We have also watched some of New Hampshire's favorite wildflowers such as Trillium and Lady Slippers diminish as the deer love these low-lying treats. A real concern for the NH forests is that we are seeing invasive species fill the void and dominate the ecosystem while reducing plant diversity.

There are no simple solutions or quick fixes. For those who have monitored this problem through the years and have an understanding of the long-term risks of deer overpopulation, it has been suggested that programs and policies in our state need to more closely integrate game management with forest health and habitat stewardship. These issues may still take decades to resolve.



Ausbon Sargent, our namesake, cultivating his garden on Main Street circa 1970.

Nancy is moving to Vail, Colorado



We wish her much happiness as she begins the next chapter in life's journey. Nancy joined the Ausbon Sargent staff in 2008 as our part-time Administrative Assistant. We will miss her bright smile and cheerful attitude. We hope Nancy remains in touch with her Ausbon Sargent friends.



Another
Living
Legacy
Thankfully
Created

The Acorn Society of The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust allows our supporters to include Ausbon Sargent in their estate plan. By making this choice, you can leave a lasting impact on the Mt. Kearsarge/Lake Sunapee region for the benefit of future generations. With your bequest, you become a member of our Acorn Society and it becomes our privilege to recognize and honor you for the generous decision you made.

In April, 2015, we were notified that Ted Bacon had made a bequest to Ausbon Sargent. Ted was born and raised in Springfield, MA and after his naval service in World War II, he lived and raised his family in Amherst, MA. Ted had a strong connection to New Hampshire as his family summered on Pleasant Lake.

Ted was a graduate of Amherst College and MIT with a Master's Degree in City Planning. He returned to Amherst College as a Dean and a professor of Political Science. Ted later became a professor of City Planning and Urban Development at UMass, Amherst, and also maintained his own City Planning and Development business for much of his career after his time at Amherst College.

In 1996, Ted and his wife, Sarah, moved to NH, sharing time between New London and Peterborough. Ted passed away in May, 2014, just short of his 96th birthday.

When we asked about Ted's decision to name Ausbon Sargent in his estate, his son, Doug Bacon, shared some special thoughts about his father:

"Dad was an active hiker and bicyclist for much of his life. As a long time summer resident on Pleasant Lake, Dad loved the New London area for its natural beauty and for its recreational opportunities, including hiking, mountain climbing and walking. My parents were among the first members of Ausbon Sargent twenty-eight years ago, and they had a deep appreciation of the

goals and achievements of the land trust from its inception. Their support continued throughout their lives. Dad was certain to include Ausbon Sargent in his estate plan knowing that the land trust would continue to provide recreational, open space, conservation opportunities and benefits to all in the New London area."

Thank you to Ted Bacon and the Bacon family. Your support confirms the importance of the Ausbon Sargent mission to preserve the rural character of the Mt. Kearsarge/Lake Sunapee Region.

Doug Bacon is the youngest (and only surviving son) of Ted and Sarah's three sons. Doug grew up in Amherst, MA earning degrees from Amherst College, MIT (Master's) and Syracuse (JD). Though he lives in Concord, MA, Doug is happily anticipating spending his 63rd summer at the family cottage on Pleasant Lake, now enjoyed by 4th generation Bacons.



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 either made a bequest or notified us that they have provided for Ausbon Sargent in their estate plans.

Mr. and Mrs. James D. Abbott*

Anonymous (4) Rich and Heidi Anderson Theodore S. Bacon, Jr.* Ann C. Bemis* Catherine Bogardus* Roland P. Carreker* Rick Cole Naia L. Conrad* Chris and Janice Cundey Tim and Lorraine Davis Joe and Laurie DiClerico John and Maggie Ford Cotton M. Cleveland and John B. Garvey Gerard and Jane Gold David and Martha Karrick Doug Lyon Andrew J. McDonald* Dave and Bev Payne John and Sage Scott John and Nancy Denny Solodar Virginia Anthony Soule*

Peter and Debbie Stanley

*denotes deceased





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



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: **www.ausbonsargent.org**



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Please make chee		o: Ausbon Sargent and mail to: P.O. Box 2040, New London, NH 03257-2040 or call and use your credit card: 603.526.6555	
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\$1,000+ Benefactor			
\$500+ Patron	Address		
\$250+ Steward			
\$150+ Protector	Phone	E-mail	
\$60+ Advocate			
Other \$	Donations to Ausbon Sargent	are tax deductible as provided by Section 170 of the Inter	rnal Revenue Code. 07/15