

THE AUSBON SARGENT LAND PRESERVATION TRUST

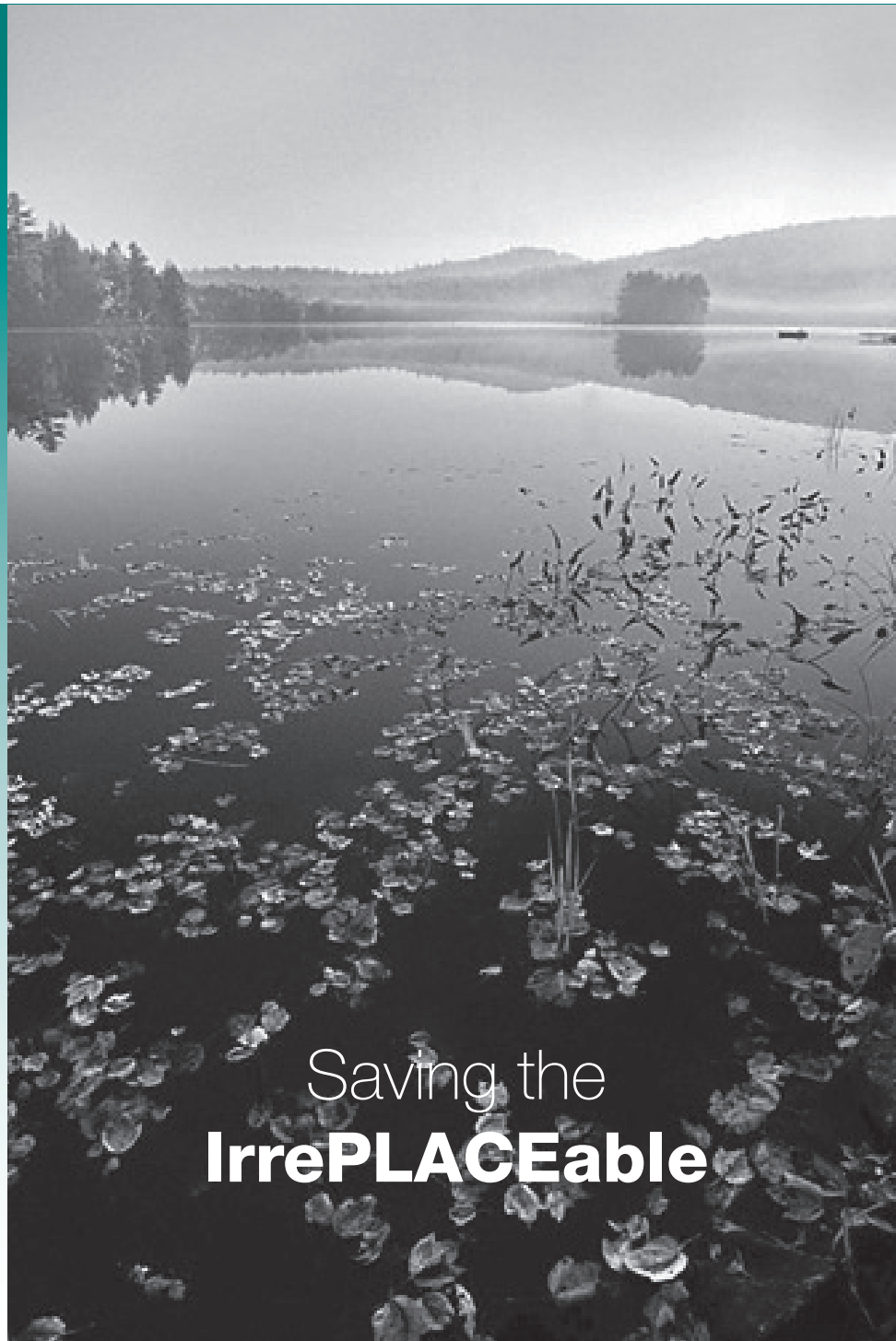


Helping to Preserve the Rural Landscape of the Mt. Kearsarge/Lake Sunapee Region
Andover, Bradford, Danbury, Goshen, Grantham, New London, Newbury, Springfield, Sunapee, Sutton, Warner & Wilmot

Chatter



Winter 2014



Saving the
IrrePLACEable

© Fred Parsons Photography

From the Executive Director:



Douglas K Hill | www.doughillphoto.com

Ausbon Sargent had another successful year. We had a high number of conservation project closings which I hope you enjoy learning about as you read this issue of *Chatter*. Another significant achievement was that we surpassed our ***Saving Land for Tomorrow*** campaign goal!

Not long ago, one of our supporters asked: "How much land does Ausbon Sargent intend to conserve?" The State of NH's goal is that each town should

have at minimum 25% of its acreage conserved. If all 12 towns in Ausbon Sargent's service area were to achieve the 25% goal then that is about 24,000 acres more to be conserved. We're proud that we have protected over 10,000 acres, but clearly the job of land conservation is not done. Far from it — more properties will be conserved in 2014!

Over the past two years, my message to you has included a progress report on our first-ever stewardship endowment campaign, ***Saving Land for Tomorrow***, to raise \$2.5 million. Income from this long-term investment will cover all stewardship expenses and supplement annual membership support by providing 20% of our operating revenue. We are pleased to announce that we exceeded our goal by \$150,000. For those of you who like facts and numbers, the breakdown is: 82% received and invested, 7% in short-term pledges and 11% is a bequest with a letter of intent from the donor affirming the commitment. We are enormously grateful to everyone who generously contributed to the ***Saving Land for Tomorrow*** campaign.

Although we succeeded in our stewardship campaign, your membership and annual fund gifts are critical in supporting Ausbon Sargent's efforts to preserve the rural landscape of the Mt. Kearsarge/Lake Sunapee region and to save the irrePLACEable. Your ongoing support means so much. Thank you!

Debbie Stanley



ON THE COVER

Baptist Pond - Springfield, NH

"The leaves caught my eye, as they had a jewel-like appearance."

—Fred Parsons

www.pbase.com/fredparsons/image/39630259

Baptist Pond Trust - East

On November 18, 2013, the Hodges and Garfield families donated a 124-acre conservation easement on their Baptist Pond Trust-East property in Springfield, NH. This property includes ½ mile of frontage on Baptist Pond and 1 mile of shared boundary with the Star Lake Farm property, adding to the 2,100 acres of contiguous land conserved in the southern part of Springfield. This significant block of forestland, farm fields, ponds, lakes and wetlands provides important wildlife habitat for many species, including the nesting loons on Baptist Pond and Star Lake. Thanks to the generosity of the Baptist Pond Trust, The Burton D. Morgan Foundation, the Lake Sunapee Protective Association, the Springfield Conservation Commission and many private donors for making this possible.



The Value of Our IrrePLACEable Open Spaces

Land trusts save the places that people love. They raise a lot of money for the promise of protecting land, but the greater, sometimes undervalued, asset in a land trust is the perpetual stewardship of the land. A wonderful old advertising slogan, of uncertain origin, is very appropriate when describing properties protected by land trusts. These cherished landscapes become “the gifts that keep on giving.” Once conserved, we are assured that these places will forever be available for future generations to enjoy.

There are those who scrutinize the act of conserving land or the Current Use Program because the land is then taxed at its income-earning capacity and not on its development potential. However, studies* of New Hampshire communities demonstrate that open space properties “have a value that easily exceeds their costs.” (*Please note that one of Ausbon Sargent’s 12 towns, Sutton, has done a study with similar results.*)

Residential, industrial/commercial properties require far more community services (schools, administration, police and fire protection, ambulance, road maintenance, etc.) per dollar of taxable revenue than do open spaces.

“According to the American Farmland Trust, the median nationwide COCS [Cost of Community Services] were: Residential \$1.15, Commercial \$0.28 and Open Space \$0.36.” In general, when you compare the cost of residential, industrial/commercial, and open land, it is clear that residential development carries a larger cost than they generate in revenue.

The comparative COCS may be an important point in the argument to those who oppose land conservation, as it seems to be a misconception that open lands/conserved lands in a community are not revenue effective. But the full value of open space is broader than considering these places for their immediate tax revenues. We need to continually applaud the conscious conservation efforts to:

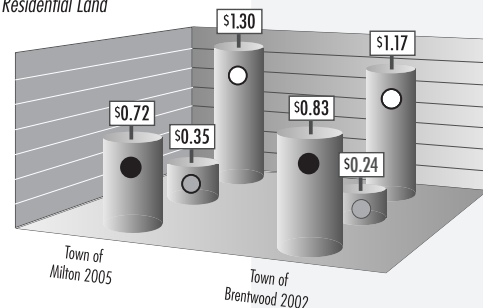
- Protect our scenic landscape, for our own pleasure and to attract tourists to the area
- Support our forestry and agricultural industry
- Provide wildlife habitat to a variety of species

Once consumed by development, these special properties are truly IrrePLACEable.

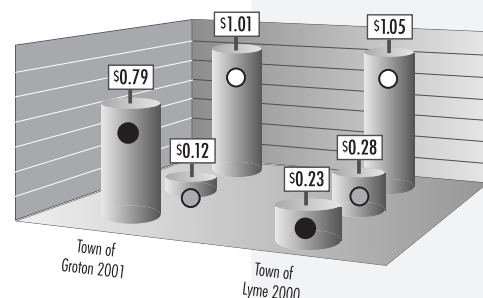
*SOURCES: UNH Cooperative Extension; S. MacFaden, Peterborough Conservation Commission; Cost of Community Services Study (COCS); American Farmland Trust; Ad-Hoc Associates

Services required per \$1 of tax revenue

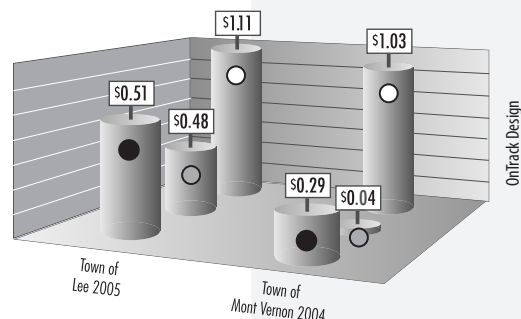
- Open Space
- Commercial/Industrial Land
- Residential Land



“Clearly, open space pays its way in Milton.”
—Town of Milton COCS Study (2005)



“Town of Groton clearly benefits economically from the presence of a high percentage of land in privately owned open space.”
—Town of Groton 200 COCS Study (2001)



“According to the American Farmland Trust, the median nationwide COCS were: Residential \$1.15, Commercial \$0.28, and Open Space \$0.36.”
—Town of Lee COCS Study (2005)

OnTrack Design



Cotton Cleveland and Emerald Garvey, with friends, Bick, Jane Ann and Graham McSwiney witness John Garvey signing papers on the Garvey Conservation Easement on December 20, 2013. (photo by Sandy DeLaat)

Facts about the **Garvey** Conservation Easement

Town: Goshen

Location: Center Road

Acreage: 70 acres

- The Property is undeveloped and primarily forested.
- The Property has wetlands and two perennial brooks that flow through it into Gunnison Lake.
- The Easement protects over 1,000 feet of frontage on Blood Brook and over 1,900 feet of frontage on Baker Brook.
- The Property is almost entirely listed as Highest Ranked Habitat or Supporting Landscapes in the 2010 Wildlife Action Plan, including habitat for moose, bear, deer, woodland birds, fish, insects, reptiles and amphibians.
- The Property has valuable forestry soils.
- The Property is adjacent to and near over 17,000 acres of conservation land and connects the Pillsbury Sunapee Highlands to the Sugar River Watershed Site #D2.
- The William P. Wharton Trust and the Quabbin-to-Cardigan Partnership (Q2C) funded the transaction costs for this donated easement.



Why Give an Easement?

by John Garvey

Why are Cotton and I giving an easement to Ausbon Sargent? I thought that would be an easy article to write. After all, I've been connected to the organization since it began 26 years ago and my dad was the first secretary. He used to drive me around and point to the squirrel signs in front of protected properties and talk about how important it all was and I could feel his sense of satisfaction. But 26 years ago, I always kind of wondered why frugal New Hampshire folks would give away their right to determine what they could do with their own property. I appreciated it, yet I definitely thought of it as a gift from them to the public. Now it doesn't feel like that to me at all.

Last April, we bought a wild and beautiful piece of land in Goshen. It is in the Quabbin to Cardigan Corridor, with two brooks that feed the Goshen Ocean (Gunnison Lake) — a 100-acre reservoir that spills into the Little Sugar River. We have cut trails that meander through the property, taking us past long forgotten stone walls, beautiful stands of birch and pine, and some breathtakingly steep banks looking down to the gurgling water. When the snow falls and animal tracks are visible, as they were this weekend, it's like flipping on the magic light that shows hundreds of secret messages from moose, deer, coyotes, rabbits, voles, turkeys and others. We see that they are using our trails and it gives us joy. Maybe they have accepted us.

And it's when we realize that this is our reaction — "maybe they have accepted us" — that we understand we don't really own the land. We are just stewards who will hand it off to the next stewards when it's time. So why an easement? Dictionary.com's first definition of an "easement" is "a right held by one property owner to make use of the land of another for a limited purpose." That's what I expected to find, but I was not prepared for the second definition, which is "an easing relief." The first definition may explain what we are giving, but it is the second definition that explains why. By giving an easement to Ausbon Sargent, we are relieved — relieved of the responsibility of stewarding alone and relieved to know that Ausbon Sargent will continue to carry out this obligation long after we are gone.

John Garvey is the Chairman of Ausbon Sargent. He is married to Cotton Cleveland and they have six grown children. When Cotton and John aren't living in New London, they are usually hiking in Goshen. John has chosen to refer to the Garvey Conservation Easement as "Wayne's Woods," in memory of his good friend, Wayne Hersher.

WISH LIST

Laminator - \$150

Laptop - \$650

Digital Camera with a view finder - \$300

Can you help us purchase any of these items?

Contact Debbie Stanley at 526-6555 or
dstanley@ausbonsargent.org



John Garvey's dog, Bessie, enjoys one of her many opportunities to explore the newly conserved property, now referred to as Wayne's Woods. (see page 4) (photo by John Garvey)

Old Walls in New Forests

by John Garvey

***Old stone walls in forests
Stacked by hands now found
Beneath the ground
Their jobs long done
The hands and walls
Forgotten in the fading sun***

John wrote this one day when he was hunting and came upon an old wall in the woods and thought about all that work and how the woods had reclaimed it.



Ausbon Sargent is an Accredited Land Trust What does that mean?

by Laurie DiClerico—Development Associate for Ausbon Sargent

The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust was awarded accreditation in 2009 by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance. Accredited land trusts are able to display a seal indicating to the public that they meet national standards for excellence and that the accredited land trust has undergone an extensive, external review of the governance and management of its organization and the systems and policies it uses to protect lands forever. Ausbon Sargent was the second accredited land trust in New Hampshire and is one of only seven land trusts in New Hampshire that has achieved this distinction in land conservation. We are very proud of this achievement! We believe receiving the Land Trust Alliance accreditation assures both our easement and financial donors of our integrity, professionalism and capacity to successfully execute our mission to preserve the rural landscape of the Mt. Kearsarge/Lake Sunapee region.

Achieving accreditation is a big milestone, but the process does not end there. Accreditation is awarded for a period of five years, at which point a land trust must renew its accreditation. The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust was awarded accreditation in July 2009; therefore, our accreditation is now up for renewal in 2014. The process has already begun and the final application is due to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission in April of 2014.

The Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how Ausbon Sargent complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. For the full list of standards please see:

www.landtrustaccreditation.org/tips-and-tools/indicator-practices.

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org or email your comment to ***info@landtrustaccreditation.org***. Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3183; (mail) 26 Phila Street, Suite 2, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Comments on Ausbon Sargent's application will be most useful if they are received by March 1, 2014.



The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust *Gifts, Thank Yous & Land/Easement Donors*



We only print the list of our Membership and Annual Fund donations once a year, in the summer issue of Chatter.

If you have any questions concerning your membership status please call Operations Manager, Sue Andrews at 526-6555 or email sandrews@ausbonsargent.org

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The Family of Mr. and Mrs. James Abbott

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MARILYN KIDDER AND THE STAFF AT COLDWELL BANKER MILESTONE REAL ESTATE

*(for donating a portion of every sales
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WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK

Charlie and Mary Lue Belden* for office recycling
Greg Berger for discounting food for the Progressive Dinner
Sandy DeLaat for photographing events
Betsy Forsham for proofing easement deeds
The Heffernan Family for having been our Seymour Family!
Dick Katz for photographing events
The Kearsarge Shopper for all they do for us
Mark Lennon for his beautiful notecard creations
Lee Morrill, On Track Design for graphic design and advertising
The New Hampshire Cycling Club for donating 100% of the proceeds from the Kearsarge Klassic Bike Event

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*denotes deceased

+denotes bequest

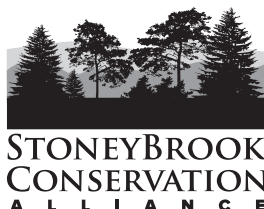
Stoney Brook Project Donations – thru 12/26/13

See page 12

Anonymous
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Bogdan and Mary Amenda
William P. Annable
Arch Apartments, Ltd
John and Patricia Arthur
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STONEYBROOK
CONSERVATION
ALLIANCE

Seymour

(Geneva Heffernan) with
Lindy Heffernan (L)
and Karin Heffernan
at the Courser Farm
Pumpkin Carving
Event.

(photo by
Cindy
Lawson)



Seymour and Your 'Inner Child'

by Peggy Hutter

Volunteering is personally rewarding and there are countless ways to volunteer at Ausbon Sargent. We need easement monitors, assistance with projects in the office, and help hosting special events throughout the year, but nothing awakens your 'inner child' like donning the Seymour suit to portray our mascot at some of these special functions. We are in need of a new "Seymour Woodsenfields."

The Heffernan family has embraced the role of Seymour for years with parents, Mike and Karin, facilitating as one of their three children played the part during parades, town fairs or at random other Seymour sightings. But Shamus, Lindy and Geneva have grown up and moved on. We are now looking for another fun-loving family, team or individual to fill Seymour's big paws. Could that be you or your family? Or perhaps you have a suggestion for us to pursue. We'd love to hear from you.

We thank the Heffernans for their long-running service. They made Seymour come alive and brought many smiles to folks of all ages as they promoted Ausbon Sargent in our communities. We'll miss you.

Peggy Hutter is the Communications Coordinator for Ausbon Sargent, ensuring that all of our exciting news and events are shared.

When you're not using it anymore...

by John Garvey

As many of you know, we successfully completed our *Saving Land for Tomorrow (SLT)* campaign in December. Thanks to all of you who participated! Ausbon Sargent is a healthy organization with a solid future — as long as we continue to plan for it. During the SLT campaign, I learned that a lot of people wanted to do more, but were understandably concerned about their own financial security during these unsettling times. Soooo, how about joining the Acorn Society by leaving Ausbon Sargent a bequest from your estate?

With all of the tax law changes, it's always a good idea to get a periodic estate review by your planner. And when you get your review, tell your planner that you'd like to leave some of your estate to Ausbon Sargent. You have many options. You can leave a certain amount, a percentage of your whole estate, whatever is left over after other specific bequests have been paid, etc. It's very easy! My wife, Cotton, and I recently did it and it was actually fun! OK, maybe "fun" is a little excessive, but it felt very good — like when you finally stop on the trail long enough to take the pebble out of your shoe.

Once you've done it, just let us know—and you will be in the Acorn Society. If you prefer secret societies, don't tell us now, and you will be admitted when "you're not using it anymore..."



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

Anonymous (3)
Rich and Heidi Anderson
Deborah L. Coffin
Rick Cole
Chris and Janice Cundey
Tim and Lorraine Davis
Joe and Laurie DiClerico
John and Maggie Ford
Cotton M. Cleveland and John B. Garvey
Gerard and Jane Gold
David and Martha Karrick
Doug Lyon
Dave and Bev Payne
John and Sage Scott
John and Nancy Denny Solodar
Peter and Debbie Stanley

Volunteers are Essential to Ausbon Sargent!



Cynthia Hayes shares a display of Springfield's Conserved Lands during Springfield's Old Home Day.

(photo by John Trachy)



Members of Ausbon Sargent and town officials from Sunapee at the Wendell Marsh Conservation Easement signing. (photo by Peter Urbach)

Wendell Marsh North

by Beth McGuinn

When we began the effort to conserve the land we call Wendell Marsh North, we didn't know there was an old apple orchard and a potential vista on the land. Now that this 136-acre property, south of Ryder Corner Road in Sunapee, is owned by the Town and conserved by Ausbon Sargent, we all have the opportunity to explore this property and discover new wildlife habitats and other features.

Conservation of Wendell Marsh North was made possible by the foresight of Dr. Jolyon Johnson, who purchased the land to ensure it would be conserved. Dr. Johnson sold the land at a bargain price to the Town of Sunapee so that it can be managed by the Conservation Commission, and the Town granted a conservation easement to Ausbon Sargent. The bulk of the funding for Wendell Marsh North was provided by the Sunapee Conservation Commission (SCC); however, many individuals in Sunapee and beyond supplemented the SCC contribution by raising over \$24,000 to complete the project. We thank them all for their generosity and commitment to conservation!

Now the Conservation Commission will seek to have the property designated as a town forest, and they'll plan its future management for public recreation, wildlife habitat and forestry. This winter the Perkins Pond sewer line project will be constructed on the property, improving the water quality of Perkins Pond and its outlet stream which flows through this property. The Conservation Easement prevents subdivision and development that would likely have impacted the property once the sewer line is in place and it keeps the land open for the hikers, cross country skiers and snowmobilers.

At the closing in September, Dr. Johnson, Fred Gallup, Chair of the Selectboard; Van Webb, Chair of the Conservation Commission; and John Garvey, Chair of Ausbon Sargent's Board of Trustees all expressed their interest in working together to expand this first conservation project by conserving additional land in the Wendell Marsh area, a 1000+ acre unfragmented forest. We look forward to continued collaboration to conserve this area for public recreation, wildlife habitat, forest management and other public benefits.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Through July 2014

We request that you RSVP for all events.

May 2014

Volunteer Recognition Party – Thursday, May 22, 4:30 - 6:30 pm at the Knowlton House/LSPA in Sunapee.

Thursday's Child Benefit Dinner – Thursday, May 29 at the New London Inn and Coach House Restaurant. Please call 526-2791 to make your reservations for dinner.

June 2014

Easement monitor training workshop – Wednesday, June 11, 2:00 - 6:00 pm at the Ausbon Sargent office and a field trip to a nearby property. This is a great way to volunteer and see some of the most beautiful properties in the area. Call us for more information.

July 2014

Baptist Pond Hike – Thursday, July 10, 4-6 pm Land Protection Specialist, Beth McGuinn, will lead a hike on this 2013 protected easement property.

Progressive Dinner – Thursday, July 24, 5:30 pm Our (members only) progressive dinner is always extremely popular and fills up quickly.

Please re-visit www.ausbonsargent.org (News/Calendar) for details on all events through December 2014 and call 526-6555 or RSVP to nsmith@ausbonsargent.org for any event that interests you.

Members of the Special Events Committee



(L-R) Nancy Smith, Midge Cross, Nancy Brazier, Kathleen Belko, Betsy Lyons, Andrea DeAugustinis and Bonnie Guterl. The Special Events Committee helps to plan and manage the Holiday Party, the Progressive Dinner and the Kearsarge Classic Bike Event. If you have an interest in joining this committee, contact Nancy Smith at 526-6555. (photo by Sandy DeLaat)



*Ausbon Sargent adds
three new trustees to their
board.*

*From left, meet Graham
McSwiney, Suzanne Tether
and Jim Owers.*

(photo by Peggy Hutter)

MEET OUR NEW TRUSTEES

Graham McSwiney

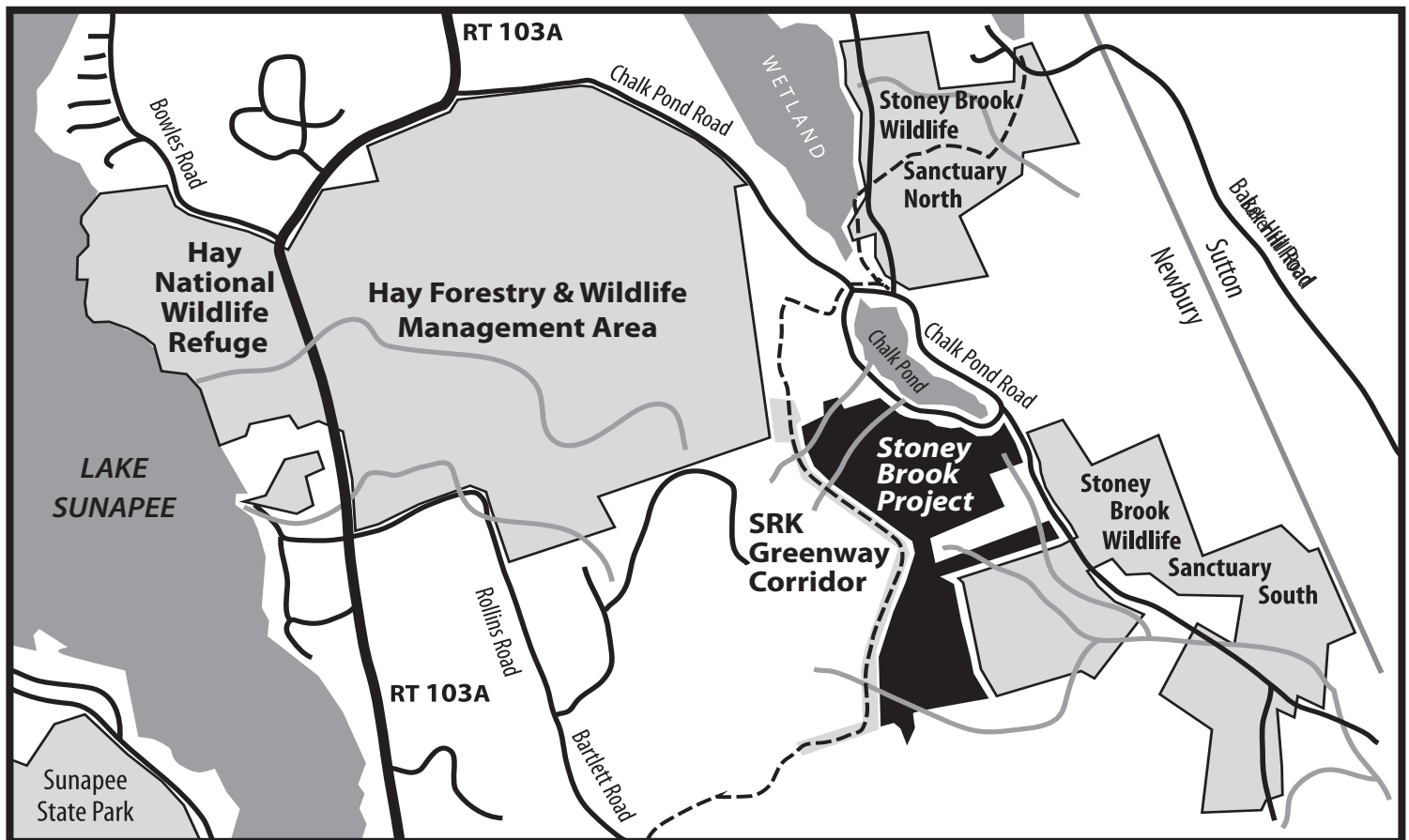
Graham was born in Concord, NH and started skiing at Mt. Sunapee when he was five and summering on Lake Sunapee when he was eleven. Graham attended Stanford University, where he received an A.B. in history. After Stanford he returned east and attended Boston University School of Law where he obtained a J.D and a Master of Laws in Taxation. He married Jane Ann his last year there, and started thinking about returning to New Hampshire to practice law. He and Jane Ann moved to New London in 1969 and have been here ever since. They have one son, Bick, who is teaching at an American International School in Lagos, Nigeria. The first cottage Graham's parents rented on the lake was next to Dr. Bill Clough's cottage at Hastings Landing. The Clough family fully involved the McSwiney family in the activities of New London, which he believes is the reason he came back here. Graham says his interest in Ausbon Sargent comes from "seeing its work preserving wetlands and green space and places where we all can enjoy nature; where we can see and hear the birds, and look up through a clear night sky to see Orion in the winter." Graham will make a perfect addition to our board.

Suzanne Tether

Suzanne is a New Hampshire native who has returned to the Granite State after living most of her adult life in Latin America and New York. After graduating from Skidmore College with a degree in English Literature, a keen interest in history, and a zest for learning and travel, she worked as a Congressional aide in Washington, DC. Newly married in 1970, she relocated with her husband, Harry, to a US Army base in Munich, Germany. After his discharge they set up housekeeping in New York City, where Suzanne first worked as paymaster with the News Election Service, and then trained and worked as a Montessori pre-school teacher. In 1976, the Tethers moved to Mexico City and began a 15-year journey that also took them to Santiago, Chili, and Buenos Aires, Argentina. Along the way they acquired several animals, many interesting friends and, best of all, two children. Through these years, Suzanne and Harry had wide-ranging travel adventures and anecdotes and are nearly fluent in spoken and written Spanish. Once their children went off to college, Suzanne returned to school for a master's degree in special education and became a professor of literacy education at The New Rochelle Graduate School. Suzanne is now retired and lives in Sunapee. She is a volunteer research assistant at The Fells and has already begun her involvement with Ausbon Sargent as part of the Membership Committee. Suzanne and Harry have also hosted progressive dinner events. Suzanne says, "Because the Southern New Hampshire farms and forests of my hometown are now just memories, I value Ausbon Sargent's work in preserving and protecting the beauty and character of our natural resources. Together Ausbon Sargent and local communities can face inevitable growth and work together to create a lasting legacy for future generations." Her hobbies include needlework, hiking, canoeing, gardening, skiing, fly fishing and, of course, traveling. Thanks to Suzanne for her time volunteering and for agreeing to continue her service by joining the Board.

Jim Owers

Jim is a full time resident of Concord and has been a seasonal resident of Sunapee since 2005. He holds a B.A. from Beloit College in Wisconsin and his LL.B from Cornell Law School and has been a practicing Attorney at Sulloway and Hollis, P.L.L.C since 1982. Jim has also worked for the National Marine Fisheries Service and for the State of Alaska in Commercial Fisheries Management. His community involvement includes serving as Vice-Chair of the Concord Conservation Commission and Treasurer of the New Hampshire Cycling Club. When asked what inspired him to accept a position on the Ausbon Sargent Board, Jim shared, "I have become very familiar with the Kearsarge/Sunapee region through many bike rides on the network of dirt roads, class 6 roads and trails which abound here because of its agricultural past. I wanted to join the board of Ausbon Sargent to do what I can to maintain the rural character of this part of New Hampshire for others to enjoy as much as I do." Jim also hopes to assist Ausbon Sargent with land acquisitions, easement monitoring and trail development. Jim is not only an avid cyclist, but also a Nordic skier. He and his wife, Leslie Ludtke, have one daughter, Zoe, and a grandson, Liam. We welcome Jim and all of his natural enthusiasm to our Ausbon Sargent board.

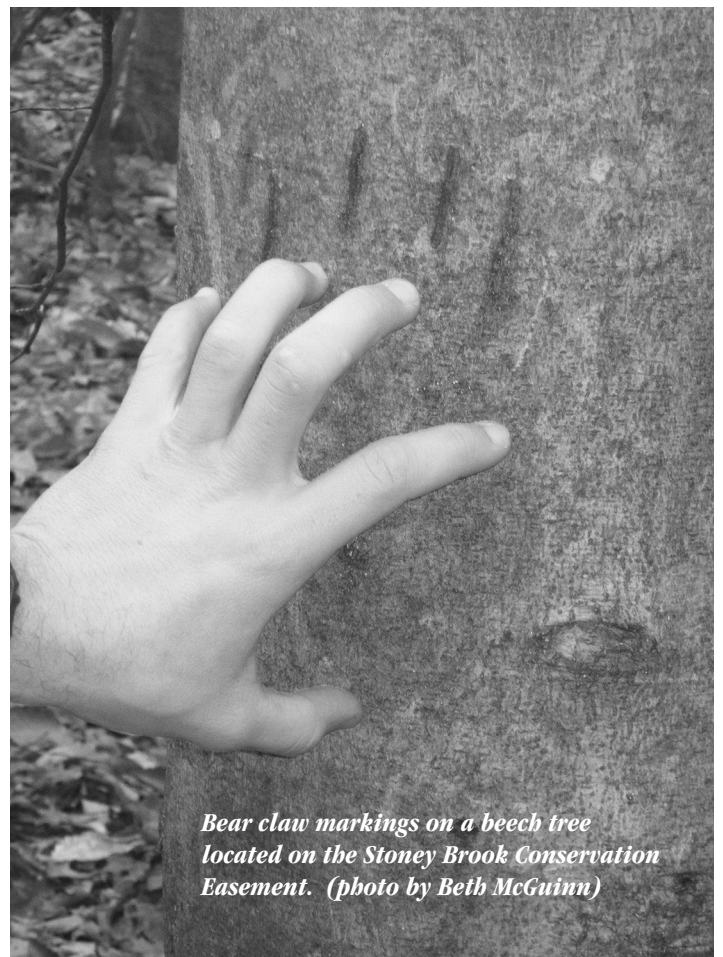


OnTrack Design

Stoney Brook Project Nearly Complete *by Beth McGuinn*

On the Stoney Brook property, rivulets of water gurgle under ground before popping up to the surface; bears climb beech trees in search of protein rich beech nuts, leaving claw marks behind; wide-reaching oak crowns stretch out over smaller trees; piles of stones cleared from open fields 150+ years ago silently witness the growth of new trees in now old fields; and a barred owl flies silently through the woods as noisy blue jays warn forest creatures of danger. This is everyday life on 144 acres of land on the east side of Blye Hill in Newbury. The Stoney Brook project will link over 1,000 acres of conserved land, ensuring that wildlife can continue to roam from one property to another, that the water will be filtered on its journey to Lake Sunapee or Lake Todd and that you can explore this land and learn from these fascinating occurrences.

The Stoney Brook Project is nearly complete, thanks to the generosity of a broad constituency of partners including the Newbury Conservation Commission, the Sunapee Hills Association, Fields Pond Foundation, the Lake Sunapee Protective Association, a Moose Plate conservation grant, NH Audubon, the SRK Greenway, landowners Bob and Lynne Bell and many individual and business donors. We have raised the \$291,000 to complete this project and expect that, as this Chatter goes to press, the land will be conveyed to NH Audubon with a conservation easement protecting it forever, held by Ausbon Sargent. Thanks to all who have helped protect this important property!



Bear claw markings on a beech tree located on the Stoney Brook Conservation Easement. (photo by Beth McGuinn)



Many friends of Ausbon Sargent and the New London Conservation Commission celebrated the closing of the Phillips Preserve Conservation Easement in Goose Hole, New London. (photo by Peggy Hutter)

The Phillips Preserve Conservation Easement

by Laura Alexander

New London's Conservation Commission recently spearheaded the effort to put a conservation easement on the 71-acre Phillips Preserve and to have the property certified in the American Tree Farm System. Both of these efforts are consistent with donor, Bessie Wright Phillips', wishes and serve as a model for responsible stewardship.

The Phillips Preserve protects over 1,600 feet on Otter Pond, and more than 700 feet of frontage on Otter Brook. It is a popular hiking destination for neighborhood residents and, thanks to a recent timber harvest, it offers a striking view of Mt. Sunapee and Otter Pond. The property was gifted to the Town of New London in 1980, prior to the establishment of Ausbon Sargent and before conservation easements were recognized as useful tools for land conservation. Conservation Commission members felt strongly that putting a conservation easement on the land was in keeping with Mrs. Phillips' wishes that the land remain undeveloped and open for recreation. Contrary to what some people believe, town-owned land does not provide permanent protection for properties—they can be developed or disposed of at the whim of town governance, whereas a conservation easement guarantees protection in perpetuity.

Nearly simultaneously, Conservation Commission members decided to enroll the property in the American Tree Farm System. Certification as a Tree Farm requires that the property have a management plan in place that considers the four tenets of the Tree Farm System: Wood, Water, Wildlife and Recreation. They contracted with Pierre Bedard & Associates earlier this year to develop a forest management plan and consulted with New Hampshire Licensed Professional Forester Leo Maslan, who was contracted to manage a timber harvest on the property. The timber harvest was conducted with specific goals in mind: to reclaim the scenic view from the top of the hill, enhance the timber value of the property, and carefully consider the wildlife inhabiting the area. A side benefit to the harvest was the realization of approximately \$7,000 in revenue generated by the timber value that was returned to the Town of New London. Conservation Commission Chair Bob Brown reported, "This property serves as a responsible model for forest stewardship in protecting the Otter Pond watershed, providing a valuable recreation resource, and enhancing the timber stand, both in its value to wildlife and the potential to generate income in the future."

Laura Alexander is Chair/Associate Professor in the Environmental Studies Department at Colby-Sawyer College. She has served as a board member and Chair of the Lands Committee and the Outreach Committee of Ausbon Sargent and currently serves as a member of the New London Conservation Commission.

Remembering Roger Hersey

by Rita LaPlante Norander



Cousins, Roger and Jerry Hersey on their Andover conserved property. (photo by Matthew Hersey)

Roger Hersey, an Ausbon Sargent easement donor, died May 12, 2013 at age 64, after a 4 year battle with multiple myeloma, a form of bone cancer. Roger grew up in Hartford, CT, and spent the last 30 years of his life in Middlefield, CT, where he and his wife, Nancy, raised their five children.

The Hersey Farm in East Andover, NH was one of Roger's special places. His eyes would light up at the mention of NH and the farm. Roger was proud of his heritage and was a faithful attendant at the Hersey Reunions. He was its treasurer for 40 years, and in 1997, Roger hosted the 100th family reunion at the Hersey Farm.

Roger's grandparents, Nannie and Guy Hersey, purchased the farm in 1904. They eventually turned the farm over to their son, Samuel, and he in turn to his son, Roger. With this much family history at stake, Roger was dedicated to preserving the farm and its legacy. Roger and his cousin, Jerry, who owns the neighboring farm, worked together with the Andover Historical Society to list the Hersey Family Farms on the National Register of Historic Places, an honor which was achieved in 2008. Jerry, a longtime member of the Andover Conservation Commission, placed his 268 acres of fields and forest land into a conservation easement with the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust in 2007. With Jerry's encouragement and help, Roger began the process for a similar easement on his 55-acre farm. In November of 2010, this goal was achieved, thus ensuring that the picturesque open fields and scenic views of Roger's farm would be protected forever. The legacy of the Hersey Farm continues today, as Roger's daughter, Lori Hersey, is now the fourth generation owner of the farm. She and her husband, Tom, and their sons, Owen and Aaron, are just as committed to preserving the farm and its history as those in the family who have come before them.

Rita, a former teacher, grew up in East Andover, and lived in MA for 49 years with her husband Bob. In 2012, Rita and Bob retired and moved into Rita's childhood home, which has remained in the LaPlante family since 1929. Rita especially enjoys local history and family genealogy.

Emerald Ash Borer ALERT

From the NH Division of Forest and Lands
Forest Health Section
(603) 464-3016 • nhdfl.org



Bringing firewood into New Hampshire from other areas can accidentally spread damaging insects and diseases that threaten the health of our forests. Once infestation occurs, control of these exotic pests involves drastic measures, including the complete removal of all trees (infested or otherwise) in the affected and surrounding areas.

What you can do to help:

- Don't travel with firewood
- Use local firewood
- Contact the Forest Health office with concerns about pests in your firewood
- Report sightings of exotic insects
- To learn more, visit: www.nhbugs.org



Debbie Stanley (second from left), Executive Director of The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust, identifies some of the protected properties in their 12-town region with Lynda Reinish (left) of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, as Andy Deegan and Laurie DiClerico of the land trust look on. (photo by Sandy DeLaat)

Ausbon Sargent Receives a Generous Grant from the NH Charitable Foundation

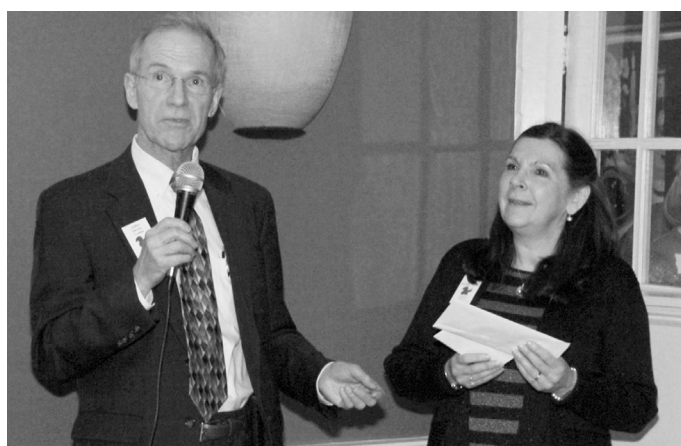
by Peggy Hutter

In October of 2013, Ausbon Sargent was awarded a Large Project Grant from the Community Grants Program of the NH Charitable Foundation (NHCF). The grant seeks to “strategically advance an organization by providing operating support, funding for innovation to increase impact, reduce costs, and/or increase efficiency and support for capacity-building activities or moment-in-time projects.” The vision of the NHCF is to encourage strong, just and resilient communities, where, among other qualities, “significant environmental assets are permanently protected and available for long-term public benefit.” Ausbon Sargent seemed to be a perfect recipient since the mission of the land trust is to “preserve and protect the rural character of the Mt. Kearsarge/Lake Sunapee region” for residents and guests to enjoy forever.

As a result of the many successes Ausbon Sargent has enjoyed over the last twenty-six years, Ausbon Sargent now protects 126 properties encompassing 10,329 acres of land. With every Ausbon Sargent conserved property comes the promise to steward that property forever. As the number and the complexity of the easements increases, the associated costs to monitor these properties also rise. Ausbon Sargent finds itself at an important juncture, where the stewarding of its protected properties will require a full-time employee. 2013 has been a very successful year at the land trust as six properties were added. The funding awarded through this NHCF grant will directly contribute to Ausbon Sargent’s stewardship mission. Ausbon Sargent is sincerely grateful for this award.



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



Board Chairman, John Garvey and Executive Director, Debbie Stanley, announce at the Ausbon Sargent Holiday Party on December 9, 2013, that the Saving Land for Tomorrow campaign successfully reached its goal. (see page 2) (photo by Dick Katz)

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

Ausbon Sargent—Officers, Trustees & Staff

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Susan Nooney, Treasurer

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Andy Deegan, Land Protection Specialist-
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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 call and use your credit card: **603.526.6555**

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- ☐ \$60+ Advocate
- ☐ Other \$



Name _____

Address _____

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

02/14