

THE AUSBON SARGENT LAND PRESERVATION TRUST

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



CHATTER

Winter 2009



View from the ASLPT protected Clark Lookout showing Blye Hill (center left) and Mt. Sunapee (right) at the south end of Lake Sunapee. This is the landscape described in Board member Laura Alexander's article "Our Sense of Place." Photo is of the original pastel by Cindy House (www.thebanksgallery.com).

Our Sense of Place:

How our attachment to land depends on access

My sense of place began when my family moved to Newbury in 1967, just before my eighth birthday. Traveling up Rollins Road to our new home site, I learned that the narrow wheel tracks, barely wide enough for my Dad's pickup, were made by horse and buggy. And the horse, Molly, belonged to Willy Rollins, one of the Rollins of Rollins Road. Willy lived in the only house left on that road, and a clause in my parent's deed provided

him life tenancy. Our house would sit on the knoll where Willy's horse Molly used to graze.

Willy lived alone, in the shell of his former home with no indoor plumbing or electricity. His right leg was about four inches shorter than his left. He walked bent over, reaching behind his right knee with his right hand to lift that leg and pull it forward. Though his gait was slow, my brother and I couldn't keep up with

him during his daily chores. Willy lived in one room of his house – drying home grown beans upstairs and storing wood in his former bedroom. When we drove past his house, Willy would sit forward in his chair by the window and wave, his gnarled fingers a straight-up salute. Our young family and our television fascinated him. Certainly his self-contained and self-sustaining world fascinated my brother and me.

by Laura Alexander

(continued on page 2)



From the Executive Director:

I confess to being the last writer to submit an article to our newsletter editor for this winter 2009 edition of Chatter. I held off to be sure I reported accurately about the ASLPT's financial position.

Like many non-profits, we've been concerned about the current global financial situation and how it

will impact the ASLPT. Will our supporters cut back or will they respond with even greater commitment and generosity? History has shown us that some of our nation's greatest conservation treasures were preserved during difficult economic times.

Traditionally, the month of December is when we receive the most contributions, but this is certainly not a typical year. During the first five months (July – November) of our fiscal year, we were running on budget. December was a different story and by mid-month we were running behind. As January nears, what we have learned is to never underestimate the generosity of our members. While we are still slightly behind, the fact is that our members value land conservation and consider the ASLPT a worthy cause. Scenic views, sustainable farms, forests, undeveloped shorelines and natural areas contribute to our physical and mental well-being. Conserved lands are part of New Hampshire's economy and provide recreation, comfort and solace through good and bad economic times.

We hope that as you read Chatter, you'll be inspired to

continue to invest in the ASLPT. We still have 6 months to go to our June 30th fiscal year-end. If you have not joined the ASLPT for FY 09, we ask that you consider doing so today. In March, the ASLPT will encourage you to also give to our Annual Preservation Fund. Since the ASLPT is supported solely by memberships and donations, your support is of great importance to us.

As a member of the ASLPT, in calendar year 2008, you helped conserve eight properties, including our 100th project. Integrated into your rural landscape forever are the following conservation easement properties: Baptist Pond Trust, 6.52 acres, Springfield; Town of Sutton - Russell Pond, 8.48 acres; Thad and Virginia Johnson, 92 acres, Sutton Mills; Shadow Hill Woodlot – Lorraine and Tim Davis, 50 acres, Sutton; Bradford Bog / Bradford Hotel & Springs, 177.8 acres; and Courser Phase 3 - three separate conservation easements, 440 acres, Warner and Webster. In early January 2009, we anticipate closing on two New London properties and one Georges Mills property.

In closing, I'd like to thank my hard working co-workers, our committed trustees and our dedicated volunteers at Ausbon Sargent. I'm especially grateful to our generous supportive members who sustain the land trust. And on behalf of present and future generations, a heartfelt thank you to all the willing landowners who love their land and recognize that their actions will preserve our rural landscapesevermore.

Thank you all,

“...whatever shape nature takes, it offers each child an older, larger world separate from parents. Unlike television, nature doesn't steal time; it amplifies it. ...In nature, a child finds freedom, fantasy, and privacy: a place distant from the adult world, a separate peace.”

Richard Louv, Last Child in the Woods

(continued from page 1)

My younger brother, Colin, and I became intrepid explorers of the world beyond our driveway. Some days we turned left where our driveway met the road, passing the sign warning, “Closed subject to gates and bars.” Swallowed by the forest, this old road provided an exciting path into and through the woods. Near the sign was an old granite slab foundation, filled with moss and growing trees where rooms used to be. We imagined we were the first people to explore this hill, and finding a huge pile of sawdust deep in the woods didn't spoil that vision for us. We didn't make a connection between that sawdust pile and recent human activity – to us it was a place to dig holes in the summer or in late fall to slide down its frozen sides in our sneakers before the deep snow buried it. Further along, beyond an old cemetery, the road came to a “T” and, not knowing which way to go from there, we usually turned around and headed back home. The one time we did go beyond it, my error in judgment meant a long walk home from South Newbury along paved

Routes 103 and 103A – all the while my brother chewing me out for getting us lost.

On other days we'd turn right at the end of the driveway and walk along Rollins Road - visiting with Willy, throwing rocks into the brook, and yelling to each other through the culvert on the way to what we called “the sharp corner.” Willy told us that he used to go to school in a building on that corner that was now just forest. Farther along the road we found more cellar holes, lilac bushes, apple trees and a grassy area perfect for resting while staring into the small, tadpole filled, mucky bottomed pond we discovered. Or, we might take another spur trail that went off the road to the right climbing relentlessly uphill to a small, rocky clearing where we could see Mt. Sunapee and part of Lake Sunapee - known to others as “Sunset Hill.”

These were the days of my childhood. Each summer day was about choosing left or right at the end of the driveway with only one goal- to return home in time for supper. It never occurred to us to pack a lunch on our daily jaunts because there

(continued from page 2) were always wild berries and tart, wild apples to eat. When we were thirsty we would stick our faces in a brook and drink the clear, cold water.

Is it any wonder that I am deeply attached to our northern hardwood forest - it is “my” woods. I know its smells, sounds, and what it feels like in every season. As a grownup I learned the names of the plants and animals that I already “knew” intimately. To feel whole, I need to spend part of each day outside, checking-in with these woods for comfort, joy and balance. It is no wonder I was drawn to a career teaching college students about the environment – committed to helping them cultivate a sense of place like the one that defines who I am.

I moved from my childhood home the fall after I graduated from high school, at the same time that dump trucks started making several trips a day beyond my driveway – to the place where Colin and I turned left to play in the woods. When I returned to visit 10 years later, I heard people describe the beautiful views now seen from these cleared house sites on the side of the hill that I never saw from within the forest where I played. Nothing was familiar in this new landscape of roads, driveways, and lawns. I felt like a trespasser in this land that I had freely roamed as a child.

Another 10 years later, as a student in graduate school, I returned to the other “turn” at the end of my childhood driveway– the woods located off the sharp corner. I hadn’t been to this forest for about twenty years and I longed to revisit it with the perspective of an environmental studies student – I especially wanted to see if the area around the pond was still a grassy knoll or had reverted to forest. My former pond was a dry depression in the ground and there was evidence all around that the beavers had moved downstream. The stumps were theirs and the standing dead snags were the trees they drowned – evidence that this area was flooded for years before they ate themselves out of house and home. I had plenty of material for my “Plant Communities” paper, but I was also overwhelmed by a sense that I had returned home. Though this forest had changed naturally - it was still “my” forest. How grateful I felt that I could wander here freely once again because this land remained undeveloped - protected by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests since 1960.

You see, I grew up roaming what is known as the Hay Reservation. Land ownership had no meaning to me as a child. And certainly I had no idea that the two forests at the end of my childhood driveway would change so drastically due to something I now understand as public access. I am truly thankful to the Hay family for having the foresight to conserve their land so it would remain unchanged except by natural forces.

My doctoral dissertation, started nearly 30 years after leaving “my” woods on the southeast side of Lake Sunapee, is informed by my deep attachment to the land. No doubt this led me to explore how others are connected to place, and specifically

to learn the meaning of the land for long-term Coös County residents in northern New Hampshire. I suspect I chose this region because its forests and people speak to me about my childhood. It is a place that remains sparsely populated and undeveloped. People like Willy Rollins still inhabit the Great North Woods. But they are in the midst of a significant change to their economic base, and I wanted to explore if this change



Laura Alexander wandered onto Sunset Hill following the old roads from her childhood home on Blye Hill in Newbury. In 1999, the ASLPT with the Forest Society raised the funds necessary to purchase 37 acres on the north side of Sunset Hill. Once slated for an 18 unit condominium, it is now part of the Hay Forest as well as a permanent tribute to New London conservationist William Kidder Jr.

photo: Nancy Lyon

would affect how they interacted with the land and if that would affect their well-being. My dissertation research revealed five themes of meaning that the land holds for these people. The land provides stability; it is restorative; it is where people experience spirituality; it provides sustenance; and it fosters development and expression of ecological identity. These themes resonate with me, as well as others I’ve talked to, and further study may reveal that they are widely-held meanings.

An important finding in my research was that the key to maintaining attachment to lands is access. A question I explored with research participants was, “What, if anything, could diminish your attachment for a place once it was formed?” The answer, overwhelmingly, was development. This is not to say that land should not be developed – on the contrary, I believe it is possible to thoughtfully plan land use in a way that balances human housing needs, healthy working forests, ecological habitat, drinking water resources, working farms, and scenic resources. It is important to recognize, however, that protecting properties in perpetuity and allowing access to land provides something equally as important in our lives–the psychological well-being realized through our attachment to the land.

Laura Alexander is an Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies at Colby-Sanvier College. Her recently completed PhD dissertation titled “Meaning of place: exploring long-term residents’ attachment to the physical environment in northern New Hampshire” can be accessed here: http://rave.ohiolink.edu/etdc/view.cgi?acc_num=antioch1219972881. She is active in the ASLPT as a Trustee, member of the Lands Committee, chair of the Outreach Committee and an easement monitor.

A Walk In Our Woods

92 acres, Sutton Mills

It's amazing how land fires the imagination and engenders the desire to preserve it. This happened in my family.

In 1955, my father looked forward to retirement from General Motors and dreamed of a farm in New England. He invited my husband, Thad, and me to search for his farm since we lived in Cambridge, Massachusetts and he lived in Michigan. With the help of a Strout Realty agent, Thad and I spent a Saturday visiting many properties all over Vermont and New Hampshire without much luck. As we neared the end of the day with dusk upon us, the realtor suggested we stop at a place close to our return route. The property had some land with it, he said, and was located in a village. Even though it was getting dark, we looked (mostly with flashlights since the electricity was not turned on) and liked what we saw. We called my father from the realtor's office to tell him that we had found his "farm" and urged him to buy it. He did! For us, this was the beginning of the last 53 years in Sutton Mills.

The first thing my father did was to build a "conservation pond" out of some low-lying ground near the house. In the 50's, such ponds were promoted by the federal government. After a decade of summer vacations making the house livable while fighting the black flies and other creatures that he and my mother were unaccustomed to, they returned to their original home state of Virginia. In 1970, Thad and I together with our four children landed in Sutton for a respite between jobs in South America. We fit right in and decided to stay. In 1986, we purchased an adjoining 76-acre parcel of woodland.

Being a soils engineer, my husband loved the woods but felt we would all enjoy them more if we could access them via trails. He purchased a used dozer and started a 10-year project of building jeep trails in our woods. These are the trails where we still walk or snowshoe every day, depending on the season. And this is one of the reasons we have conserved the land through the ASLPT – because everybody can easily enjoy it. In summer, these trails are shaded and moss covered. In winter, cross country skiing or snowshoeing can be a challenge. There are streams, vernal pools, granite outcroppings, a generous mixture of hardwoods and softwoods, and uneven terrain. Many wildflowers, ferns, mushrooms and wild animals of the feathered and furry types inhabit the woods. One of my last sightings of a bear occurred toward the end of a morning walk with my Chocolate Lab as we approached a meadow near our house. I had stopped to leash my dog at the top of a rise. I stood up in time to see a large bear cross the trail about 30 yards below me.



Thad and Virginia Johnson with their grandson and granddaughter photographed in the early 1990's on the old bulldozer Thad bought to clear the many trails now available for all of us to enjoy.

After a short pause, I started down the hill but stopped short to see two cubs follow their mother. I waited another minute before starting again only to pull up for a third cub who bounded across the trail.

It's easy to find our trails and you are welcome on foot, skis, or snowshoes. There are two entrances to the woods: one on the north side of Village Road across from the Sutton Maintenance Facility, the other on Corporation Hill Road (a scenic road) at the top of the hill leading out of Sutton Mills. Just look for Seymour on a large ASLPT sign. He'll be watching you as you enter. Come walk with us.

Virginia Johnson is a retired teacher and former Dean of Students at Colby-Sawyer College. She and Thad share their love of the outdoors with their four children, their spouses and their 11 grandchildren, dividing the year between New Hampshire and Sun Valley, Idaho.

The Facts About The Thad and Virginia Johnson ASLPT Conservation Easement

- Location: Rt. 114, Village Rd., and Corporation Hill Rd., Sutton Mills
 - Acreage: 92 acres
- Frontage on 3 public roads makes it a gateway property for Sutton and the region
- Expands a corridor of conserved properties from Kezar Lake southward to Sutton Mills
- Primarily forestland with several vernal pools and brooks that flow toward the Lane River
 - Excellent wildlife habitat
- Extensive network of walking trails that are open to the public for pedestrian use

“Shadow Hill Woodlot”

50 acres, North Sutton

[On September 22, 2008, the ASLPT acquired its 96th land protection project when Tim and Lorraine Davis signed a conservation easement on their fifty acres in North Sutton.]

After living in the Kearsarge area for twelve years, we wanted to find a parcel of land that we could manage for wildlife and forestry. Tim grew up in rural Pennsylvania and enjoyed the benefits of public access to open spaces for hiking and hunting – spaces that are quickly shrinking and disappearing. When we saw how the development pressures were going to be felt in this area with the close proximity of the high school and Interstate 89, and after the building of the new middle school, we wanted to conserve this land situated in a corridor that includes Shadow Hill State Forest and Gile Pond because it provides a protective habitat for deer, moose, turkey, woodland birds, bobcat and other wildlife. We believe that by creating larger linked properties, these corridors are beneficial and crucial to the survival of many forms of wildlife. Private landowners are the key to sustaining the dwindling populations of wildlife that are being pushed out of their habitats by development.

We purchased this parcel on Shadow Hill Road in the fall of 1997 and created a written plan to establish a Certified Tree Farm. A timber harvest was done to clean up damage from the ice storm of 1998 and to create wildlife openings. We then applied for and received a grant from New Hampshire Fish and Game that allowed us to have a contractor stump one of the clear-cut areas to

create a three-acre meadow. The other clearing was

left to grow back to early succession habitat, which is important cover for many birds and small mammals. It is periodically cut to keep it from growing beyond this stage. In the early spring it is the first area to “green up,” providing browse

for deer and moose. At the front of the property adjacent to the road is another field that is kept in grasses and low bush blueberries – a great draw to wildlife! The remainder of the lot is a mix of softwoods (pine and hemlock) and hardwoods (oak, beech and birch). Though primarily an upland forest, there are several vernal pools. Selective cutting for firewood keeps the numerous wood roads, trails and small clearings open for wildlife and walking.

Tim Davis is a member of the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Coverts program, serves on the Sutton Conservation Commission and, together with his wife, Lorraine, monitors several of the ASLPT properties. Lorraine is Vice President of the North Sutton Improvement Society, and volunteers during the summer months as a docent at the Matthew Harvey Homestead Museum at Muster Field Farm. They are active outdoorsmen who enjoy hiking, kayaking or working their property and gardens, as well as participating in community improvement projects and cleanups.



Lorraine and Tim Davis at the signing of their 50 acre conservation easement with the ASLPT
(photo: Beth McGuinn)



photo: Nancy Lynn

Walking uphill from the Davis home through mixed pine and hardwood forest, one of the many trails brings you into a field cleared for wildlife habitat.

The Facts About The Shadow Hill Woodlot ASLPT Conservation Easement

- Location: Shadow Hill Rd., North Sutton
 - Acreage: 50 acres
 - Frontage on Shadow Hill Road
- Two cleared areas managed for wildlife habitat supporting
 - deer, bear, moose, turkey, woodland birds, amphibians, reptiles and bobcat
 - Certified tree farm
- Recreation - multiple cleared maintained trails open for pedestrian traffic

“.....it is impressive - miraculous even - to see how much has been accomplished by a relatively small number of people who simply loved the land and were willing to back up affection with action.”

- Tom Butler, *Wildlands Philanthropy*

The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust

Membership, Gifts & Thank Yous

In the previous issue of Chatter, we listed our active memberships as of June 4, 2008. The names appearing below represent those members who made their donations between June 4 and June 30, 2008. Our fiscal year runs July 1 – June 30. Our membership list for the fiscal year 2009 will be published in the next issue. If you made a donation after June 30, 2008 it will be reflected next time. If you have any questions concerning your membership status, please call Operations Manager, Sue Andrews at 526-6555 or email aslpitsea@tds.net.

ANNUAL PRESERVATION FUND

BENEFACTORS

Walter and Elaine Ensign
Carol B. McCord

PATRONS

Walt and Ellie Goddard
(Inadvertently omitted from Chatter Summer 2008)

STEWARDS

Greg and Astrid Berger
Mr. and Mrs. William E. Gundy
Cheryl S. Cummer and Jack Lyle
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Von Ette

PROTECTORs

Mr. David H. Green

ADVOCATES

Lee and Bert Carvalho
Richard U. Cogswell, Jr.
David Hall
Elizabeth Paine and Michael Henriques
Mr. and Mrs. David M. Keay
Mrs. G. Howard Kingsley
Heidi and Pete Lauridsen
Lois M. Logan
Mr. and Mrs. Henry S. Otto, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. James Southard

MEMBERSHIP

BENEFACTORS

William and Maura Perkins

PATRONS

Cornelia Boyle and Gary Anderson
Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Tilson III

STEWARDS

Peter Danforth
Mr. and Mrs. John Pope

PROTECTORs

Mr. and Mrs. R. Hoyt Chapin
Sean and Lori Cox
David Hennig
Jim and Judy Lowe
Lynn and Tom McMurry
Helen Bridge and John Trethaway

ADVOCATES

Schuyler and Maureen Ayers
Jean and Jim Connolly
Mrs. Pat Dazet
Beth and Keith Greenawalt
Linn D. and Howard L. Harwell
Michael Izbicki
Marc and Heather Jacques
Suzanne W. Levine
Gladys and John Lightfoot
Thomas H. and Barbara M. Richards
David Sargent
Sterling and Sandra Toman
JT and Lori Underwood
W.S. Wojtczak
Marie Wolfe
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald P. Wyman

ADDITIONAL DONATIONS

Anonymous

Jerry and Jane Barnes
D. Scott and Janet M. Birney
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh A. Chapin
Mrs. W.S. Clough
Mrs. Charles H. Deming
Allan and Mary Doyle
Mary Jane Ellis
Bob and Linda Ewing
Emery and Elizabeth Johnston
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Ryan
Grenelle and Bruce Scott
Carol Meise and Mike Sherrill
Richard H. Webb

CORPORATE MATCHING GIFTS

Aetna Foundation
Bank of America
GE Foundation
GlaxoSmithKline
Prudential Foundation

IN KIND DONATIONS

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Chiarella
New London Gallery
Peter E. Smith Associates
Ransmeier & Spellman, PC

LAND PROJECT DONATION

Gerry and Jane Gold

COURSER PHASE 3 DONORS

State of NH – LCHIP
State of NH – LIP
Warner Conservation Commission

COURSER PHASE 4

Nancy Betz

LAND PROJECT

Fine Family Charitable Foundation

RIGGS PROJECT DONORS

James M. Black
Jane Brock-Wilson
Jill and Robert Carr
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cottrill
Laura Davis
Jessie Woeltz and Joseph C. Dizney
Allan and Mary Doyle
ESYC, LLC
Domenic and Molly Ferrante
Mr. and Mrs. M. N. Kreisler
Mr. and Mrs. John Muchmore
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Mulhern
Richard and Evalyn Putnam
Bruce and Liz Putnam
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stevens
Nathaniel Stevens
Anthony and Bertie Woeltz

STEWARDSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

Tim and Lorraine Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Thaddeus Johnson
Eric Shultz
Sutton Conservation Commission
Dan and Beverly Wolf
Woods Without Gile, LLC

IN MEMORY OF GERRY MAYER

General William Mayer Foundation

IN HONOR OF LYMAN AND

SUZANNE CHAPIN
Hugh and Judy Chapin

IN HONOR OF THE CLEVELAND.GARVEY/ DILORENZO FAMILY

Susan Cleveland-Knowles and
Jeff Knowles

IN HONOR OF DALE AND JEANNE CONLY

Sonia Conly

IN HONOR OF ROBERT AND EMMA CRANE

Cynthia E. Crane

IN HONOR OF FRANK AND MARTINE RICHARDS 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Kenneth Mason and Marilyn Roberts

IN HONOR OF PETER AND TERRI WHITE

From a Friend

SQUIRREL SQUAD NEWS SPONSORS:

Jack Harrod
Jillson Insurance Services
New London Agency
Sheerr and White Residential
Architecture

MARILYN KIDDER AND THE STAFF AT COLDWELL BANKER MILESTONE REAL ESTATE

(for donating a portion of every sales commission)
Emily Campbell
Jessica Davis
Sara Ellis
Donna Forest
Cheryl LaPrade
Sharon LaVigne
Chris Murray McKee
Judy Merrill
Linda Rosenthal
Jane Snow
Stacey Viandier
Joan Wallen

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK

An anonymous donor for the voice recorder.
The Banks Gallery for a percentage of art sales.
Bartlett's Blueberry Farm for the donation from their "sin bin."
Charlie and Mary Lue Belden for office recycling.
Pamela and Peter Burghardt for the donation of mapping software.
George and Katie Crozer for the orchid arrangements.
Sheridan Danforth for helping at the Annual Meeting.
Dick Dulude for the donation of an Olympus C-700 digital camera.

Mary Jane Ellis for a donation to our wish list.

Leo Gareau and Charlie Killam for the donation of decorative prints.
The Kearsarge Shopper for all they do.
Nancy Lyon for designing and producing our PR materials.
Gail and Glenn Matthews for the donation of a digital camera.
Dick Munn for the round table for Beth's office.
Thomas and Sandra Peacock for the donation of mapping software.
Peter Stanley for the donation from the New London Boys' Club Beall Award.
Woods Without Gile for underwriting the Maintaining Rural Character workshop.

CHATTER DELIVERY

Jenny Dodd
Carol Foss
Yah Maguire
Susie Zanes

SEYMOUR AND SEYMOUR HELPERS

Jen Ellis
Janet Miller Haines
Seamus Heffernan
Amy Lyon
Alan McLean and Family
Jeanie Plant

MAILING HELPERS

Terri Bingham
Barbara Faughnan
Gail Goddard
Kate Gordon
Janet Howe
Cindy Lawson
Cynthia Marshall
Alan McLean
Jan Prew
Virginia Soule
Janis Taylor
Lee Warriner
Ruth White

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Yah Maguire and Karen Ebel for volunteering in the office once a week

EASEMENT MONITORS FOR 2008

Laura Alexander
Sue Andrews
Larry and Jane Armstrong
Martin Bean
Charlie Belden
Clare Bensley
Charlie Betz
Dave Brazier
Sandy Brenner
Jim Broadhead
Lee and Bert Carvalho
Bill and Ki Clough
Dave and Celeste Cook
Glenda Cottrill
Michelle Cox
Bob and Emma Crane
Tim and Lorraine Davis
Jenny and Pete Dodd

Dave Dunlop
Midge and Tim Eliassen
Jen Ellis
Lela and Brian Emery
Brian Faughnan
Betsy Forsham
Carol and Charlie Foss
Lawre Goodnow
Kate Gordon
George Green
Eldon Hanes
John Heiden
Bill Helm
Sue Hemingway
May Henry
Tom Hill
Ed and Mary Hiller
Derek Hunt
Bruce Johnson
Greg Johnson
Dick and Betsy Katz
Ron and Vicky Koron
Jack Kraeger
Rem Mastin
Steve McGrath
Liz Meller
Malcolm Milne
Dudley Moseley
Bob Moser

Ed Olney
Alice Perry
Dave Pilla
Karl Ray
David and Beth Ries
Carrie and John Richters
Paul Sahler
Jack Sheehan
Mike Sherrill
Nancy Teach
Sue and Gene Venable
John Warren
David Webster
Sally Wilkins

2008 PROGRESSIVE DINNER HOSTS

Kristen and Mark Begor
Jim and Shari Broadhead
Tom and Martha Cottrill
Court and Midge Cross
Kirk and Bette Cruikshank
David Cleveland and Robert Jensen
Hilary Cleveland
Joe Goodnough
Horace and Betty Holcomb
Anne and Ken Holmes
Mark and Thelma Kaplan
Barbara and Michael Kreisler

Cynthia and David Marshall
Susan Nye
Tom and Sandy Stark
Marcella and Gordon Starkey
Roger and Sandy Wells
Jay and Gabi Wilson

HOLIDAY PARTY COMMITTEE AND HELPERS

Sandy Rowse – Foxstand
Martha Woodward – piano accompaniment
Pam Perkins – Food Coordinator
Susan Nye – Kitchen Coordinator
Sue Andrews, Midge Cross, Sheridan Danforth, Karen Ebel, Bobbie Hambley, Wendy Johnson, Heidi Lauridsen, Beth McGuinn, Jeanie Plant, Robin Pollard, Nancy Smith, Ruth Smith and Debbie Stanley – Decorating, Serving and Greeting
Spring Ledge Farm – Poinsettias
George and Katie Crozer – Orchid Arrangements
Dick Katz and Nancy Lyon – Photography
Court Cross, Maggie and John Ford, John Garvey, Pete Lauridsen, Dave Payne, Jack Sheehan, and Nancy Teach – Bartending

Everett Pollard – Fire Tending
Greg Berger, Jen Ellis and Andy Deegan – Parking

FOOD DONATIONS FOR THE HOLIDAY PARTY

Around the Table with Susan Nye
Bubba's Bar & Grille
China City Restaurant
Four Corners Grille
Jack's of New London
Jane Solomon Catering
La Meridiana Restaurant
Marzelli's Deli
New London Confections
Pizza Chef
Rockwell's
Woodcrest Assisted Living

NEWSLETTER PROOF READERS

Bob Bowers, Anne Carroll, Maggie Ford, Janet Miller Haines, Virginia Anthony Soule and Lisa Ensign Wood

EASEMENT PROOF READER

Betsy Forsham

An Unexpected Gift

Painter Catherine Bogardus Leaves the ASLPT a Living Legacy

by Debbie Hall

Last summer, the ASLPT was surprised to learn that it was the recipient of a bequest from Catherine Bogardus, who had not been a member of the ASLPT since 1999. Miss Bogardus was a nationally recognized painter who grew up in Stamford, Connecticut. In her youth, she studied with Frank Vincent Dumond, who was one of the last painters of the Hudson River School, where she began to develop her skills as a landscape painter. She also painted flowers, especially arrangements designed by her mother. She was known for her use of color and her ability to capture light in her paintings, which gave them a prismatic, often impressionistic effect. She was always interested in people, and spent 50 years teaching painting in New York and the Stamford, Connecticut area.

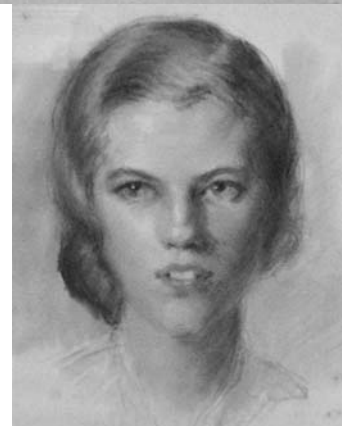
About 35 years ago, she and her good friend Frances Weston Hoyt, also a nationally recognized painter, visited New London at the invitation of John Jevne, a lifelong family friend and her trustee. The ladies were apparently entranced by the natural beauty of the area, and both promptly bought units at Hilltop. Miss Bogardus remained at Hilltop until her death in June 2008, at the age of 96. According to Mr. Jevne, her painting "bloomed" in New London, where she painted many of her significant landscapes. A recent show of her work at the Banks Gallery on Main Street captured the liveliness and essence of her painting.

Asked why Miss Bogardus had made her bequest to the ASLPT, Mr. Jevne said that one of her reasons was her deep love of the land and the beauty of the landscapes in this area, which she wanted to see preserved. Miss Bogardus was an ASLPT member from 1989-1999, and we are honored that she chose to recognize with her serendipitous gift our work conserving the special places that we all cherish.

Debbie Hall is a member of the Development Committee. She is a retired attorney who lives with her husband Arthur on the west slope of Pleasant Lake in New London.



Above is one of Catherine Bogardus' many landscape paintings. This one is titled "New England Snow Scene." To the right is a pastel of Miss Bogardus painted by a friend when she was a young woman.



Brian and Barbara Faughnan

An Interview with a "couple" of our wonderful volunteers

by Janet Miller Haines



Brian and Barbara Faughnan began their commitment to our region's rural landscape through their ASLPT membership when only seasonal visitors. Now as full-time Wilmot residents they support the ASLPT's land protection efforts as committee members, land monitors and event supporters.

All I did was ask how they met – and suddenly Barbara and Brian Faughnan turn into a couple of teenagers, eager to tell their story.

We're sitting in the living room of their contemporary home – post and beam construction – very fitting for a couple who clearly enjoys the outdoors. In fact, their lives and where they chose to build their home all seem to send the message of liking to be outside.

Brian started life in a suburb of Montreal. His father immigrated to Canada from Ireland and his mother from Scotland. Keeping the family of seven going was a full-time job, and while Brian tended toward the academic side, he still found time for sports and outdoor activity.

Barbara is an original New Jersey girl, who lived in the same house in Westfield from birth to marriage. With parents active in the United Way and philanthropy, getting involved in her community came naturally.

So where did they meet? A new acquaintance of Barbara's who was a member of the Princeton Ski Club, where Brian was also a member, was the agent. And as they say...the rest is history. That was back in 1964.

They married 2 years later, staying on in Princeton where Brian applied his education in engineering and physics at RCA

Labs. Barbara continued her teaching first in the local 5th grade and then in art. And just to keep in shape, they enjoyed sailing at the 'Jersey Shore' and biking around Princeton. For skiing, they ventured to Warner, New Hampshire, where Barbara's sister lived, and eventually built their own vacation spot close by in 1981.

As retirement time loomed, they realized that what they were really after was a year-round place in what had clearly become their psychological home = New Hampshire. And a plot of land in Wilmot fit the bill.

Before becoming full-time residents, Barbara joined the ASLPT. It's still unclear how she learned about the organization but she continued paying her dues and hoping someday to become more active. And again...the rest is history.

Brian began to hike many of the properties under easement and took Debbie Stanley's suggestion to become a monitor. He also became active in the SRK Greenway when the Faughnans moved to Wilmot. A few years later he was appointed to the Wilmot Conservation Commission and is now the chairman.

Barbara has volunteered on many occasions in many capacities and is a member of the ASLPT Membership Committee, where her work with other not-for-profit organizations is proving effective in coming up with good ideas on how to increase the organization's membership.

Moving from the hustle and bustle of New Jersey to New Hampshire has taken much of the stress out of their lives. One can't help but be relaxed in their presence. They clearly enjoy each other and the place they live and their life together.

Responding to a question about how to get the younger generation to be aware of the benefits of land preservation and conservation in general, Brian proffered that seeing and doing are key. Getting out of the classroom and into life's classroom would be his suggestion. He's already practicing what he preaches in working with Kearsarge students in Project Climb, which does just what the name implies along local trails.

Maybe we need to get him to start a Junior Monitor Program...

Janet Miller Haines minored in Journalism in college and likes to keep her hand in the writing game, as well as serving on the ASLPT's Development Committee.

Calendar:

May 7, 2009 (Thursday) – Thursday's Child dinner at Rockwell's, New London Inn

July 9, 2009 (Thursday) – Progressive Dinner

July 23, 2009 (Thursday) – Progressive Dinner

September 16, 2009 (Wednesday) - "Our Rural Character -Then & Now"

NL Historical Society

Complete details regarding time, driving directions and cost are on our web site www.ausbonsargent.org in the NEWS menu.

Wish List:

Can you help us to purchase any of these items? Call Debbie Stanley at 526-6555

Large capacity stapler - \$40

Wall Mounted Screen – \$150

**Custom mat & frames for
2 photographs - \$200**



The Annual Preservation Fund: *To preserve and protect* A Landmark Occasion!

by Maggie Ford

We celebrated a milestone in December – our 100th conservation project. That's 6203 acres – just about 10 square miles. So how big is that, really?

About the combined surface total of Highland Lake in Andover, Kezar Lake, Lake Sunapee, Little Lake Sunapee, Lake Massasecum, Perkins Pond, Pleasant Lake and Lake Todd. Or more than twice the size of Mt. Sunapee State Park, bigger than Kearsarge Mountain State Forest, but smaller than Gile State Forest. So that's pretty big.

When we launched the Annual Preservation Fund (APF) three years ago, we had a backlog of 25 properties. Thanks to your generous contributions to the Annual Preservation Fund, we have added a second Land Protection Specialist to the staff and have addressed some of the backlog of un-conserved properties.

But success breeds success and we shouldn't be complacent. As growth and development put pressures on the Mt. Kearsarge/Lake Sunapee Region, more land owners seek to preserve what they value – what brought their families here initially and what keeps them here through the generations. Today, our backlog is 20+ properties, or 3,000+ acres. On average, we conserve 8-10 properties each year, ranging from 2 acres to 500+ acres. So our work is far from done.

There's only one way the ASLPT can continue to do the work of land conservation that it has done for the past 20 years... and that's with your continued financial support. To conserve those 8-10 properties costs about \$15,000 in title research; evaluation of wildlife, agricultural and recreational impact; meetings with family members and potential financial partners, especially for large or significant properties. And preserving our rural heritage is more important now than it has ever been, in this area, one of the fastest growing regions of the state.

In early March you will be receiving our annual request for support of the ASLPT's conservation efforts. We hope that you will continue to make the ASLPT and its land conservation work a priority in your charitable giving. It's an investment that will keep on giving and will always be there.

Maggie Ford is Chair of the Development Committee and member of the ASLPT Board of Trustees.

Our Web Site: **ausbonsargent.org**

There's so much to see and learn at our web site. In addition to the video and photos of all our protected properties and our generous land donors, you can read timely articles like attorney Tom Masland's explanation of the IRS tax incentives available to private individuals who place conservation easements on their land.

"... the donation of a conservation easement to an organization like the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust can provide the landowner / taxpayer with the most economically valuable charitable contribution tax deduction that the Internal Revenue Code provides! And until December 31, 2009, the tax code includes an enhanced income tax deduction that creates a further incentive for land owners to act to protect their property by a conservation easement."

*And, of course, we are always delighted to have you visit us at:
71 Pleasant St., New London
Or call 603-526-6555
email to: info@aslpt.org*

Dave Payne: *Our Newest ASLPT Board Member* by Rick Stecker

I asked Dave Payne to our home for coffee. I had not met him previously, but recognized his car and the ubiquitous license plate "PL - LAKE" as he entered our driveway; I'd seen it everywhere. This is a metaphor for the Paynes on the New London scene. Dave is a trustee at Colby-Sawyer College; he is a member of the New London Citizen's Advisory Committee. His wife, Beverly, is a board member of the New London Hospital and the Colby-Sawyer Charger's Club. The Paynes are invested in the New London area; New London is the beneficiary of their dedication.

Dave fully retired from his firm, the Trust Company of Connecticut, just 2 ½ years ago; prior to that he was a weekender - then a commuter. He is polite, mild mannered and plain spoken, all of which belie his financial wizardry. "We like being full-time residents of this unique community," Dave said, "and I am impressed with the ASLPT for their business-like attitude, as well as for their impact on the surrounding towns." Dave has served on the Development Committee and shares the Board's passion for the mission of the land trust. He brings to the Board his years of experience in finance and investments.

Dave and Beverly have two daughters, a son, and two grandchildren. Dave likes to ski, water ski, and play tennis. On the side, they do some traveling. As a closing question I asked Dave if there was anything unusual or remarkable about him. He replied "no," I disagree.

Rick Stecker is a minister, a teacher, a psychoanalytic researcher and friend of the ASLPT. He and his wife, Ann Page Stecker, have lived in the area since 1979.



Dave Payne joins the ASLPT
Board of Trustees.

Maintaining Rural Character

by Ann Davis

The ASLPT Outreach Committee sponsors workshop for local land use decision makers



photo: Nancy Lyon

The ASLPT joins with town and state governments, as well as private conservation organizations, to fulfill its mission: "To protect the rural landscape of the Mt. Kearsarge/Lake Sunapee region." This open field on the Spofford easement is mowed each year as part of the easement agreement between the landowner and the ASLPT.

To discover ways to maintain the rural character in their towns using planning, zoning and conservation, more than 40 people attended a workshop in mid-November 2008 hosted by the Outreach Committee of the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust (ASLPT).

Armed with more than 10 years' experience as a professional land use planner, Steve Whitman of Jeffrey H. Taylor & Associates challenged the audience, comprised of decision makers representing the 12 towns in ASLPT's service area to evaluate why town leaders struggle with how to keep/maintain their town's rural character while knowing that this is an important value to residents and is part of the vision statement of many master plans.

Whitman suggested that this is because, "Sometimes a town's master plan and its ordinances are not complementary. ... If the vision statement in your town's master plan includes protecting rural character as an objective, but you have two-acre zoning throughout, you have a disconnect." Steve's presentation went on to make the following points:

- Towns unable to maintain rural landscapes diminish the quality of life residents enjoy in their community through the loss of views, compromised water quality, increased town budgets, loss of wildlife habitat and degraded natural resources.
- Towns can employ various strategies to maintain rural character. These include having small lots in the village center area radiating out to larger lots in more rural sections of town.
- Towns can craft "innovative regulations to meet conservation and development objectives."
- Towns can incorporate natural resource-based planning, which starts with identifying the significant natural resources in the town and region.

All of these approaches require collaboration, cooperation, and communication among town boards – select board, planning board, zoning, as well as the conservation commission and in some towns may include the energy committee.

"You need to achieve a balance," Whitman observed. The master plan addresses the vision. It discusses natural resources and land use in the future. Regulatory tools – zoning,

site plan review and subdivision regulations – should provide a route to reaching the goals stated in the master plan. Towns also should pursue non-regulatory options. These may include a capital improvement plan, strategies for land conservation, or options for economic development and business recruitment.

To ensure balance among these strategies an audit is crucial. The audit includes a thorough review of the master plan and existing regulations to identify disconnects. These disconnects are often land use regulations that are not working to guide future land use decisions toward the town's vision.

A lively discussion occurred during and after Steve's presentation with many participants lingering afterwards to talk among themselves or ask Whitman additional questions.

"The ASLPT's mission is to 'preserve and protect the rural character of the Mount Kearsarge/Lake Sunapee region for public benefit,'" said Debbie Stanley, executive director of the organization. "Among the ways we accomplish this is by educating residents of our communities about why it is important for them to protect our environment and its ecosystems through land conservation. This workshop is part of our ongoing effort to provide our communities with information and resources so they can find ways to maintain their rural character."

A PDF file of Whitman's PowerPoint presentation is available at www.ausbonsargent.org. Click on the "news" box. The link is at the end of the article about the workshop.

Ann Davis is a retired journalist. She is a 2005 graduate of the N.H. Coverts Project, vice president of the NH Timberland Owners Association, an ASLPT easement donor, and a member of the ASLPT Outreach Committee.

Bradford Bog & Bradford Hotel/ Springs

177.8 acres, Bradford

by Ann Eldridge,

Chair Bradford Conservation Commission

The teal blue squirrels are finally here. They will sit on ASLPT signs nailed to trees where no normal deciduous-loving squirrel would reside. The quaking bog was originally preserved in the 1960s by the New England Wild Flower Society and donated to the town in 1971. Another piece was added in the late eighties that gave access to the road and also protected more of the rare Atlantic white cedar swamp. In 1997, the nearby site of the Bradford Springs Hotel was donated to the town commemorating the early tourist industry that centered on the reputed healing sulfur spring. In 2003 an additional seventy two acres was annexed encompassing the oldest of the cedar. By March of 2006 the town was ready to vote to permanently protect all of these properties for the history, view and rare plant communities. A formal survey of the acreage began, revisions to the deeds were engineered, other projects intervened, but it's finally complete.

The Bradford Conservation Commission and the Rural Heritage Connection of Bradford look forward to introducing more school groups and the general public to this unique landscape. We are also looking forward to working with ASLPT again to preserve other locations that have been identified as important to the town.

Partnering for Conservation along Schoodac Brook

by Mark Zankel

Courser Phase 3 - 440 acres in Warner and Webster

Turtles and other wildlife that live along Schoodac Brook can breathe a little easier, thanks to the recent efforts of the Courser family and a terrific conservation partnership. On Wednesday December 10th, the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust closed on three conservation easements totaling 440 acres in the Schoodac Brook Conservation Area in Warner and Webster, NH. For the past four years, The Nature Conservancy and Ausbon Sargent have worked in partnership to advance the protection of Schoodac Brook. The area harbors a remarkable combination of stream-side wetlands, ponds, and working farm and forest lands that provide well-documented habitat for several turtle species of conservation concern, and has been identified to support high quality habitat in the New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan. This most recent closing represents the third phase in our work with the Courser Family Trust, which includes Rebecca, Bill, Tim and Jerry Courser. Cumulatively, our collaboration with the Courser family has now resulted in the protection of more than 920 acres of important habitat at Schoodac Brook.



To the right of this photo of Knights Meadow Marsh (currently protected by NH Fish & Game) lies 109 acres, which is one of the three parcels comprising the Courser Phase 3 conservation easement.

photo: Nancy Lyon

The Facts About The Courser Phase 3 ASLPT Conservation Easement

- 3 parcels in the Towns of Webster & Warner: 109 acres adjacent to Knights Meadow Marsh; 146 acres Connors Mill Rd.; 185 acres Poverty Plains Rd.
- Total Project Acreage: 440 acres
- Protects important floodplain wetlands
- Provides habitat for a variety of wildlife species including 3 of special concern
- Public access for pedestrians and snowmobilers

The three tracts in this phase expand and enhance existing conservation lands. The 109-acre Knights Meadow Marsh Tract abuts and expands NH Fish and Game's Knights Meadow Marsh Wildlife Management Area, while the 146-acre Farm Remainder Tract and the 185-acre Poverty Plains Tract abut other previously protected Courser Farm property.

The total project cost of \$534,000 was funded by grants from the NH Landowner Incentive Program (\$203,000), LCHIP (\$56,000), the Town of Warner (\$75,000), and the Town of Webster (\$10,000). In addition, The Virginia Cretella Mars Foundation and many private individuals, including the

Courser family, provided vital contributions to the project.

The partnership between The Nature Conservancy and Ausbon Sargent has leveraged the complementary skills and strengths of each organization. Ausbon Sargent has been the primary easement negotiator, raised considerable funds from interested community members, assumed much of the burden of completing the due diligence required to complete the transaction, and will hold and monitor the easements in perpetuity. The Nature Conservancy completed the science-based conservation plan that guides land protection in this area, raised private funds, provided technical assistance on easement drafting, and provided science, mapping, and administrative support necessary to secure the public funding that has been a key element of success. Partnerships are not always easy - they require shared goals, trust, regular communications, and personal relationships to work. Our organizations have learned much by working together, and we hope to continue our successful relationship!

Mark Zankel is the Deputy State Director for the NH Chapter of The Nature Conservancy.

[Note: The Poverty Plains parcel is the ASLPT's 100th Land project!]

Russell Pond - 8.4 acres, Sutton

by Betsy Forsham, Chair, Sutton Conservation Committee

The Russell Pond property was the first one the Sutton Conservation Commission (SCC) purchased with monies from the Town's conservation fund (2003). We have had a lot of positive feedback from the community about its protection, as this little gem, located on Route 114, is a scenic gateway into Sutton from the south and a favorite of skaters, fishermen and canoers, as well as the generations of Canada Geese who nest there.

To ensure that future generations would be able to enjoy Russell Pond as we do, the SCC felt that permanent protection of the property, through a conservation easement, was essential. As we had partnered with the ASLPT before, it was the obvious choice to be the easement holder. We have always enjoyed working with the staff, and find them knowledgeable and willing to assist us in many ways, from answering general questions to working with us on the public education programs we have given in the past. We are fortunate to be a member of the organization, and feel that the ASLPT is a real friend to Sutton's special places.



71 Pleasant Street
P.O. Box 2040
New London
New Hampshire
03257
(603) 526-6555
aslpt@tds.net
www.ausbonsargent.org

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
New London, NH
Permit No. 13

Encounter more "Wildlife Sightings" at our web site.
www.ausbonsargent.org



**ASLPT
OFFICERS,
TRUSTEES,
AND
STAFF**

OFFICERS:
Chair: Heidi Rice Lauridsen
Vice-Chair: Greg Berger
Secretary: Bill Helm
Treasurer: Paula Wycht

TRUSTEES:
Laura Alexander
Bill Clough
Jen Ellis
Maggie Ford
John Garvey
Dave Payne
Jeanie Plant
Jack Sheehan
Doug Sweet
Nancy Teach

STAFF:
Executive Director: Deborah Stanley
Land Protection Specialist: Beth McGuinn
Land Protection Specialist: Andy Deegan
Operations Manager: Sue Ellen Andrews
Development Associate: Laurie DiClerico
Administrative Assistant: Nancy Smith
Bookkeeper: Wendy Johnson

Thanks to Newsletter Editor Nancy Lyon for coordination, layout and editing. And special thanks to all our guest authors!

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 web site at www.ausbonsargent.org

Please make checks payable to: The ASLPT and mail to: P.O. Box 2040, New London, NH 03257
or call and use your credit card: 603-526-6555

- ☐ \$5,000 + Ausbon Sargent Society
- ☐ \$2,500+ Leadership Circle
- ☐ \$1,000+ Benefactor
- ☐ \$500+ Patron
- ☐ \$250+ Steward
- ☐ \$125+ Protector
- ☐ \$50+ Advocate
- ☐ Other \$

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

2/09

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