

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



Summer 2017



Soaring and **Exploring**

From the Executive Director:



Photo by Douglas K. Hill



We're celebrating 30 years of land conservation in the Mt. Kearsarge/Ragged/Lake Sunapee region! Ausbon Sargent is a vital and vibrant organization. Thanks to generous supporters, we've had some amazing opportunities to learn and grow as a land trust.

We recognize that it is important to periodically spend time on strategic planning to set overall goals. This is an opportunity for the board and staff to step back from day-to-day operations and ask where Ausbon Sargent should be headed and what our priorities should be.

One year ago, the board approved a work plan to take us in the direction of achieving our 2016–2020 strategic plan goals. We have made great progress, especially in regard to our land conservation and stewardship goals. Technological advancements have helped us in evaluating potential conservation projects, documenting a property's attributes, monitoring and recordkeeping.

Ausbon Sargent's conservation strategy is not only to increase conserved acreage, but to identify and conserve critical land. Our Lands Committee was charged with the responsibility and oversight of mapping climate-resilient lands (see page 5). The mapping has been completed and is being incorporated into our assessment of potential conservation projects. What's really exciting is that Ausbon Sargent is in the forefront of this national effort to identify resilient lands so that natural systems can adapt to climate variations and our changing landscape.

Because of our growing stewardship obligation, Ausbon Sargent is committed to annually review the most efficient and effective monitoring resources and strategies. We depend upon 130 volunteers to monitor our properties annually. But we also recognize that some parcels have such difficult topography that it is challenging and unsafe for volunteers to monitor these interior areas. This year Ausbon Sargent has contracted to use drone technology to augment on-the-ground monitoring. Our volunteers will still monitor the perimeters annually and the drone visits will occur every 5-10 years depending upon the size of the property, terrain and degree of forest and agricultural activities that take place on the land.

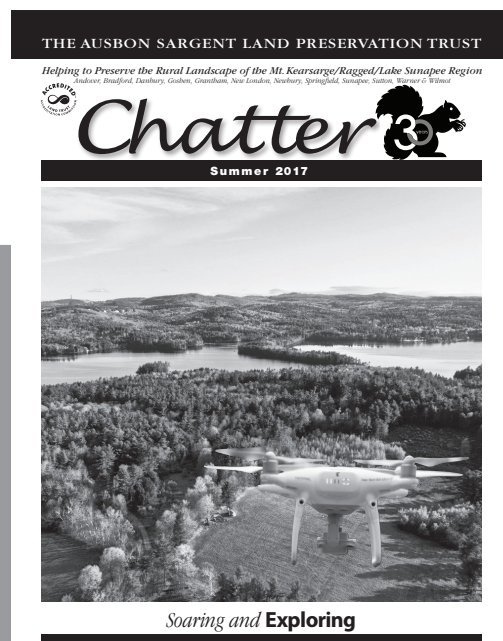
It is rewarding to know that so many people understand and value the benefits of our conserved land. We encourage you to join us this summer in experiencing these special places. You can catch and release dragonflies on Trumbull Pond in Webster, learn about Sunapee's Webb family's forest management practices, tour the actively managed 1,612-acre Star Lake Farm in Springfield or hike the Blitzer 148-acre tree farm in Bradford. We'd love to see you!

Thank you,

Debbie Stanley

ABOUT THE COVER

Read more about our 2017 Summer Chatter theme "Soaring and Exploring" in our special articles on pages 3 and 4. Cover shows Peter Bloch's drone over Little Lake Sunapee. We're excited to be able to use this technology to better monitor our large protected properties.



Soaring and Exploring:



Ausbon W. Sargent, our namesake, plowing a section of his Main Street, New London garden using a hand cultivator.

From New London Archives

Our Mission Continues

by Peggy Hutter

The story of The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust has been shared many times and in many ways in the thirty years since its incorporation. Most who have followed the land trust, or joined in its mission, remember that our namesake was a retired maintenance worker from Colby Junior College (now Colby-Sawyer) named Ausbon W. Sargent.

Ausbon was a native of New London and had attended school at Colby Academy, the building that now houses the New London town offices. At the age of 94, when Ausbon heard that the 3-acre parcel of land surrounding the Academy building was for sale, he spent his life's savings to purchase the land to insure it would not be lost to random development. He then gifted this land, in the heart of New London, to the town with the agreement that nothing, except the Mary Haddad bandstand could be built on the property. For over thirty years, residents and visitors have enjoyed countless activities on what we know as the New London Town Green.

Ausbon W. Sargent could not have known what changes the future might hold, but he did know that he didn't want to lose what he loved then. And that is what drives the land trust to recognize its challenges and consider strategies that help continue its mission. We have a strategic plan and it becomes incumbent upon Executive Director Debbie Stanley, the Board of Trustees and our various committees to execute the plan so we don't lose the landscape we love.

Our Summer 2017 Chatter theme "Soaring and Exploring: Our Mission Continues" speaks to their commitment to this task. In its most basic allusion, our theme became a way to introduce our readers to

our latest technological endeavor. As you'll read in Kristy Heath's article on page 4, Peter Bloch has begun to assist Ausbon Sargent in its efforts to better monitor some of our larger properties with the use of his drone. Because it can soar to 400 feet or hover close to the ground, snapping still photos or filming video, the use of the drone is a significant step for us to better monitor our properties.

Our theme of "Soaring and Exploring: Our Mission Continues" contains an even broader allusion. In the thirty years that it has existed, Ausbon Sargent has continually set its sights high and ahead. From a staff of one, we now have a current staff of six full and part time employees dedicated to the mission. From our first conserved New London property of 6.75 acres in 1988, we now protect 140 properties encompassing 11,145 acres in 12 towns. From word-of-mouth and "snail mail" postings, we now share our information, needs and accomplishments through our website, Facebook, and e-blasts, as well as our traditional mailings.

To the credit of Debbie Stanley, who has been Ausbon Sargent's Executive Director since its inception, and the talented people she surrounds herself with, Ausbon Sargent is continually "soaring and exploring" to continue its mission. It's been said, "procrastination is the art of keeping up with yesterday" (Don Marquis, humorist/author). Ausbon Sargent exhibits the art of moving into the future.

Peggy Hutter joined Ausbon Sargent as the Communications Coordinator in 2011 after retiring from teaching in the Kearsarge Regional School District. She and her husband live in Elkins on a beautiful road displaying some of Ausbon Sargent's great work.



Peter Bloch launching his drone at the Nelson property on Burpee Hill.

Photo by Debbie Stanley



Peter Bloch took this still shot of Star Lake Farm looking east with his drone.

Technology Provides a “Bird’s-Eye” View

by Kristy Heath

It was said by the famous photographer, Ansel Adams that “A good photograph is knowing where to stand.” While seemingly simple in concept, there is a lot of truth behind his words. Where a photograph is taken from, or what the perspective is, is something a photographer can manipulate and change to provide the viewer with a story without using words. As the viewer, we fill in the blanks. We come up with the 1,000 words every picture has been deemed worthy of. For us at Ausbon Sargent, we may want to change Adams’ words a bit to say, “A good photograph is knowing where to fly.”

Since late March, Ausbon Sargent has been working with New London native Peter Bloch on a change in perspective. Peter, a renowned woodturner for the past 40 years, has taken up a new creative endeavor, which encompasses his love of flying, his appreciation of nature, and his artistic eye. After much research and training, Peter has created a company called **EarthAerial Productions** (<https://earthaerialproductions.com>) where he enlists the use of drone technology to capture images that once only those with wings could enjoy. With both a commercial license and insurance, Peter has the ability to assist the Land Trust in our monitoring activities.

Because Ausbon Sargent is an accredited land trust, we are bound by guidelines that require yearly monitoring of properties to insure against encroachment, illegal logging, construction, or other exclud-

ed activities cited in the conservation easement deed language. While we are fortunate to have the assistance of about 130 volunteers who walk the boundaries of our 140 properties by foot each year, there are about 40 properties that, because of their size or topography, are difficult to monitor. Because this technology is now available to support our volunteers monitoring by foot, and because it is an amazing opportunity to uphold our stewardship commitment to the highest degree, it is planned, pending grant funding, that Ausbon Sargent get aerial baselines done for the 40 parcels as soon as possible.

So far, we have been thrilled with the stunning imagery that Peter has provided to us, showcasing some of our special places. We look forward to this relationship between Ausbon Sargent and EarthAerial Productions. Without a doubt, the use of this cutting edge technology in conservation is exciting and will be extremely helpful to us.

Kristy celebrates her second year with Ausbon Sargent this July and has enjoyed getting to know the members and friends of ASLPT along the way. “Summertime” is synonymous with “camping” in the Heath family, who has already planned adventures in the lakes region and in Maine for early summer. Kristy and her family reside in Springfield, NH where they have made their home for the past 16 years.



facebook

Help by “Liking” us on Facebook and inviting your friends to “Like” us, too!

Having you like us on Facebook is a great way for us to get more exposure, cultivate relationships and communicate with our audience. Whether it is an upcoming hike or a recently protected property, our Facebook friends can see what is going on with Ausbon Sargent.

If you like one of our posts, that is a great start, but more importantly, we would like you to “Like” our Page. You can do this by searching for Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust, opening our page and then clicking on the thumbs-up icon. That is all you have to do! Then you will be able to see the pictures we post of properties or activities that are important to us on your newsfeed. When you like one of our posts, your friends will see it and our message will start to spread!

Land Conservation in a Changing Climate

by Steve Allenby

Those of you who grew up in the area may have noticed that when you were young the winters seemed colder and storms and flooding did not seem so extreme, or perhaps so common. At least that's what you tell your grandchildren!

Well, it turns out that in this case you were not exaggerating. A 2014 University of New Hampshire study found that since 1895, various climate indicators have changed dramatically. For example, the growing season has increased between two and five weeks in the state, ice out on Lake Sunapee is on average two weeks earlier, and snow cover in Hanover lasts on average two weeks less. Extreme rain events, defined as four inches of rain in forty eight hours, have increased four to ten times depending on the location of the weather station in the state.

Even more concerning is the finding that the pace of change of these climate indicators has been three to five times faster in the past forty years than it was from 1895-2012.

We may disagree on the causes of climate change, but it is real and is occurring at an increasingly rapid pace. Historically, Ausbon Sargent, through its Lands Committee, has evaluated the benefits of the land it has considered preserving from several perspectives including the NH Wildlife Action Plan, Town Master Plans, forest types and state-wide significant or prime agricultural soils.

This past spring, Ausbon Sargent, building on work of the Land Trust Alliance, The Open Space Institute, The Nature Conservancy and others, has begun to incorporate climate resiliency/adaptation as criteria for evaluating land it is looking to conserve.

The Open Space Institute and North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative have created a guide to help land trusts in the Northeast evaluate land conservation from the perspective of climate resilience. They define climate resilience in the following way:

Climate resilience is the specific set of conditions that make systems better able to cope with the changes caused by a warming planet. Specifically, climate resilience demonstrates how the land's specific characteristics can mitigate the effects of changing climate and weather patterns, such as gradual increases in temperature, changes in precipitation (both wetter and drier weather) and more severe and frequent storms. By definition, resilient sites are better able to tolerate these disruptions, and will require fewer interventions to restore species diversity and support natural recovery processes.

As pointed out in the guide, resilient land is not invincible, but is better able to recover from disturbances and climate related stresses. The goal is described in the Guide as:

To permanently conserve a network of connected and biologically intact habitats representing the diversity of physical landscape features.

To accomplish this goal Ausbon Sargent will consider 1) the physical diversity of the land, such as geology and landforms, 2) whether the land is connected to other conserved land, both locally and regionally, and 3) the biological diversity of the land, such as its existing diversity of plant and animal species. Continually improving satellite imagery as well as extensive local knowledge of our twelve towns allows us to develop an overlay for our maps that incorporates the criteria needed to determine the climate resilience of lands we are looking to protect. We have implemented this new mapping program and have begun applying climate resilience as new criteria when evaluating which land to conserve.

The climate resilience overlay will be added to existing overlays that we have historically used to prioritize land we wished to conserve. Such existing overlays were developed using many resources including the Quabbin to Cardigan maps, NH Fish & Game Department's unfragmented habitat coverage on GRANIT, and the 2011 Colby-Sawyer Natural Resources Inventory report and maps. While we expect the old and new overlays will identify much of the same land, we also anticipate our focus being drawn to different areas.



Photo by Sue Andrews

Owen Krol created maps of resilient lands in the 12-town region that Ausbon Sargent represents.

We would like to thank recent Colby-Sawyer graduate Owen Krol for his knowledge and mapping ability in creating the climate resilient map overlay for us. Owen spent 20 hours on this important mapping project and we are most appreciative of his skills and comprehensive efforts.

Steve is a member of the Ausbon Sargent Board and Chair of the Lands Committee. When he is not biking, biking and playing with his grandchildren, Steve is involved with developing and financing energy efficiency and solar projects and consults with the utility industry and the Federal government regarding improving their energy security.



The Wendell Marsh Expansion project will protect even more of the Wendell Marsh along Route 11.

Wendell Marsh Expansion

by Andy Deegan

Wendell Marsh in Sunapee has been an area of conservation focus for Ausbon Sargent for several years now. This area, surrounding the 11-acre Wendell Marsh Wildlife Management Area protected by New Hampshire Fish & Game in the 1960s, was identified as a high priority for conservation by the Town of Sunapee due to its pristine wetland habitat for waterfowl, wading birds, and other wildlife, as well as for water quality protection. In 2013, Ausbon Sargent partnered with the Town of Sunapee to complete the 136-acre Wendell Marsh North project. In 2015 we again partnered with Sunapee to protect an additional 143 acres in this area, the Wendell Marsh South project. There is still important wetland and upland habitat in this watershed and we are now embarking on a new project working with the Town of Sunapee to protect just under 40 acres of undeveloped land that includes a significant portion of the marsh habitat.

Before we can close the newest Wendell Marsh project, or any project, there are several steps that we need to complete. The property has to be surveyed so that we know exactly where the boundaries are and how much land will be put into conservation. The survey is also important if there are any utility easements or rights of way over the property, as it is important to know where they are located. Thankfully, the newest Wendell Marsh property has already been surveyed. Next, we have to complete a title search, which will tell ASLPT which parties have an interest in the property (liens, mortgages, etc.). With this information, we can determine whether the title is clear for a conservation easement to be conveyed to Ausbon Sargent. The title search is currently underway for the Wendell Marsh Expansion project.

The next step in the process is to conduct a hazardous waste assessment. Most properties do not have hazardous waste issues, but because hazardous waste can be underground and “invisible” to the untrained eye, we always hire a professional to determine the likelihood of hazardous waste contamination. This is done through a combination of record searches and field work on the property itself. In the unlikely event that hazardous waste is identified, we would work with the landowner to clean it up before protecting the property.

The last step in the process is an appraisal. Land trusts like Ausbon Sargent typically do not pay more than fair market value for the land or conservation easements they purchase. To figure out what this fair market value is, we need an appraisal completed by an appraiser who meets strict IRS criteria. Often landowners are willing to donate easements on their lands, or sell them to us at a “bargain sale” or less than fair market value. In these cases, we still need an appraisal, especially if the landowner is hoping to take a tax deduction for the value of the donation. For the Wendell Marsh Expansion project, the appraisal is already underway and we hope to know the land and conservation easement value by mid-June. When all of these steps have been completed, Ausbon Sargent is ready to fundraise for the project and prepare for the closing as we work towards celebrating our next conservation success story!

We are thankful to have the opportunity to work with the Town of Sunapee Conservation Commission on another conservation project surrounding Wendell Marsh. Without the help of towns and other conservation organizations in our region, Ausbon Sargent would not be able to protect as much land as we do every year. If you have questions about the process of conserving land, or any conservation project in particular, our staff is always happy to explain the details. Be on the lookout for updates this summer about our progress on the Wendell Marsh Expansion project!

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



Trumbull Pond in Warner where we will hold our summer Dragonfly Walk. See calendar on page 14.

MEMORIAM



Sue Clough during her years as an Ausbon Sargent Trustee.

Ruth "Sue" Ingersoll Clough

When a person touches the lives of so many people in so many facets of life, the sense of loss from their passing is magnified. Sue Clough passed away on December 19, 2016 in Newport, NH at the age of 73. Sue and her husband, John, were married for 52 years and raised four daughters together. They were well-known in New London and surrounding towns as the nearly 30-year owners of Spring Ledge Farm. Sue was a founding board member of Ausbon Sargent in 1987, and in 1991, she and John dedicated 53 acres of Spring Ledge Farm to a perpetual easement to forever preserve this in-town farm.

Sue was extremely civic-minded. She volunteered for numerous town committees including the Zoning Board, the Planning Board, Budget Committee, Conservation Commission, Citizen's Advisory Committee and she served an 8-year position on the New London Board of Selectmen.

Sue's interest in agriculture and conservation extended well beyond Spring Ledge Farm. She was instrumental in the transfer of her grandfather's 171-acre property in southern NH to the Society for the Protection of NH Forests, now known as the Bockes Memorial Forest. Sue was also appointed to the NH Agricultural Advisory Committee for a 3-year term, the first woman to serve, and also served for ten years on the NH Lands Committee.

Sue's dedication was also felt by her church family. She was very involved with mentoring, ministering and committee work at the St. Andrews Episcopal Church.

With her service and influence extending so broadly, it is no wonder that Sue brightened and enlightened the lives of so many. Her Ausbon Sargent family certainly feels the loss.



Steven W. Youngs, D.O.

In May of 2010, Steven Youngs and his wife, Susan, granted a 235-acre conservation easement to Ausbon Sargent. The property includes part of the headwaters of the Schoodac Brook watershed, which Ausbon Sargent and The Nature Conservancy had been collaborating to protect since 2004.

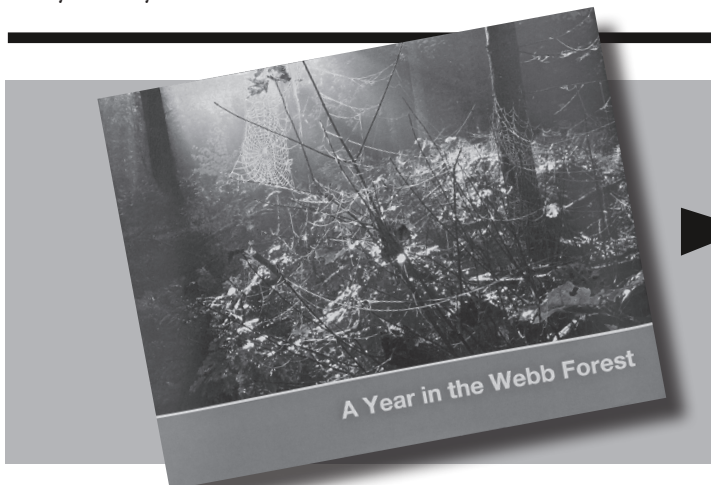
On January 22, 2017 Steven died in a fire at his home on this Ausbon Sargent easement property on Little Hill Road in Webster. He was 61-years old. Steven's BS and Master's degrees were in the field of geology. After a decade-long career in hydrogeology, he went back to school to become a doctor. Steven practiced in Franklin and Laconia and was the Medical Director of HealthFirst Family Care Center.

He had many hobbies, most of which involved his joy of living in the country in a 200-year old colonial: wood carving, cider pressing, gardening, maple sugar producing and home brewing. Steven was beloved by family, friends and his patients for his kind and gentle nature and his wonderful sense of humor.

Think of Ausbon Sargent When You Hike One of Our Protected Properties

Ausbon Sargent volunteer easement monitor Susan Mitchell of Sunapee loves to walk with her dogs and her friends in the Webb Forest. She ventures onto their trails nearly every morning. Sue says, "It is how I renew my spirit and get energized for the day ahead of me." Sue's hobby also happens to be using her love of photography to capture special moments in the woods.

This year, Sue presented Ausbon Sargent with a book she compiled from photos she took on the Webb Forest trails. It is a beautiful book that we proudly display in our office. Thank you, Sue. We would love to have others, both landowners and visitors to our Ausbon Sargent properties, take some photos in all seasons. Our library of photos is aging and we would appreciate receiving some of your current photographs to help us update it. Maybe you'll even see your photo on the home page banner of our website.





The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust

Membership & Gifts



Membership, Annual Fund and Gifts are from June 1, 2016 to June 1, 2017. 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, ~ denotes members who increased their gift. 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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Facts about Clark Woods Conservation Easement

Town: Bradford
Location: Rowe Mountain Road
Total Acreage: 66 acres

- The property protects the scenic view for people traveling on Rowe Mountain Road.
- The property is near other protected land including Low State Forest, Battles Farm, Blitzer (Center Road) and Blitzer (Rowe Mountain Road).
- The property protects streams and wetlands.
- The property can be managed for forestry and agriculture and has highly ranked forestry soils.
- The property will be open to the public for low impact recreation.
- The property is highly ranked for wildlife habitat in the 2015 NH Wildlife Action Plan.

Protecting the George Clark Woods in Bradford

by Gary Clark

Why is it so important to me to protect this property?
There are many reasons, but three stand out.

First of all, I can't think of a better way to pay tribute to my late father, George Clark. A city boy from Connecticut, he went off to college at Dartmouth and fell in love with New Hampshire. He purchased this land in 1958 and then poured his energy into restoring the old farmhouse (the Bradford poor farm in earlier times), building a retirement home for my mother and himself, and creating trails to reach every corner of the property. He loved sharing this land with others for cook-outs and recreation and was proud to pass it along to his five children. It is a tremendous honor to protect the George Clark Woods through Ausbon Sargent in tribute to his loving stewardship of the property. The area to be protected is approximately 66 acres.

The second reason for protecting this property lies in its intrinsic value. Every piece of land holds its own wonders and is beautiful in its own right, but not every piece of land offers such diversity as this: streams and vernal pools, lowlands and highlands, wetlands and drylands, a mature mixed forest, all of it bounded and crisscrossed by magnificent stonewalls. It provides habitat and safe passage for all manner of New Hampshire wildlife, and it is only two or three properties distant from other important conservation areas on all sides (both Blitzer easements, the Battles Farm easement, and Low State Forest). It contains an endless number of special places: the Pine Grove, the Pantwetter Trail, the Reading Rock, the Japanese Garden, Beulah's Knoll, Grandfather Tree, and on and on.

A third compelling reason to protect this property, or any pristine property, has to do with the fickleness of land policy, at the federal level and also locally. For me it was a shock and a huge disappointment when the local zoning board chose to green-light a junkyard proposal on an adjacent, equally pristine property. A conservation easement is both a line of defense and a small gift to our planet, and I am grateful to Ausbon Sargent for making such a gift possible.

Gary Clark is a French translator and a tree-bugger. He and his late husband, David Holland, built their house on this property in 1992 and this has been home ever since.

“What is the value of my land?”

by Bob Brown

Many folks may think of land value only as a number starting with a “\$.”

Land Value definition: the value of a property including all improvements and upgrades. It is estimated in accordance to location, socioeconomics, government regulations, desirability for residents as a place to live, proximity to schools and recreational facilities, roadway accessibility, and distance to retail establishments.

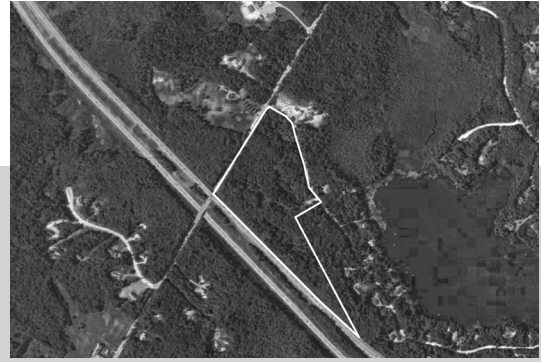
While working and attending night school in 1959, residing in the north side of Boston suburbs and working weekends as a ski patrolman in eastern NH, I would have thought the above definition quite accurate and complete.

I was soon introduced to the New London area by a fellow ski patrol friend who had shared my interest in hiking and general outdoor activities. Within a year, I purchased my first parcel of land on Messer Pond. Some friends and acquaintances thought that this was a big mistake. “A 20-year-old is too young to buy land.” “How do you know that the land is really worth anything?” “You are just a kid who can’t even buy a beer, legally at least.” So on it went, with the purchase of more back land on Messer Pond and the start of building my first home, stick by stick.

After meeting my now wife Sandy, another city dweller, it became clear that moving to New London was a high priority, along with figuring out employment options in the Dartmouth-Lake Sunapee Region. When Interstate 89 came through the area, it presented both a blessing and a curse for many residents. Who wants a major highway in their back yard? However, without it, employment opportunities would be more complicated.

One result of I-89 and the division of Willow Farm was the clear separation of the Tracy Farm side and the Messer Pond development. Two parcels, one 20 acres and the other 30 acres, that bordered the highway and abutted our land became available for sale. It was a difficult financial decision but offered additional land to expand our “Hobby Farm,” which resembled a small replica of Noah’s Ark, minus the ark. Our two young children enjoyed raising many different animals: chickens, milking goats, sheep and riding horses, to name only a few—a wonderful experience for them. The land further provided an opportunity for forest management including two very selective harvests. I became very interested in forestry and land preservation. After retirement I became an Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust (ASLPT) easement monitor and applied for appointment to the New London Conservation Commission (NLCC). Now in my 4th term, this has been an extremely rewarding experience, meeting many land owners who really care about conservation and protecting important lands for the future. There have been many accomplishments, along with a few disappointments, but New London is gradually gaining conserved land.

The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests’ (SPNHF), New Hampshire Everlasting Initiative recommends that a community conserve at least 25 percent of their lands. New London is about 18 percent, complicated by having no state forests or parks within the Town.



Facts about the **Brown** *Conservation Easement*

Town: New London

**Location: Forest Acres Road,
County Road and Interstate 89**

Total Acreage: 20 acres

- The property protects the scenic view for people traveling on Forest Acres Road, County Road and Interstate 89.
- The property is near other protected land on Messer Pond and Clark Pond.
- The property protects streams and wetlands as well as protects the water quality of Messer Pond.
- The property can be managed for forestry and agriculture and has highly ranked forestry soils.
- The property will be open to the public for low impact recreation.

Over our 50+ years of living in New London, Sandy and I have learned to really appreciate what this part of New Hampshire has to offer, as have our children. The question, “What is the value of my land?” has a very different meaning now. Our 20-acre parcel on County Road between I-89 and Messer Pond does have significant value to us and is far more important than the dollars that a house lot project may bring. We feel that this forested wetland parcel is an important land that will help filter the large volume of storm water flow off of the interstate highway and better protect the Messer Pond water quality. Therefore, we have decided to donate a conservation easement to Ausbon Sargent on this property so that it will remain an undeveloped forest land.

“We do not inherit the land from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.” --Native American Proverb

Bob Brown is the Chairman of the New London Conservation Commission. He and his wife, Sandy, live in New London where they raised their two grown children.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Through December 2017

July

Dragonfly Walk at the Courser Trumbull Pond Easement in Webster - Join Andy Deegan for a fun, inter-generational afternoon of netting, observing and releasing dragonflies and damselflies.

Thursday, July 13, 2017 2:00-4:00 pm

Hike the Webb Forest - Van and Tyler Webb will lead this hike and share their forestry management plan for their 370-acre Webb Forest Preserve on Harding Hill in Sunapee. You're sure to enjoy this beautiful easement.

Tuesday, July 25, 2017 2:00 pm-4:00 pm

August

Star Lake Farm Tour - Forester, Jeffrey Snitkin of Bay State Forestry Service will lead a tour on this spectacular 1,612-acre Star Lake Farm property in Springfield.

Tuesday, August 1 2:00-4:00 pm

Hike on the Blitzler Easement in Bradford - To honor John and Amy Blitzler and their passion for this property, Land Protection Specialist Andy Deegan will be leading a hike on their trails on August 15th.

Tuesday, August 15 2:00-4:00 pm

September

6th Annual Kearsarge Klassic Bike Randonnee - Join us for our 6th year of fun and fundraising as riders bike over miles of scenic backroads passing many Ausbon Sargent protected properties.

Saturday, September 9, 2017 An All-day Event

The Once and Future Forests of New England: Climate and Our Changing Landscape - Hank Art, PhD and a Professor of Biology at Williams College will be our guest speaker. Read more in the box on this page.

Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:00 pm

October

Ausbon Sargent Annual Meeting - We invite all members to join us for our Annual Meeting held each year at the New London Historical Society on Little Sunapee Road.

Sunday, October 22, 2017 3:00 pm

December

Ausbon Sargent Holiday Party - This "members only" event at the New London Inn is a highlight of the holiday season.

Monday, December 4, 2017 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 by contacting Kristy Heath at 526-6555 or kheath@ausbonsargent.org

Photos by Peggy Huttler



On Wednesday, June 7, 2017, Ausbon Sargent celebrated its 30th year as a land trust by hosting a "Party on the Common."

Folks brought their own blankets and lawn chairs and enjoyed music by the Kearsarge Community Band and listened as Debbie Stanley and David Kidder shared stories about our namesake, Ausbon W. Sargent.

The Barn Playhouse presented excerpts from their Summer 2017 season, a real treat. It was so much fun to have the KRES-NL students take part in this celebration.

The 3-acre New London Town Common is protected forever, so it is important that our children understand the special gift that Ausbon W. Sargent gave to us all.



The Once and Future Forests of New England: Climate and Our Changing Landscape

Wheeler Hall, Colby-Sawyer College

Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:00-8:30 pm

Hank Art, PhD and Professor of Biology at Williams College since 1970 will be our guest speaker for this very timely presentation. Dr. Art teaches courses in Ecology, Field Botany and Plant Natural History, and Environmental Planning. His research includes his long-term ecological studies completed in the Williams College-owned Hopkins Memorial Forest. A main focus of Dr. Art's work is studying the relationship between land uses and the dynamics posed by the ecosystem. Art earned his undergraduate degree from Dartmouth College and his PhD from Yale.

Bringing Clarity to Your Giving

by Diane Robbins

First off, let me say that I'm a great believer in philanthropy and supporting those organizations that align with my thinking and passions. I have come to appreciate all that Ausbon Sargent does in assisting with the preservation of local properties for all to enjoy, either through hiking the beautiful trails, or just enjoying the true beauty of undeveloped land. As many of you are loyal supporters yourselves, I would like to add my appreciation for your support this past year. Thank You!

As a new member of the Development Committee at Ausbon Sargent, I know that we give you many opportunities to support Ausbon Sargent; a membership request early in the year, and then a second opportunity to support the Annual Fund. Have you ever wondered why we ask you twice, and what the difference is between the two? If so, you may not be alone, and perhaps I can shed some light on the difference and why we ask twice.

We count on your membership to provide the foundation needed to sustain the organization and provide stability. Of course we count on new memberships and increased membership levels to help us grow. In the spring, we send an Annual Fund appeal request. Did you know that with the acceptance of each new property, there are associated expenses, such as survey, title and deed work, and hazardous waste assessment? Your Annual Fund gift directly supports these costs each year. I hope this helps to clarify the relationship between Membership and the Annual Fund appeals. However you choose to support Ausbon Sargent, make your gift your way and know that it will make a difference.

Diane and her husband have enjoyed being easement monitors for the past few years since retiring here in 2015. They love exploring the area and feel pride that they have Ausbon Sargent there to help ensure the preservation and protection of the beauty of this region. Diane Robbins is a member of the Development Committee for Ausbon Sargent.

**Consider visiting us for a tour of our 1,612-acre
Star Lake Farm on Tuesday, August 1st.
"We can't wait to see you!"**



*See our calendar
on page 14.*



*If you have already
named the Ausbon Sargent
Land Preservation Trust
in your estate plan and
would like to become
a member of
The Acorn Society,
please let us know.*

*If you would
like more information,
feel free to call the
Ausbon Sargent office at
603-526-6555*

*or email
dstanley@ausbonsargent.org*

*Members who prefer
not to be recognized
can remain anonymous.*

*The individuals listed below have
notified us that they
have provided for Ausbon
Sargent in their estate plans.*

Mr. and Mrs. James D. Abbott*

Anonymous (10)

Rich and Heidi Anderson

Theodore S. Bacon, Jr.*

Ann C. Bemis*

Catherine Bogardus*

Roland P. Carreker*

Michael and Susan Chiarella

Rick Cole*

Naia L. Conrad*

Chris and Janice Cundey

Tim and Lorraine Davis

Joe and Laurie DiClerico

Neil Donnenfeld

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

Rachel and Myron* Rosenblum

John and Sage Scott

John and Nancy Denny Solodar

Virginia Anthony Soule*

Peter and Debbie Stanley

Libby Trayner*

Betsy Denny Warner

Mary-Seymour "Sissy" Wastcoat*

**denotes deceased*



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

STAFF (L-R)

Deborah Stanley,
Executive Director

Sue Ellen Andrews,
Operations Manager

Andy Deegan,
*Land Protection Specialist -
Stewardship Manager*

Peggy Hutter,
Communications Coordinator

Patsy Steverson,
Bookkeeper

Kristy Heath,
*Development and
Administrative Coordinator*

The Ausbon Sargent staff enjoys having their Chatter photo taken
on the Kidder-Cleveland Trail by Peter Bloch and his drone.



OFFICERS

Doug Lyon, *Chair*

Charlie Foss, *Vice-Chair*

Joseph DiClerico, *Secretary*

Susan Nooney, *Treasurer*

TRUSTEES

Steve Allenby

Kathy Carroll

Peter Fichter

Frances Harris

Martha McLeod

F. Graham McSwiney

John O'Dowd

Jim Owers

Kiki Schneider

Suzanne Tether

Special Thanks to all of our guest authors!
Newsletter layout & design by Lee T. Morrill, On Track Design

Won't you become a Member?

Won't you join us and become part of the living legacy created through land conservation?

You can find out more about us on our website at: www.ausbonsargent.org

Please make checks payable to: **Ausbon Sargent** and mail to: **P.O. Box 2040, New London, NH 03257-2040**

or make your secure donation on the Ausbon Sargent website or over the phone at: **603.526.6555**

☐ \$10,000+ Ausbon Sargent Society

☐ \$5,000+ Legacy Circle

☐ \$2,500+ Leadership Circle

☐ \$1,000+ Benefactor

☐ \$500+ Patron

☐ \$250+ Steward

☐ \$150+ Protector

☐ \$60+ Advocate

☐ Other \$ _____



Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

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

07/17

