

THE AUSBON SARGENT LAND PRESERVATION TRUST

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



Chatter



S U M M E R 2 0 1 6



If not now, *When?*

From the *Executive Director*:



In the last issue of our **Chatter** newsletter, I shared with you the goals and objectives of our 2016-2020 Strategic Plan which the Board adopted in January. We are aware that some organizations adopt a plan and then it sits on the bookshelf and nothing happens. That is not the case at Ausbon Sargent. We know that without action steps, the big picture strategy is useless.

Our Implementation Work Plan was approved by the Board in mid-May. The Plan is specific about the work that needs to be done. Practically speaking, this means we have gone through the process of translating the goals expressed in our Strategic Plan into specific initiatives that Ausbon Sargent will undertake in the coming 18-month period. By breaking down our long-term goals into timely and definable segments, we have created a roadmap that aligns the day-to-day activities with the overarching goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan.

In order to achieve our long range **conservation goals**, we are in the process of updating the Ausbon Sargent Conservation Plan (adopted May 17, 2012). Focus area priorities will be adjusted to reflect conservation successes, as well as loss of open space lands due to development. Town Master Plans, the 2015 NH Wildlife Action Plan and other resources have been reviewed. By early fall, we will assess how best to implement Ausbon Sargent's Conservation Plan. We will also amend criteria in our Land Protection Policy to reflect the vulnerabilities of wildlife and habitats to the changes being wrought by climate change as identified in the 2013 New Hampshire Ecosystems and Wildlife Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

Ausbon Sargent must fulfill its growing **stewardship** obligation to protect its conservation lands now and forever. We intend to raise landowner awareness of best management practices for their land. In order to maintain accreditation status, we must have adequate

financial reserves in the Stewardship and Enforcement Funds; therefore, annually, Ausbon Sargent will examine its reserves to make sure we have accounted for additions to our conservation portfolio and other changes to our risk profile.

Over the next several months, the Board will discuss the best way to create a comprehensive Community Commitment Plan and craft recommendations for the resources necessary to implement the Plan. **Community commitment** will ensure that a broad demographic understands and values the benefits of our conserved lands.

Organizational integrity is paramount to Ausbon Sargent's goal to continue as a trusted organization of excellence as evidenced by our financial stability, strong leadership and management. To achieve our organizational integrity goals we have prepared an integrated fundraising plan (Development Plan) for the next three years. We are monitoring the proposed revisions to the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) Standards & Practices to insure that we remain in full compliance. All Ausbon Sargent trustees have agreed to participate in the online Nonprofit Board Self-Assessment Questionnaire (BSAQ) this fall. The purpose of the BSAQ is to gain an understanding of our trustees' knowledge and skills as they carry out their Board roles.

We look forward to 2017 when Ausbon Sargent will celebrate 30 years of preserving the rural landscape of the Mt. Kearsarge/Ragged/Lake Sunapee region. This milestone is an opportunity for the land trust to advance its mission, connect people with the land, and broaden the public's understanding of the complexity and community value of land conservation and stewardship.

Ausbon Sargent hopes that our efforts have gained your trust. As always, we are enormously grateful to our engaged, loyal and generous supporters. Your support means so much. Thank you!



ABOUT THE COVER

Libby Trayner was a perfect example of "If not now, when?" She first began talking with Ausbon Sargent about protecting her beloved Shaker Street property in 1988. Her dream was realized following her death in 2016. (Read more on page 3 and pages 6-7 of this Chatter.)

Libby Trayner photo provided by Gerry and Jane Gold; background property photo by Sue Andrews



Trayner property on Shaker Street

"If not me, *who?* If not now, *when?*"

by Peggy Hutter

This popular quote has been used repeatedly through time and from many voices. Michigan Governor George Romney focused his tax reform speech on this quote in 1963; in the 1980's, President Ronald Reagan used the saying to discuss federal budget cuts. And our current President, Barack Obama, completed one of his speeches by challenging his audience with these words, "When is the right time? If not now, when? If not us, who?" Oprah Winfrey used this quote in 2015 regarding her diet struggles. And, it was even heard in a closing Saturday Night Live skit last year, delivered by 32-year old actress, Gabourey Sidibe.

These words were originally attributed to Rabbi Hillel (also known as Hillel the Elder) two thousand years ago. His full quote was, "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am not for others, what am I? And, if not now, when?"

Regardless of when these questions were first pondered, by whom or how many times these questions have been offered since, they are usually asked to invoke the same response. The speaker is imploring us to take action and not to wait any longer to act.

We chose the essence of Rabbi Hillel's quote as our theme for the summer *Chatter* because it represents the mission of the land trust. It is our intention to protect land today, so that it can be appreciated forever. If we don't consider protection today, will it be available for us tomorrow?

Determining how to preserve the property that you love can be a difficult decision for landowners and their families. It could be that the land is tied to the financial security of the landowner. Regardless of your hopes for your land, it is difficult to make decisions today that might financially strap you as you age. This *Chatter* newsletter highlights Libby Trayner who is a perfect example of this scenario (see our tribute to Libby on pages 6-7).

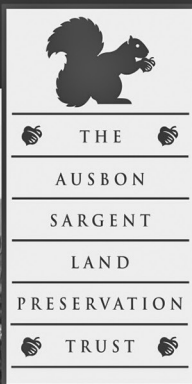
Libby was an only child who never married, therefore leaving no heirs. She owned more than 20 acres of property on Shaker Street and Mountain Road near the New London/Sutton town line. Libby began talking about her wishes for her property with Debbie Stanley and others at Ausbon Sargent in 1988. She knew she wanted to preserve her property, but she was not sure if she would ever need to liquidate any of her land as she grew older. As a result, Libby chose to name The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust in her will. Her land remained available to her until her death, should she need to sell any part of it. At that time, a conservation easement would be gifted to Ausbon Sargent. Libby died in the spring of 2016, one month shy of her 101st birthday, and Ausbon Sargent was well aware of Libby's intentions for her land.

Donating a conservation easement by will serves as a good interim measure. It allows you to specify your intentions for your land, but should circumstances and needs change during your lifetime, you can amend your will. You won't receive the income tax and property tax benefits that you might gain if you donated an easement or property during your lifetime, but your estate taxes will be reduced. As Libby did with Ausbon Sargent, you can negotiate your plans with the land trust so that your intentions meet with its conservation and stewardship objectives.

"If not now, when?" This quote could have a number of meanings in relation to the work that Ausbon Sargent does. If we don't protect our special places today, will they be there for our children and our grandchildren to enjoy tomorrow? If you are a landowner and you can't place an easement on your property today, might this be a possibility for you to consider at a later time or through your will? And, if you have not yet joined Ausbon Sargent in its mission to protect this rural landscape that has endeared itself to us, then when?

After retiring from a long and rewarding career as a Kearsarge Regional Middle School teacher, Peggy joined Ausbon Sargent in 2011 as its Communications Coordinator. Peggy and her husband, Bob, live in Elkins and regularly enjoy the Ausbon Sargent properties near their home.





Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust

Our Wonderful New Website is Complete

Thanks to the Efforts of Many

by Kristy Heath

Over the last 16 years, the Ausbon Sargent website has been maintained to include information about our mission, upcoming events, and the properties we have conserved. A market survey in 2014 identified that updating our website, email marketing practices, and presence in social media could not only enhance our digital presence, but also welcome a younger generation of members to sustain the organization. Considering this information, Ausbon Sargent decided to begin the journey to create a new digital “face” for the land trust.

The first thing we had to do was find a way to pay for this upgrade. An anonymous donor came forward with a generous grant to not only help us with a new website, but also help us to update our entire integrated digital marketing strategies, including a fresh take on email marketing and a push to leap further into the world of social media. It is only through the generosity of others that we can take on projects like this to carry out our mission. What a wonderful feeling to know that there are people who share the same passion we do about land conservation and leaving a legacy for future generations!

Paul Carnavale Jr., of *Carnavale Design*, was contracted to work with the staff at Ausbon Sargent on our new website to give it a fresh look, to make searching for information easy, and to provide an intuitive format that users would appreciate. Paul worked with Ausbon Sargent for several years as the host of the previous website and it was clear that he had the skillset and the right personality to work on this project.

Lee Morrill of *On Track Design* was contracted to build our photo collection to use on our website, in email blasts, and in social media. Lee’s past collaboration with Ausbon Sargent on the *Chatter* newsletters and other

publications, his keen eye and obvious talents in photography led us to ask for his assistance.

Bill Duffy of *Northern Geomantics* lent his mapping skills by compiling GIS information about Ausbon Sargent parcels and creating accurate maps. Bill is also the creator of the very large map we display, which shows all the conserved parcels in our 12-town region. He was able to create a version of this map that could be used on the website, which is a wonderful illustration of our progress and puts into perspective the size of our region and the possibilities that await!

After many months of regular meetings, iterations, and collaborative efforts, the new website was proudly launched on December 17, 2015. The maps portion of the site was launched on June 1, 2016. The website is now mobile-friendly, effective on all devices, and visitors can quickly share information on various social media networks. It is easier for people to sign up for emails, search for properties, volunteer, and donate. Lastly, it is much easier to update and edit, making us less dependent on an outside firm, ultimately saving Ausbon Sargent money.

Since launching the new site, we have had many people compliment and thank us for the upgrade. It has been widely well-received and we feel that the project has been worthwhile and successful. An upgrade of this caliber would have been out of our reach without the generosity of our anonymous donor. We feel grateful that the generosity and talents of those who assisted in this project are literally in our own back yard.

If you haven’t done so already, please take a minute to look at the new site (www.ausbonsargent.org) and let us know what you think! We hope you will find it is a giant leap forward for Ausbon Sargent in the digital age.

Kristy Heath became the Administrative Assistant for Ausbon Sargent in July of 2015 and was recently promoted to the position of Development and Administrative Coordinator. She and her husband, Nate, live in Springfield, NH with their three daughters. They spend quality family time camping and exploring our beautiful area.

Conservation Technology

by Andy Deegan

Improving technology has made conserving land easier. When Ausbon Sargent was founded in 1987, we often had to travel to Concord to perform a title search. Today, deeds and property records are easily accessible via the internet. Other advances have happened with the transition from film to digital cameras, and with the use of GPS (Global Positioning Systems) and GIS (Geographic Information Systems). These advances in technology have made the process of prioritizing conservation lands, collecting field data, and protecting land easier and more efficient.

Our most recent technological advancement was made possible by a generous donation and will make working with photos for a property's baseline documentation report much quicker and more organized. The acquisition of an iPad mini has allowed Ausbon Sargent to take and label geolocated photos while in the field on any property that we are working to protect. This means that once the photo is taken, the geographic coordinates for the photo are automatically attached to it. That allows us to quickly and accurately create photo location maps that are valuable for our baseline documentation reports and monitoring reports.



Photo by Peggy Hutter

Andy Deegan uses some of the new features in his Ausbon Sargent office.

We can also label photos in the field using an app called PhotoEase. This app allows the user to record specific attributes about a photo and attach these to the image. All of Ausbon Sargent's protected properties are stored in the iPad so each property can easily be found using a drop down menu. Once the property is selected, the details of the photo such as date, location, type of photo (natural features, buildings, boundary, etc.), description, who took the photo and the direction they were facing, can be entered in their respective fields. When the photo is downloaded and saved, it can be emailed to partners or it, can be entered in their staff members and all of the attribute information is retained. In the past, labeling photos for our records was a long and tedious process, but these advances have made it much faster and easier.

Technology is constantly evolving to make certain aspects of our daily lives easier. This is true with Ausbon Sargent's work too. Technological advances are increasing efficiency and producing higher quality documentation, which in turn allows us to spend more of our time working with landowners to protect and manage their land.

Andy Deegan is the Land Protection Specialist and Stewardship Manager for Ausbon Sargent. Andy earned his law degree from the Vermont Law School in 2004 and practiced law in Essex, Vermont before joining Ausbon Sargent in 2008. Andy, his wife Carrie, and their two children live in New London.

Laurie's Leaving the Land Trust

by Sue Andrews

I hadn't really known Laurie DiClerico all that well until she came to work at Ausbon Sargent in the fall of 2001. She had been employed in the travel business, but things became really slow right after 9/11. Debbie had watched her work on the New London Planning Board, and happened to run into her one day in late October and asked her if she wanted a new job! She started the next week as the part time Administrative Assistant, organizing events and doing secretarial work. With her quick wit and ready laugh, she turned the office into a very lively place.



Photo by Peggy Hutter

Shortly after she started, Laurie took some classes offered at Dartmouth and through the NH Charitable Foundation learning how to write grants, which she says she found fun and challenging. She quickly became very good at it and, in 2002, her job title changed to Development Assistant. Over her 15 years at Ausbon Sargent, she has been an extremely successful grant writer.

Another monumental task that Laurie took on and excelled at was organizing all the materials for our accreditation in 2009 and re-accreditation in 2015. For our initial accreditation, she spent two years gathering the over 50 lbs of paperwork that was required to be submitted. Re-accreditation was no easier, though more of the documentation was able to be submitted digitally. She made it clear in 2015 that she had no intention of hanging around for the 2020 re-accreditation!

Laurie says that working for Ausbon Sargent has been the best job she ever had! She has found it very rewarding to work for an organization where she truly believes in the mission. She also has enjoyed the people and the wonderful, flexible, work environment. Slowly, over the last several years she has winnowed her work hours down and has recently been training Kristy Heath to take over the grant writing.

As for retirement, Laurie is looking forward to spending time with her one-year-old twin granddaughters who are moving to the Boston area (along with her daughter and son-in-law!) She will take time off this summer, but hopes to start doing some volunteer work in the fall. Meanwhile, we are very relieved that she has agreed to stay involved as a member of the Ausbon Sargent Development Committee.

All of us at the Ausbon Sargent will miss Laurie!

Sue Andrews is the Operations Manager for Ausbon Sargent. Not only has Sue been with the land trust longer than all others besides Debbie Stanley, but she is the "Jack of all trades" who seems to understand everyone else's job in addition to her own. Sue and husband, Dave, live in Elkins.



Libby's Love of Nature

shared by her friend, Gerry Gold

Visiting Libby Trayner always opened your eyes to her love of nature. To reach Libby's front kitchen door, you stooped under untamed rhododendrons and twisted a bit to avoid knocking the bird feeders. Inside the house, potted plants were everywhere. Not only could Libby never throw away a plant; plants would be embarrassed to fail in her presence.

As arthritis progressed with aging, she spent more time on her living room couch looking out at her trees and birds and family photos and furniture. Being of sound mind, grateful attitude, and with vivid memories of her beloved summers at Camp Bueno at the north end of Kezar Lake, Libby proved an enjoyable patient for neighbors to care about. Even in her 100th year she had homemade cookies delivered to neighbors at Christmastime. Her Christmas tree, always personally selected, held exceptional antique ornaments, each with its own story.

When she and her parents built the house in 1949 on a sub-divided farm, her view to the east was of an open field and Mount Kearsarge. Now it is of unruly pine and mixed hardwoods, friendly to deer and birds. She missed the view, but loved the regrowth habitat. The shade that overtook her view made perfect conditions for snowdrops and other spring ephemerals visible from her couch.

Repeatedly, she worried that her intent to place her 20 acres in permanent conservation easement with Ausbon Sargent might be compromised by a need to sell a portion to finance her health care. She pinched pennies and the peeling paint by the front door demonstrated her determination to avoid that outcome. Some of those pinched pennies went for bird seed.

On the west side is the small field with apple trees where her horse had spent its retirement years. West of that is a stone wall and the hay field she kept mowed so as not to shade the blueberry bushes of her favorite neighbor. When Norsk cross-country ski operated from the golf course across the street, that field held a trail that dipped into her woods, crossed another private property, and then merged with trails at the Town's Low Plain conservation lands. She regretted the development that closed that trail access to public use.

At the end, Libby got her way. She had survived the economic struggles of the 1930s, then brought her parents to New Hampshire to build their shared home. Now she had succeeded in giving her part of New Hampshire a gift of the land she loved.

When Gerry and Jane Gold moved to New Hampshire for its weather, they were lucky to find a home on land the selling owner had just placed in conservation with Ausbon Sargent down the street and through the woods from Libby Trayner.



Photo by Lee Morrill

*Trayner property on Shaker Street
& Mountain Road, New London*

Facts about the **Trayner** *Conservation Easement*

Town: New London

Location: Shaker Street & Mountain Road

Acreage: 20 acres

- The property protects the scenic view for people traveling on Shaker Street and Mountain Road.
- The property is near other protected land including Low Plain, the Currier Easement and Cascade Marsh WMA.
- The property has prime agricultural soils which are rare in the state.
- The property can be managed for forestry and agriculture and has highly ranked forestry soils.
- The property is open to the public for low-impact recreation.
- Libby Trayner used estate planning to conserve her property posthumously.*

**For more about Libby's choice
to conserve her property,
refer to page 3 of this summer Chatter.*

Shared Memories of Libby Trayner through the Years

by Bill Clough

My appreciation of Libby Trayner's life has been significantly enriched by sorting through the letters and notes she left behind after her death on March 1st. I knew that my appointment a few years ago as trustee of her estate would involve some time and effort; it was obvious from our visits that her house on Shaker Street was as much a museum as it was a home. It turns out she must have written letters or notes every day of her life. Luckily my wife, Ki, and Libby's next door neighbor, Cyndi, have dedicated themselves to playing curative roles. Two themes that seem important in the trove of letters and cards are her grassroots devotion to nature and to family. For example, one of the curious objects we discovered was her "spider catcher," used to trap errant ants and spiders so they could be safely transported outside.

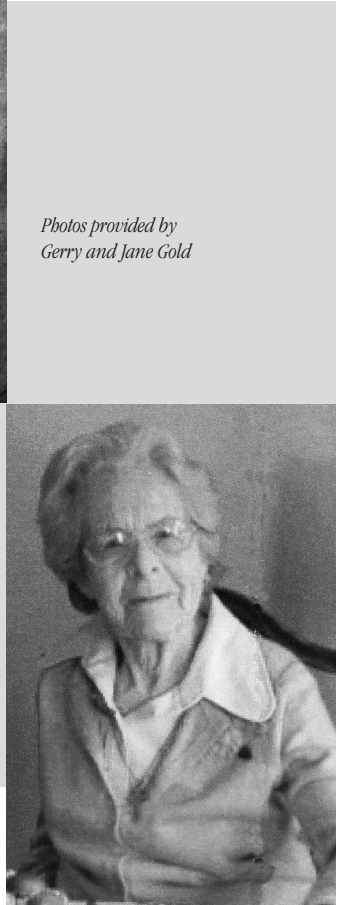
Libby was proud of her family. As an only child who remained single all her life, she took her lineage seriously. However, there were others, besides the descendants of her father, John Trayner, an Irish blacksmith who emigrated from Ireland, that Libby also treated as family. Her experiences and the people she met, as a girl and young woman in the 1920's and early 30's at Camp Bueno on Kezar Lake, prominently influenced Libby. Interestingly, and somewhat surprisingly, my sister, Nancy Whitehead, and my parents and grandfather, Drs. William P. Clough Sr. and Jr. also had a great influence on Libby.

As I recall, Libby had worked a few years at Colby Junior College, as an assistant to the bursar, before coming to work for the Clough medical practices sometime in the 1940's. As an assistant to Drs. Clough, she was assigned a small office between our home and Dad's medical office (in the building now occupied and significantly expanded by Woodcrest), directly across from the New London Inn. We kids (me, John and Nancy) could never figure out what she did in there. At times, Libby must have wondered the same thing. Dad's office was a beehive of activity that often spilled over into her office from the adjacent waiting room on one side. At the same time, our household, which often housed English Setter pups and bottle-fed lambs, spilled in from the other side. There was always a crowd in Dad's waiting room, which he shared with my grandfather, Dr. Clough Sr. and my uncle, Dr. Joseph Clough. The three of them did the lion's share of the emergency work, surgery, obstetrics and general practice in the eight towns surrounding New London during the years 1942 to 1975. I think Libby was tasked with the impossible job of keeping their ledgers up to date. That job was not made easier by the three of us kids who took delight in bursting through her office despite our mother's admonitions, or raiding her orderly desk after-hours and playing silly games like chain-ing up her paper clips. Libby was loyal against all odds, however, and stayed on



*Above:
A portrait of Libby Trayner as a young girl.*

*Right:
Libby Trayner at her Shaker Street home on her 95th birthday.*



*Photos provided by
Gerry and Jane Gold*

despite the constant chaos. Maybe it was her love of horses coinciding with my mother's. Perhaps it was her need to balance the constant motion and racket of our family and professional life with her own more solitary and internal existence on Shaker Street. Libby amazingly remained happily suspended between two very different worlds. Libby's legacy to our family was her appreciation of nature. To Libby, nature was not just a pretty pastoral presence. Libby was with nature, as Wordsworth described in 1798 in one of his lyrical ballads, "Lines Above Tintern Abbey," a "lover of mountains and of all that we behold from this green earth, the guide and guardian of her heart and soul of all moral being."

Bill Clough served on the Ausbon Sargent Land Trust board from 2006 through 2012. He is currently a trustee of the Betterment Fund and directs the Fund's involvement in Conservation activity in the State of Maine. Prior to his return to New London in 2002 Bill spent 30 years working as a secondary teacher, coach, headmaster and accreditor.



The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust

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Membership, Annual Fund and Gifts are from June 2, 2015 to June 1, 2016. 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 sandreus@ausbonsargent.org.

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We Have Some Big Shoes to Fill

For years Charlie Belden has been a reliable volunteer for Ausbon Sargent. Charlie was an easement monitor from 2005-2008 and then took on the much needed task of recycling for the Ausbon Sargent office from 2008 to present. Charlie recently moved to Keene, NH and had to give up his recycling position. **Thank you for years of service to Ausbon Sargent, Charlie.**



Photo by Peggy Hutter

We are now looking for someone to fill Charlie's role. The task requires that you stop by the Ausbon Sargent office every couple of weeks to get our recyclables to the New London Transfer Station. Please call Kristy Heath at the office or email her at kheath@ausbonsargent.org if you can help.

Wish List

Label Printer Handheld Brady BMP21-Plus -- \$95

PowerLite Projector--\$899
*To be used for public presentations,
 board and committee meetings*

Ausbon Sargent Could Use Your Help on a New and Important Land Project in Wilmot

Conserving land helps to keep our water safe, provides a habitat for our wildlife and protects open spaces to grow our crops. It gives us places to play and explore and enjoy the scenic views. The beauty of the land inspires us. But, it requires money to conserve land and, sometimes, this requires fundraising from a team of generous friends and neighbors. At times like this, Ausbon Sargent asks for your help.

Land Protection Specialist Andy Deegan is currently working with landowner Clayton Nowell to place a conservation easement on the 25-acre Nowell property located on Grafton Road in Wilmot. This would represent the second Wilmot property conserved by Ausbon Sargent. The first occurred in 2014 when Jan and Paul Sahler placed a conservation easement on their 21.4-acre property on Kearsarge Mountain Road, Wilmot.

The Nowell property includes prime agricultural soils, open fields providing scenic views, and has the Walker Brook flowing along its southern boundary. Signs of wildlife can be detected in the fields, forests, wetlands and vernal pools.

The total project cost is estimated to be \$90,000 which would include the purchase of the conservation easement (development rights) and all expenses such as a survey, legal expenses, appraisal and stewardship (forever). Ausbon Sargent has received \$15,000 from donations and grants, but we still need \$75,000 to complete the project. Visit our website to donate.



Photo by Peggy Hutter

Firewood: Do the Right Thing

Did you know that taking your own firewood long distances from your home to a campground or hunting camp might accidentally be transferring dangerous pests and diseases to that area? You can help to slow the spread of invasive insects, like emerald ash borer and the Asian long horned beetle, by buying firewood at or near where you will burn it.

The state of New Hampshire is participating in a national program known as Firewood Scout. By visiting www.firewoodscout.org, campers can find locally-sourced wood and other information to encourage visitors to leave their own wood at home and protect New Hampshire's forest health.

Please do the right thing regarding your firewood.

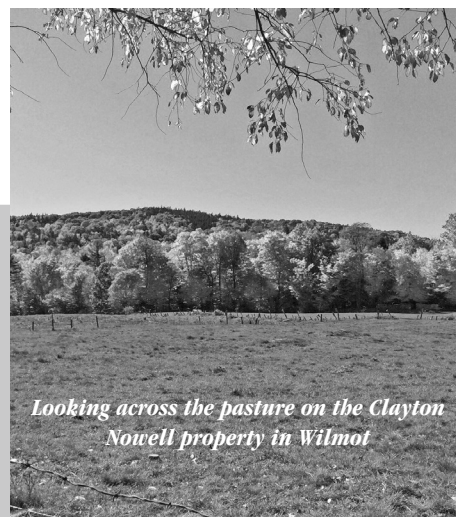


Photo by Andy Deegan

Facts about the

Nowell

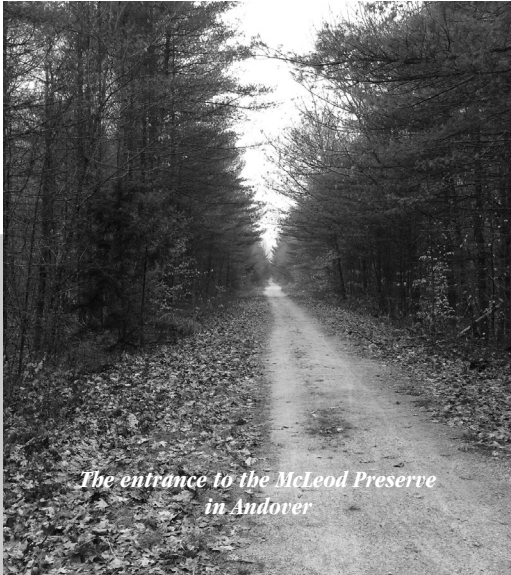
Conservation Easement

Town: Wilmot

Location: Grafton Road

Acreage: 25 acres

- The property protects frontage on Walker Brook that flows along the southern boundary.
- The open fields provide for a scenic view for people traveling along Grafton Road.
- The property is highly ranked for wildlife habitat and also has extensive water resources including wetlands and vernal pools.
- The property has prime agricultural soils which are rare in the state.
- The property is currently managed for agriculture, timber and maple syrup production.
- The property will be open to the public for low-impact recreation.
- Ausbon Sargent is working to build a coalition of organizations to raise the funds for this project.



The entrance to the McLeod Preserve in Andover

Facts about the **McLeod** Preserve

Town: Andover

Location: Off Northern Rail Trail

Acreage: 24.72 acres

- The property protects approximately 1,400 feet of frontage on a stream that flows through the property.
- The property protects the scenic view along almost 900 feet of frontage on the Northern Rail Trail.
- The property is highly ranked for wildlife habitat and also has extensive water resources including an aquifer, wetlands and vernal pools.
- The property is near over 1,600 acres of conserved land.
- The property is open to the public for low-impact recreation.
- The Town of Andover Conservation Commission assisted in conserving this parcel of land.
- This property was gifted by Dale and Connie McLeod to Ausbon Sargent.

A Personal Connection with the McLeod Preserve

by Nan Kaplan

When Ausbon Sargent was approached by Connie and Dale McLeod to see if we would accept a 24.7-acre parcel of land in Andover as a donation, we were very pleased and set about to see if the conservation values would be appropriate for the receipt of this gracious gift. And indeed they were.

Both the Lands Committee and the Ausbon Sargent Board approved the project with enthusiasm after considering all the criteria for favoring this land protection proposal, as well as any unfavorable criteria. (There were none.)

This is our fourth fee-owned property, which means that Ausbon Sargent pays the taxes, stewards the land and walks the boundaries, at least once annually, to ensure there is no encroachment.

The Town of Andover's Conservation Commission generously contributed \$5,000 in stewardship funds, which will take care of establishing the boundaries, creating a management plan, and setting up signage and trail marking on a potential trail.

This property, located between Currier Road and the Northern Rail Trail, is highly ranked for wildlife habitat with supporting landscapes in the 2015 Wildlife Action Plan. It also has extensive water resources with a brook leading from Elbow Pond and a small pond on its western side, as well as considerable wetlands. These will always be protected under Ausbon Sargent ownership.

When visiting with the McLeods recently, I learned of their great love and appreciation for this place. Dale had learned to appreciate its value as a child when he would walk from his home in East Andover with his fishing pole and worms. He would walk up and down both sides of the brook looking for just the right spot to place his worm on the hook to try to capture one or many of the native brook trout found there. If successful, the trout would go home for dinner.

When Charles Stone's three daughters wished to sell this 37-acre property in 1986, Connie and Dale bought it, subdivided the section on Currier Road into four building lots, and preserved the rest, which is now this wonderful 24.7 acres forever protected for its wildlife and water resource values. Dale said he'd never walked the property without seeing wildlife, sometimes bear, moose, deer, pheasant, and beaver.

He spoke about placing a boundary marker in the meadow years ago, a 2-ft granite post, which slowly disappeared in the wetlands. He replaced it with a 6-ft granite post which can be easily seen.

Another value of this land is its proximity to about 1,600 acres of conserved land in Andover, creating great corridors for wildlife and amphibians, as well as having pedestrian access for the public benefit. It has nearly 900 feet of frontage on the scenic Northern Rail Trail. It also protects a large aquifer and vernal pools and is mostly forested. With the addition of this 24.7-acre parcel from the McLeods, Ausbon Sargent now protects 138 properties and 11,091 acres in the 12-town area of operation.

Nan Kaplan has been on the Ausbon Sargent Board from 2010 until the present, serving as secretary from 2012 until 2015. Nan also chairs the Outreach Committee and serves on the Lands Committee for Ausbon Sargent while also serving as a member of the Andover Conservation Commission.



The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust

Thanks

These individuals, businesses and foundations for your gifts of time and funding.



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WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK:

The Coach House Restaurant and New London Inn for Thursday's Child

Mary Jane Ellis for granting so many wishes!

Barbara Faughnan and Becky Underhill for the baskets for the Thursday's Child raffle

Betsy Forsham for proofing easement deeds

The Kearsarge Shopper for all they do for us

LSPA for the use of the Knowlton House for our volunteer party

Mark Lennon for his beautiful notecard creations

Lee Morrill, On Track Design, for graphic design and advertising

Jeanie Plant for organizing the Little Sunapee Reunion at Thursday's Child

EVENT VOLUNTEERS

Ruth Collins

Kate Gordon

Debbie Lang

Kiki and Dan Schneider

MAILING HELPERS

Terri Bingham

Carol Foss

Laura Beth Foster

Kate Gordon

Bonnie Guterl

Cindy Lawson

Betsy Lyons

Carole Sanetti

Susan Showalter

OFFICE VOLUNTEER

Kris Lohmann for volunteering
in the office on a regular basis

PROOF READERS FOR THE

SUMMER CHATTER

Marla Binzel

Anne Carroll

Julie Deacon

Nan Kaplan

Helen Tucker

PHONEATHON CALLERS

Sue Andrews

Laurie DiClerico

Don Elliott

Sue Elliott

Barbara Faughnan

Charlie Foss

Frances Harris

Nan Kaplan

Doug Lyon

Marilyn Paradis

Faith Reney

Kiki Schneider

Debbie Stanley

Suzanne Tether

Becky Watt

WINTER CHATTER

DELIVERY

Seth Benowitz

Betsy Forsham

Carol Foss

Bonnie Guterl

Kate Gordon

Cynthia Hayes

Janet Howe

Conservation Easement versus Full Land Ownership

Ausbon Sargent primarily uses conservation easements as its method of conserving land. When this happens, the landowners continue to own and manage their property, though certain restrictions regarding the property, based on best management practices, must be agreed upon.

There have been some instances where Ausbon Sargent was offered the opportunity to take full ownership of a property (also known as Fee Ownership). This means that the land trust owns and manages the property. Ausbon Sargent is responsible for all taxes on the property (at Current Use rates, where possible) and it is the responsibility of Ausbon Sargent to manage the property consistent with the mission of the land trust. Since Ausbon Sargent is the property owner, the land trust may also retain any income that might occur as a result of commercial operations (such as forestry or agriculture).

If you are interested in conserving your land and would like to discuss the options of using a conservation easement versus full ownership, please contact Ausbon Sargent Land Protection Specialist, Andy Deegan at 526-6555 or email adeegan@ausbonsargent.org



Calendar of Upcoming Events Through December 2016

July

Hike on the Gordon easement properties in New London

Join Land Protection Specialist, Andy Deegan, for a hike on two special properties on Davis Hill Road in New London.

Wednesday, July 20, 2016 • 2:00-4:00 pm

Dragonfly Walk on the Stiles/Fore Conservation Easement in Danbury

Join Ausbon Sargent Land Protection Specialist, Andy Deegan, for our 1st Dragonfly Walk of the summer held in Danbury.

Tuesday, July 26, 2016 • 2:00-4:00 pm

August

Dragonfly Walk on the Putnam Conservation Easement in Sutton

Andy Deegan will lead our 2nd Dragonfly Walk of the summer; this event to be held in Sutton.

Tuesday, August 2, 2016 • 2:00-4:00 pm

Clayton Nowell Property Tour

This hike is planned on the 25-acre Clayton Nowell property on Grafton Road in Wilmot. We're very excited to be working on protecting our second property in Wilmot.

Wednesday, August 24, 2016 • 2:00-4:00 pm

September

5th Annual Kearsarge Klassic Bike Randonnee

We're excited to be planning our 2016 Kearsarge Klassic and we hope you'll mark your calendars for this annual fundraising event.

Saturday, September 10, 2016 • An All-Day Event

Supporting Pollinators in the Landscape— A UNH Cooperative Extension Workshop

Amy Papineau, UNH Cooperative Extension will lead this workshop at the Wilmot Community Association's Red Barn.

Thursday, September 22, 2016 • 6:30 pm

October

Hike on Woods Without Gile property in Springfield

Join us for a hike on this 470-acre property in Springfield led by Andy Deegan, Dode Gladders and Matt Tarr.

Saturday, October 1, 2016 • 10:00 am until Noon

Ausbon Sargent's 29th Annual Meeting at the NL Historical Society

Sunday, October 23, 2016 • 3:00 pm

December

Ausbon Sargent Holiday Party

This "members only" event is a highlight of the holiday season. Please join us.

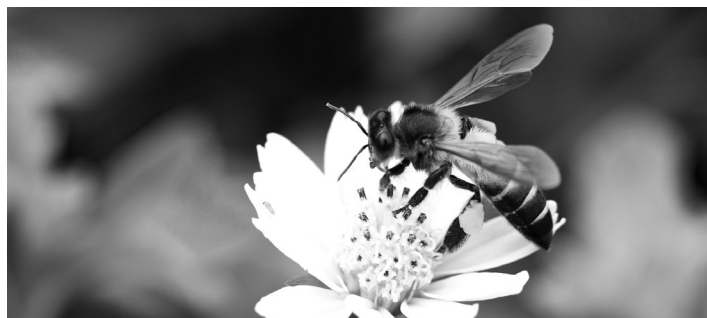
Monday, December 5, 2016 • 5:30-7:30 pm

Please visit our website www.ausbonsargent.org (News/Calendar) for more details on all events.

We request that you RSVP for all events.

Supporting Pollinators in the Landscape

by Peggy Hutter



Pollinating insects are critical to the success of local agriculture and to the maintenance of biodiversity in our natural ecosystems. By providing pollen, nectar, and nesting habitat in your gardens and the surrounding landscape, you can help to support this important resource.

Homeowners can do a number of things to increase the number of pollinators. Certainly, planting flower gardens and small wildflower meadows is a good start. Minimizing the use of pesticides can also help as some pesticides or the over use of pesticides might have unintended consequences for the bees. Leaving hollow stems on perennials and plants like raspberries later into the season helps bees to raise their young.

On Thursday, September 22nd at 6:30 pm, the Ausbon Sargent Outreach Committee is sponsoring a free workshop, to be held at the Wilmot Community Association Red Barn, titled "Supporting Pollinators in the Landscape." Amy Papineau, from UNH Cooperative Extension, will discuss the many types of bees that you may find in your landscape, the role of these insects in the environment, and how you can design your garden and landscape to provide pollinators with the resources they need. We hope you'll join us.

Greg Berger, owner of Spring Ledge Farm in New London, was excited to hear that Amy Papineau would be sharing her expertise on pollinators in September. I asked Greg if he could provide me with a list of pollinator plants that Spring Ledge Farm sells so that interested readers could get a jump on both summer and fall plantings to promote better pollination

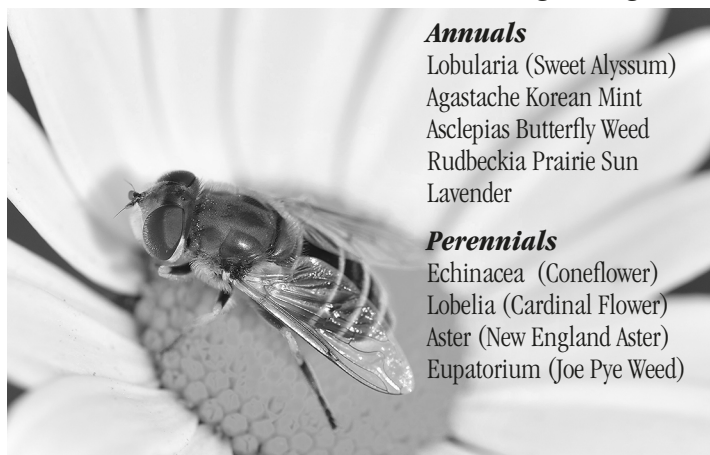
Following is Greg's list:

Annuals

Lobularia (Sweet Alyssum)
Agastache Korean Mint
Asclepias Butterfly Weed
Rudbeckia Prairie Sun
Lavender

Perennials

Echinacea (Coneflower)
Lobelia (Cardinal Flower)
Aster (New England Aster)
Eupatorium (Joe Pye Weed)



An Everlasting Gift

*Kathy Carroll shares fond memories of
“Sissy” Wastcoat*

A love of the land and the natural landscape nurtured Sissy Wastcoat, and inspired her philanthropy. Growing up in the Chicago area and attending boarding school in Europe may have instilled a desire to travel, but to always be grounded on land.

Mary-Seymour Jenkins Wastcoat was a special friend, and a quiet but loyal supporter. Each spring until her passing last year, she returned from Arizona to her New London cottage, the place that connected her to our region and the work of the Ausbon Sargent Land Trust.

In New Hampshire, Sissy thrived on walking and hiking to be immersed in the natural beauty, and shared stories of the local history with friends who accompanied her. In Arizona, she regaled visitors with changes in vegetation depending on season and rainfall, and with a discourse on the Saguaro Cactus. The land, including her farm in Vermont and the horses, was a source of sustenance and tranquility. She cherished her Arizona homes for their proximity to the beautiful Tonto and Coronado National Forests, and was drawn to each home for its unique setting. Generous gifts to support land conservation were also made in Arizona.

Sissy enjoyed attending Ausbon Sargent events to learn more about the impact of her gifts. Former board chair Nancy Teach recalls that “the gathering, hayride tour, and barbecue at Star Lake Farm shortly after the land was placed in a conservation easement, was a favorite event that Sissy loved.”

Through a generous bequest, Sissy Wastcoat chose to sustain what was important to her during her lifetime. This legacy places Sissy in the Acorn Society, and will help to ensure that our work of land protection will flourish, now and in the future. Such thoughtful philanthropy is a powerful testament to our mission and her commitment.

We hope that Sissy’s family will take a measure of pride in this wonderful gift, as we warmly remember a remarkable woman. For more information on the Acorn Society and legacy gifts, please contact Debbie Stanley at 603-526-6555 or dstanley@ausbonsargent.org.



***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 (9)
Rich and Heidi Anderson
Theodore D. Bacon, Jr.*
Ann 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 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
Libby Trayner*
Mary-Seymour “Sissy” Wastcoat*
*denotes deceased

Kathy Carroll joined the Ausbon Sargent Board in 2015 and serves as the Chair of the Development Committee. She and her husband, Joe, have lived in the Kearsarge-Lake Sunapee area for 38 years where they raised their two, now adult, children. Kathy thanks Nancy Teach of Andover for sharing her own special memories of Sissy.



THE
AUSBON
SARGENT
LAND
PRESERVATION
TRUST

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"Outstanding in the Field"

STAFF (L-R)

Andy Deegan,
*Land Protection Specialist-
Stewardship Manager*

Peggy Hutter,
Communications Coordinator

Patsy Steverson,
Bookkeeper

Sue Ellen Andrews,
Operations Manager

Kristy Heath,
Development and Administrative Coordinator

Deborah Stanley,
Executive Director

Special Thanks
to all of our guest authors!

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Charlie Foss, *Vice-Chair*
Joseph DiClerico, *Secretary*
Susan Nooney, *Treasurer*

TRUSTEES

Steve Allenby
Kathy Carroll
Peter Fichter
Frances Harris
Nan Kaplan
F. Graham McSwiney
John O'Dowd
Jim Owers
Kiki Schneider
Suzanne Tether

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, become a member or donate on our website at: www.ausbonsargent.org

Please make checks payable to: **Ausbon Sargent** and mail to: **P.O. Box 2040, New London, NH 03257-2040**
or call and use your credit card: **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.

06/16

