

THE AUSBON SARGENT LAND PRESERVATION TRUST

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



Chatter



Winter 2016



A Land for *all Seasons*

From the Executive Director:

Photo by Douglas K Hill

Twenty-nine years and going strong Ausbon Sargent is enormously grateful to the landowners, members, volunteers and partners who have made the land trust what it is today. Your support has protected more than 11,000 acres in our region.

As you read this issue of Chatter, you'll note that Chairman Doug Lyon's article (page 4) summarizes the thoughtful attention that the board and staff gave to strategic planning last year. We reaffirmed that our mission is to preserve and protect the rural character of the region for public benefit. Land conservation, stewardship, community commitment and organizational integrity are the four priorities we see as key to achieving our mission.

Foremost is our goal to increase conserved acreage overall and, specifically, in special undeveloped areas in the region. We know that Ausbon Sargent members value farms, forests, streams, wetlands, scenic views and recreational lands. In order to be successful in our conservation work, it is important to establish relationships with decision makers and potential partners in the 12 communities we serve.

Stewardship goes hand in hand with land conservation. As a qualified conservation organization, we are legally required to fulfill our obligation to protect our land now and forever. Annually, the staff will review the most efficient and effective monitoring resources and strategies. The board is responsible for the oversight of our Stewardship and Enforcement Funds, ensuring that we have adequate financial reserves as required by the IRS and the Land Trust Accreditation Commission.



Land conservation benefits everyone. It is essential that a broad demographic understands and values the benefits of our conserved land and becomes involved in our activities. By doing so, we hope that landowners will consider protecting their acreage for the next generation. We also believe that an effective communication message will result in new active members who will continue to uphold the values of Ausbon Sargent.

The best way to achieve all of these goals is to continue on the path of being a trusted organization of excellence as evidenced by our financial stability, strong leadership and management. Annually, Ausbon Sargent updates its succession plans for employees, board, and committees, as well as reviews our fund development plan. The Board of Trustees is unanimous in their commitment to maintain accreditation and appropriate independent financial oversight.

We have a number of exciting and interesting conservation projects underway that you will hear more about in the months ahead, so be sure to join our email list by signing up on our new website. Ausbon Sargent is enormously grateful for your support and trust which makes our work both possible and exceedingly worthwhile.

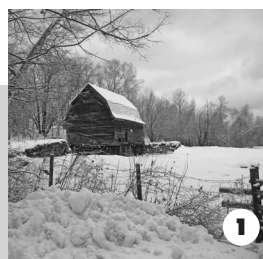
Thank you!



Rebbie Stanley

ABOUT THE COVER

- 1 WINTER:** A pastoral winter scene on the Patten property in Springfield. Photo by Andy Deegan
- 2 SPRING:** A beautiful spring day is a perfect time to enjoy the short hike to Clark Lookout. Photo by Kristy Heath
- 3 SUMMER:** It's easy to imagine summer swimmers jumping from the rocks into this swimming hole on the Birnbaum easement in Danbury. Photo by Nancy Lyon
- 4 FALL:** Fall colors and pumpkins highlight the entrance to the Deming property on Forty Acres Rd. in Elkins. Photo by Peggy Hutter



A Land for All Seasons

by Peggy Hutter

The mission of The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust is to protect special undeveloped “open” spaces such as farms, forests, streams and wetlands for public benefit. As the boundaries around our metropolitan areas broaden and threaten to compromise the rural landscapes, the efforts of organizations like Ausbon Sargent become more and more important.

The Mt. Kearsarge/Ragged/Lake Sunapee area is blessed with four distinct seasons that entice us to this area. We have an unpredictable winter, where some form of measurable snow is almost guaranteed, followed by a lush and vibrant spring. Our summer often tip-toes in, begging us to play outdoors, and fall is unlike any other in the country. It can sometimes catch us abruptly with cool days and crisp nights and colors that electrify. Every season is the perfect season to enjoy New Hampshire.

The friendly, country atmosphere of our small towns becomes even cozier as winter approaches. Families gather to celebrate the holidays. Main streets bustle as folks check out the local winter festivals and shop for their holiday gifts. The outdoor sports enthusiasts are thrilled when the temperatures drop and both fresh and manmade snow accumulate on the mountaintops ensuring that our ski passes and brand new winter apparel can be put to good use on the ponds and trails. The smell of the woodstoves being stoked calls us home in the evening to nestle in for the night. Though many would prefer to avoid the challenges that winter can create, the small town charm and the tranquil beauty of the season lures visitors to our area and keeps others from moving away.

The New Hampshire spring often comes later than we hoped as we transition from a melting winter into the eye-catching first blossoms of the new season. For many, spring signals the return of color across our landscapes, the songbirds and other wildlife reappearing in our yards; “snowbirds” returning from an exodus to warmer lands. This is the time we plan our summer gardens, just waiting for that last frost to hit before planting. (Some might say there is a fifth season that takes place in our area right about now—mud season. It might tend to dampen the spirits a bit as we anticipate spring, but the hope of greener days soon conquers our moods.) As each day brings a new attraction, spring in New Hampshire reconnects us with nature and reminds us why we love it here.

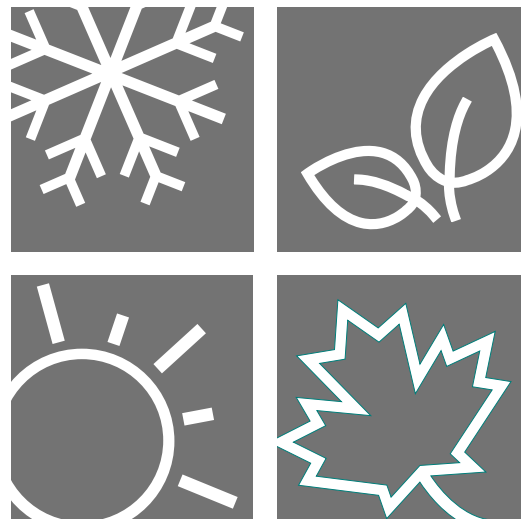
With the warmth of summer approaching, many feel their spirits soar. School’s out for the summer and families begin planning hikes and picnics and fun events in our beautiful area. New Hampshire always welcomes guests from many other areas, and in these months, we often feel like our seams are bursting with the influx of summer people. Residents recognize that we live in a

vacation destination. Like our visitors, we fish, hike, swim, boat and play. We attend outdoor music events, “Markets on the Green,” watch fireworks from the shores and overlooks of our lakes, eat local produce and create endless adventures on the land we love. Summers are magical in New Hampshire.

A very distinct line marks the change from summer into fall. School begins for the students and the bulging borders of our small towns shrink back to their comfortable size. Days are getting shorter and there is nothing so refreshing, after the heat of the summer, as the crisp morning air when we marvel that we “can see our breath”! Our fall foliage is spectacular as our trees change from green to yellow and orange and the distinctive reds of our sugar maples. It’s not only the science behind the changing colors that makes our landscape a tapestry to behold. We are fortunate to have an abundance of fields and forests, hillsides and shorefronts to create a large stage for this seasonal performance. Following our share of “leaf-peepers,” we know there will be a brief respite before the winter influx of people. And so it goes as the next cycle of our four seasons in New Hampshire begins.

Every season is the perfect season to savor the beauty and the benefits of our area. The rural character is what we cherish and protecting that is what The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust has embraced as its mission. So, whether it’s winter, spring, summer or fall, the Mt. Kearsarge/Ragged/Lake Sunapee area is truly a “Land for All Seasons”!

Peggy Hutter is the Communications Coordinator for Ausbon Sargent. She moved to NH in 1979 for all of the reasons above. Peggy was honored as a National Teacher of the Year in 2002 and retired in 2010 after 36 years of teaching middle school. She and her husband, Bob, live in Elkins.



Strategic Planning at the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust

by Doug Lyon

"If you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there." Lewis Carroll

Michael Wilkinson, the author and CEO of Leadership Strategies, Inc. outlines five basic reasons for strategic planning.

1) **To set direction and priorities:** A strategic plan defines your organization's view of success and prioritizes the activities that will make this view your reality. The plan also helps management know what they should be working on, and what they should be working on first.

2) **To get everyone on the same page:** A strategic plan creates an agreed upon blueprint for the board of trustees and management as to where the organization is headed. It makes sure the board and management have the same aims.

3) **To simplify decision-making:** People working in not-for-profit organizations are mission driven and can be seduced by new potential initiatives. A strategic plan makes it easier to say no to distracting initiatives.

4) **To drive alignment:** A small organization can't afford wasted effort. A strategic plan helps answer the question: Are all our activities aligned with our plan?

5) **To communicate the message:** If a strategic plan isn't down on paper it hasn't been communicated thoroughly. When your board, staff, volunteers, and supporters know where you're going, you create even greater opportunities for people to help maximize your success in getting there. "Plans are only good intentions unless they immediately degenerate into hard work." Peter Drucker

In 2009, the board and staff of Ausbon Sargent worked with a consulting firm to craft a strategic plan for the organization. That plan helped us to achieve an enviable record of success over the last five years. The planning process started with a market study of our membership to ensure that the board and staff were on the same page with our volunteers and supporters. We then held a planning retreat using facilitators to help us grapple with the strengths and weaknesses of the organization and the threats and opportunities facing us. This effort led to the strategic plan that has guided Ausbon Sargent for the last 5 years through December 2015.

That plan had 6 major strategic goals. They were:

- Conservation
- Stewardship
- Community Outreach
- Leadership Development
- Fund Development
- Marketing



Ausbon Sargent enjoyed success in each one of these areas. The conservation of land is ongoing and has resulted to date in 137 tracts protected, representing over 11,000 acres. We have successfully utilized professional staff and more than 100 dedicated volunteers to steward the conserved land through a comprehensive monitoring program to ensure that all easement criteria are met. Our Outreach Committee is a major player in forging and maintaining working relationships with leaders and stakeholders in all the towns we serve. The result has been valuable partnerships with selectmen, conservation commissions, funding agencies, foundations, and citizen groups that have been instrumental in achieving our conservation goals. The Leadership Committee has successfully recruited volunteers, committee members and board members that have been essential to the work of the organization. The development of donor relationships was essential to the successful capital campaign, Saving Land for Tomorrow, which met its goal of raising \$2.5 million to ensure that Ausbon Sargent can meet its perpetual responsibility to steward the land under conservation easements and the properties we own. Successful and ongoing marketing efforts have increased membership, and donations, as well as increased the number of easement donors and volunteers.

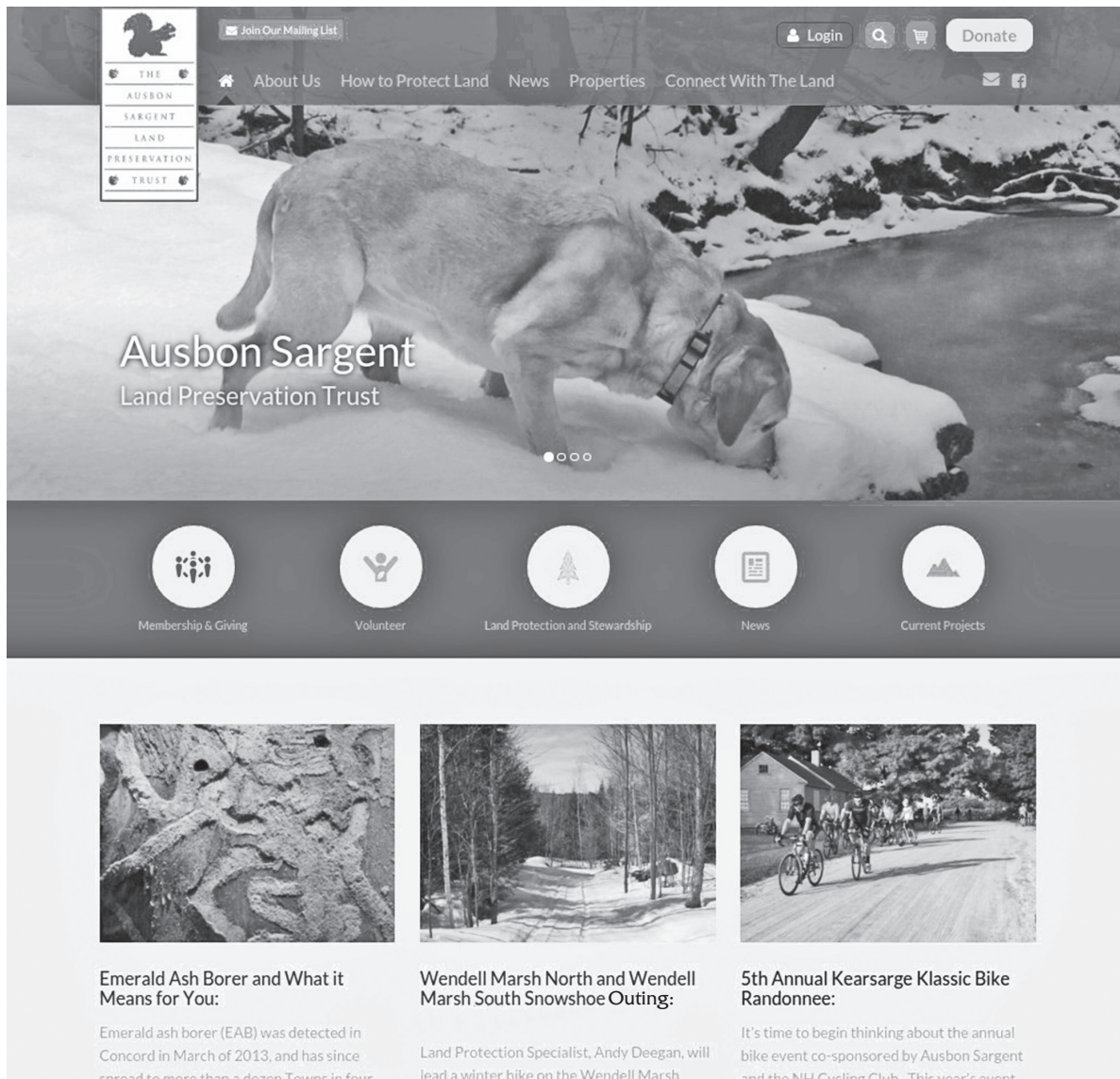
"Management is doing things right; leadership is doing the right things." Peter Drucker

Looking toward the future, the Ausbon Sargent board of trustees embarked on a new strategic planning process this year. We completed a new market study to quiz our membership on their ideas about the organization and its goals and activities. A Strategic Planning Committee was established to lead the effort and, in November, a day long planning retreat was held to test our assumption about the organization's future in today's environment. The result is a strategic plan that will carry us through the next five years. Stay tuned as the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust continues to preserve the rural character of the region!!!

Doug Lyon (aka Arnold Palmer) is the Chair of the Board of Ausbon Sargent. He was the CFO of Colby-Sawyer for 23 three years before he retired to focus more attention on his golfing career.



Ausbon Sargent met for a Board Retreat on the Colby-Sawyer campus in November, 2015. Pictured (L-R) are Doug Lyon, Nan Kaplan, Steve Allenby, Charlie Foss and Kathy Carroll.



Home page screenshot provided by Carnevale Design

Ausbon Sargent has a new website!

Launched in mid-December, our website has a whole new look. The original website was constructed in the year 2000, so it was time to get things updated to be accessible across all the media platforms used today. Thanks to a generous, anonymous, donor we were able to do a complete renovation of the old website using all the latest technology.

If you go to our home page, we have a scrolling banner with seasonal pictures of conserved properties. From there, you can find out about all that we do by clicking on the various drop-down menus. We have improved your ability to donate with our new donate button. This button takes you to a landing page where you can view various giving options, make a donation and check-out using our secure STRIPE system.

We have also improved the way you read about our protected properties. You can search by town or, alphabetically, by Property name to find a description of each property. The trail map section is still a work in progress. We hope to increase its functionality by next summer. Please go to www.ausbonsargent.org and take a look. We think you will enjoy it!

Thanks, Paul

The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust thanks Paul Carnevale, Jr. of Carnevale Design for redesigning our website. His attention to detail in all aspects of the project and his patience with the Ausbon Sargent team are greatly appreciated.



The Sheehan Property: ***A Case Study in Conservation Value***

by Andy Deegan



The Sheehan property shoreline at Evergreen Point on Little Lake Sunapee taken from the lake . Photo by Debbie Stanley

One of the most common questions we receive from landowners is, “How big does a property need to be for Ausbon Sargent to protect it?” This can be a difficult question to answer because although smaller lots may not be ideal candidates for conservation, there are some small parcels that have very important conservation values.

This past summer Ausbon Sargent was approached by the Sheehan family regarding two lots in New London totaling just under one acre. If these lots had been located in a residential area or adjacent to commercial development, we likely would not have pursued this project, but in fact, they had several attributes that made them a good candidate for conservation. First, the properties are adjacent to land

that has already been conserved. In 2005, Ausbon Sargent acquired in fee approximately nine acres on Little Lake Sunapee from the Estate of Marjorie A. C. Young. This land is still owned by Ausbon Sargent and is known as Evergreen Point. In 2006, Evergreen Point was permanently conserved with a Conservation Easement that was donated from Ausbon Sargent to the Town of New London’s Conservation Commission. The Sheehan acreage shares a boundary with the Evergreen Point property; therefore, its conservation increased the acreage of an existing block of conservation land. The second feature making the Sheehan properties more attractive for conservation is that they have approximately 150 feet of frontage on Little Lake Sunapee. Protection of lake shorelines is important for several reasons. If the land is able to remain in a natural forested state, it will filter the water that flows over it and into the lake. This helps protect the water quality of the lake. The protection of the shore frontage also has a scenic benefit for the public who recreate on Little Lake Sunapee, as most will prefer seeing forested lake shore to new houses. The natural vegetative buffer along the lake shore also acts as a sound buffer, preventing some of the traffic noise from heavily-traveled Newport Road from reaching the lake. Shoreline protection is important for wildlife as well. Common Loons, a state-threatened species, have had recent success fledging chicks on Little Lake Sunapee. Because these birds cannot move very well on land, they need vegetated shorelines in order to nest under adequate cover. The cove that the Evergreen Point and the Sheehan properties sit on is an ideal undeveloped area for the loons to build a nest.

Small parcels of land do not always have significant conservation values that make them good candidates for conservation. However, some parcels do have ecological, scenic, and/or recreational values making them very worthy of conservation. Ausbon Sargent evaluates each candidate parcel individually to determine if it has sufficient conservation value to be added to our growing list of conservation lands. In the case of the Sheehan properties, Ausbon Sargent was pleased to accept a generous gift of land from the Sheehan Family in 2015 for the two small parcels on Little Lake Sunapee.

A scenic view of Lake Sunapee across protected property.





Little Lake Sunapee Shoreline

Lakes—A Precious Resource

by Laurie DiClerico

Most of us have chosen this special region as our home, either permanently or as a vacation retreat, because of the natural beauty it holds. The lakes, mountains and forests provide us with opportunities for recreation, peace, solitude and a high standard of living. These treasures deserve protection and the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust continues to do its part to preserve our rural landscapes and our precious water resources.

In September 2005 Ausbon Sargent took ownership of the first property which it owns outright, Evergreen Point, located on Little Lake Sunapee in New London. It was an exceptional opportunity to preserve nine acres and 1,000 feet of shore frontage in its natural state. In August 2015, Sharon & Duffy Sheehan gifted Ausbon Sargent 2 parcels of land adjacent to the Evergreen Point property making this parcel a total of 10 acres and protecting an additional 150 feet of shore frontage from development on Little Lake Sunapee. These properties are near the previously protected Denny, Kentlands, Phillips and Stanley easement properties Ausbon Sargent has now protected over $\frac{3}{4}$ miles of frontage on the south side of the lake. It is very significant that Ausbon Sargent has been able to protect the Evergreen Point properties and thereby link other conservation properties located in such a strategic location. (See related article on page 6.)

Our lakes are in a delicate balance. Land use and the quality of adjacent lakes and waterbodies are strongly linked and cannot be overstated. Typically, undeveloped, undisturbed buffers surrounding a water body reduce the impacts of adjacent land use. Not only does an undisturbed buffer provide critical habitat for plants and animals in the watershed, but it serves as a sound buffer as well. More importantly, the land acts as a buffer minimizing erosion and controlling sediment during construction, lessening the effects of storm water runoff and

serving as a natural filter capturing sediment and pollutants before they reach the lake. It is critical that watershed residents understand what their individual roles are in protecting the valued resources we cherish.

Pollution from storm water runoff and from land development, in addition to road salt, all contribute to the degradation of the water quality in our lakes. The consequence of this runoff is changes in the PH levels, the amount of phosphorous present in the water, and the increase of the levels of conductivity, which measures the amount of dissolved salts in the water. When excess nutrients, particularly phosphorous, enter the water, there is the possibility of the growth of cyanobacteria, which presents a potential risk to humans and their pets.

Ausbon Sargent's land ownership is one of the most effective ways to protect water resources and provides the most control over land use activities; however, ultimately, it is a collaboration of public and private sector efforts which provides the most protection. Working together, individuals and communities can take steps to keep our lakes and streams pristine. Watershed associations, lake associations, volunteer groups and local and state governments can work together to safeguard water quality. Locally, we have regulations in place, which offer protection to our lakes, wetlands and streams including zoning ordinances; subdivision regulations and site plan review. In order for these to be successful, landowners have an obligation to comply with these regulations to the best of their abilities. The trees, shrubs, bushes and ground cover between your home and the water are the lake's last line of defense. It is critical that watershed residents and those around our lakes understand that their individual contributions do make a difference. When everyone does a little to prevent runoff into streams and lakes everyone benefits a lot!

Laurie DiClerico is on staff as the Ausbon Sargent Development Associate. She is a Past President of the Little Sunapee Protective Association, a Past Chair of the New London Planning Board, and a Past Member of the New London Zoning Board.





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 sandreus@ausbonsargent.org

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(for donating a portion of every sales commission to Ausbon Sargent)

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John Augustine at Dexter's Inn for a beautiful venue for the Wendell Marsh Celebration
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Daria (from China) for office help
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The Elkins Fish and Game Club for trail work at Cordingley Preserve
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Dick Katz for photographing events
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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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Bill and Betty Stockwell
Sugar River Bank
Town of Sunapee
Town of Sutton
Kit and Nancy Tatum
V-Oz Asset Management Co., LLC,
Van O. Webb
R.H. Webb Forest Preserve, LLC,
Van O. Webb
Daniel H. Wolf Trust
Woods Without Gile
Marcia Wright
Sarah Yerkes
Marjorie Young*
Steven and Susan Youngs

*denotes deceased



Bea Jillette found this moose antler on her conservation easement in Gosben.

Photo by Linda Dennis

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Through June 2016

A summer day on the Graves property in Andover

February

Emerald Ash Borer and What it Means for You:

A presentation led by Dode Gladders, the Extension Forester for Sullivan County from UNH Cooperative Extension. This 1-hour presentation will inform participants about the emerald ash borer (EAB), the single most destructive forest pest in the United States.

Thursday, February 4 6:30 pm Wilmot Community Red Barn

March

Wendell Marsh North and Wendell Marsh South Snowshoe Outing

Join us as we explore the recently conserved Wendell Marsh properties. More details will be shared as the date nears.

Saturday, March 5 1:00 to 3:00 pm

May

Volunteer Recognition Party

We hope all of our volunteers join the staff and board as we thank you for the help you graciously provide Ausbon Sargent.

Tuesday, May 17 4:30 to 6:30 pm

Old College Road Preserve Hike

Join Ausbon Sargent's Land Protection Specialist, Andy Deegan, for a "Spring Awakening" hike on this Andover property.

Saturday, May 21 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Thursday's Child Benefit Dinner at the New London Inn & Coach House Restaurant

Add this event to your calendar now and make your reservations with the Coach House Restaurant in May by calling 526-2791. A percentage of the evenings' profits directly benefit the Ausbon Sargent Land Trust.

Thursday, May 26

June

Easement Monitoring Training

Wednesday, June 8 2:00 to 6:00 pm Ausbon Sargent office

Art Auction Co-sponsored by Ausbon Sargent and The Center for the Arts

This event will be in conjunction with the annual Strawberry Festival in New London. Ausbon Sargent will co-host a wine and cheese social and a silent auction held at Whipple Hall in New London.

Friday, June 24 Time to be determined

Please visit specific events above (News/Calendar) for more details on all events for 2016. We request that you RSVP for all events.



Ausbon Sargent Partners with The Center for the Arts in June

by Kristy Heath

On June 24th, as part of the town-wide Strawberry Festival, Ausbon Sargent will be partnering with The Center for the Arts to host a “Silent Art Auction” and cocktail party. There will be many different types of art on display from local and regional artists that will have a focus on the beauty of our Mt. Kearsarge/Ragged/Lake Sunapee region, with an emphasis on Ausbon Sargent conserved land. What a wonderful way to highlight the efforts of these two important non-profit organizations in our area!

For over 25 years, it has been Ausbon Sargent’s mission to help preserve the rural landscape of the Mt. Kearsarge/Ragged/Lake Sunapee region. To date, we have protected 137 properties and 11,066 acres in our 12-town region so that we can all enjoy the wonderful open spaces this area has to offer.

The Center for the Arts works with organizations and businesses throughout the year to showcase local and regional talent and to bring new visual and performing arts to the community. This is evidenced by several micro galleries throughout a handful of businesses in New London, and the First Friday events offered each month at Whipple Hall.

“Because Ausbon Sargent helps to maintain the beauty in our region, and artists are just a few of those who benefit from this, it is natural for us to partner with them on this event” explained Jean Connolly, Executive Director of The Center for the Arts.

Ausbon Sargent members and supporters are welcome to attend the auction, enjoy cocktails and hors d’oeuvres while viewing the artwork. They will then have an opportunity to bid on these special one-of-a-kind pieces. Proceeds will benefit both The Center for the Arts and Ausbon Sargent.

The Ausbon Sargent Calendar of upcoming events can be found on page 9. For more information on The Center for the Arts and their future events, visit: **www.CenterForTheArtsNH.org**

Kristy is the Administrative Assistant for Ausbon Sargent. She and her husband, Nate, live in Springfield, NH with their three daughters.



We’d Like You to Meet KRISTY HEATH

Kristy Heath joined the Ausbon Sargent staff as our new Administrative Assistant in July, 2015. When you call the office or walk in, it will most likely be Kristy who greets you. In addition to her many duties around the office, Kristy manages special events for Ausbon Sargent and will be writing some of the grants that help to fund our land projects.

Kristy spent her childhood in Grantham, NH and graduated with a BA in English Teaching from the University of New Hampshire. She lives in Springfield, NH with her husband, Nate, a physical education teacher at the Kearsarge Regional Middle School, and their three daughters, ages 12, 10 and 8.

Some of you may already know Kristy as she most recently worked for the Town of New London as the Administrative Assistant to the Selectmen. She worked for the Town for the past six years, just prior to accepting the job with Ausbon Sargent.

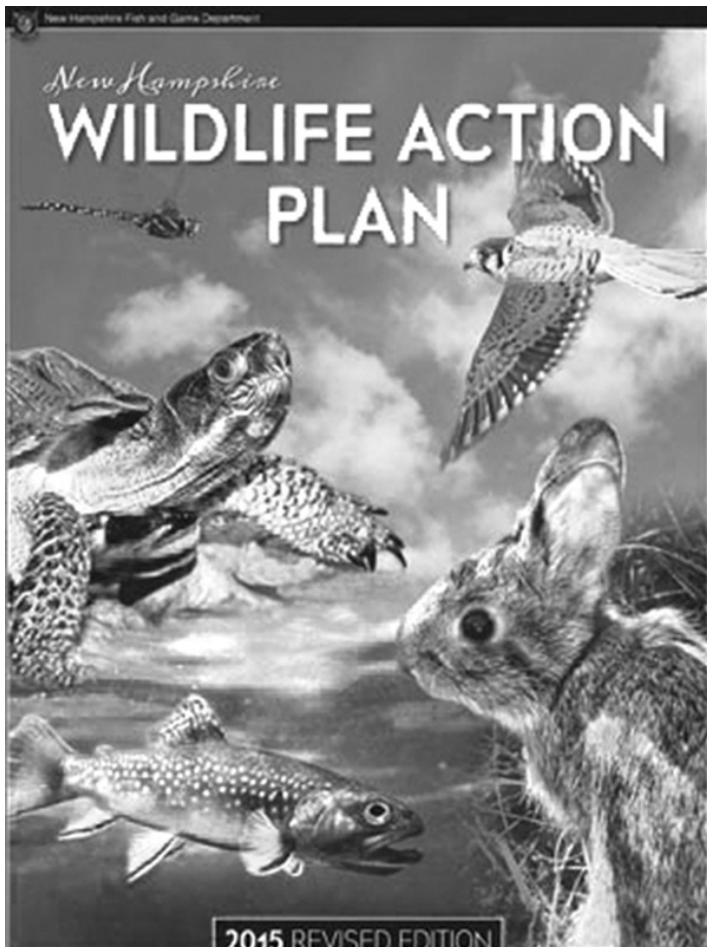
Kristy and her family enjoy camping in the summer and they are involved in youth sports and their church throughout the year. In the winter, Kristy plays in a competitive women’s basketball league that plays their games in and around central Vermont.

Ausbon Sargent is fortunate to have Kristy on staff. She not only brings youth and intuitive technology skills to the job, but she adds another friendly, positive attitude to the office. Please come in and introduce yourself.

New Hampshire's Wildlife Action Plan

by Andy Deegan

New Hampshire's Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) was recently updated by NH Fish and Game, with the help of many conservation organizations across the state. This plan identifies wildlife species of greatest conservation need in New Hampshire, and recognizes 27 different habitat types that support these species. These areas of significant wildlife habitat are delineated, mapped, and ranked in descending importance as either Highest Ranked Habitat in New Hampshire, Highest Ranked Habitat within a specific Biological Region, or as Supporting Landscapes. The primary goal of the Wildlife Action Plan is to focus efforts for conservation and management in the highest ranked habitat to help protect vulnerable wildlife species. Since the first version of the WAP was published in 2005, more than 235,000 acres of Highest Ranked Habitat have been conserved in the state.



Ausbon Sargent uses the Wildlife Action Plan as one of the criteria in our own Conservation Plan. In addition to the WAP, Ausbon Sargent's plan uses data on soils, water resources and land management to prioritize areas in which to focus our conservation efforts and accomplish our mission. With the help of Colby Sawyer College students and faculty, Ausbon Sargent was able to create co-occurrence maps for our region that highlight the areas where more than one important resource is present. Shades of color are added for each resource value present, resulting in a map that identifies areas with greater conservation value in increasingly darker shades. This process makes it easier for Ausbon Sargent to identify key areas and parcels within our 12-town region to focus conservation efforts.

All planning documents need to be reviewed periodically to determine whether updates are needed, or whether the data or methodology used to make decisions has changed significantly. For the WAP update, NH Fish and Game incorporated new data, methodologies and public input to identify species and habitats that are at the greatest risk. For example, if a known rare or endangered species was found in a new area, this new information led Fish and Game to alter the WAP's habitat maps to include this area as significant wildlife habitat. With increased citizen observations and new methods for reporting individual species data, biologists have more data than ever before to determine the ranges of species and understand how those ranges are changing over time. In some cases, areas that were identified as highest ranked wildlife habitat in the 2005 WAP are now not listed at all in the new plan. This does not mean the land removed is not valuable wildlife habitat anymore, only that recent data suggests it is not priority habitat for the species of greatest conservation need. These areas can still be important for providing resources to our native wildlife species.

With the recent update to the State's Wildlife Action Plan, Ausbon Sargent must now incorporate the new significant habitat layer into our own Conservation Plan. We will need to make new co-occurrence maps to identify areas with the highest conservation values, and review these maps to ensure that we are focusing our efforts in the appropriate areas. This is all part of good planning, which will result in greater conservation success and adherence to Ausbon Sargent's mission and goals.

Andy Deegan is the Land Protection Specialist and Stewardship Manager for Ausbon Sargent. He graduated from the Vermont Law School in 2004 and practiced law in Essex, Vermont before joining Ausbon Sargent in 2008. Andy also serves on the New London Conservation Commission. Andy, his wife, Carrie, and their two children enjoy the outdoors, especially bird-watching.

“All Aboard”

Meet the Newest Members of the Ausbon Sargent Board of Trustees

The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust welcomed three new members to its Board of Trustees at the October 25th Annual Meeting. Much discussion and consideration goes into the selection of new Ausbon Sargent board members as the terms of some of its current members come to an end. Executive Director, Debbie Stanley, is proud of the fact that the Ausbon Sargent Board of Trustees is diverse and represents the expertise in the fields necessary to create a well-informed and balanced non-profit organization.

We asked each new Board member, “What is it about The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust, its mission, or the people that influenced your decision to accept Debbie Stanley’s invitation to join the Board of Trustees?” Included in their brief bio below is each new board member’s response.

Kathy Carroll has been a long-time resident of New London and tells us that she has a strong appreciation for the work of Ausbon Sargent. She shares, “I have always been impressed with the caliber of Ausbon’s Sargent’s staff and volunteer leadership, as well as their commitment to land protection and the communities they serve. The opportunity to be actively engaged in the mission and to make a contribution to the organization’s mounting success was very compelling.” Kathy works as the Development Officer for Lebanon Public Libraries Foundation in West Lebanon, NH. We are very happy to welcome Kathy and her fundraising experience and development expertise to the Board.

Peter Fichter is a Newbury resident who is currently the Chair of the Newbury Zoning Board. He sits on the board of the Sunapee Harbor Riverway and is a Mt. Sunapee volunteer ski instructor at NEHSA. Peter’s local involvement and his work with Ausbon Sargent as an easement monitor and a member of the Lands Committee will be assets in his new role as a trustee. Peter responded to our board question by saying, “I have a deep appreciation for the outdoors and all that it offers. In New Hampshire we are extremely fortunate to have unspoiled and open space. As pressure builds for increased development, it is critical we preserve the landscape for future generations to enjoy. Ausbon Sargent’s mission to preserve and protect such lands is what compelled me to join as a Trustee.”

Frances Harris has been a property owner in Sunapee since 1986 and a full-time resident since 2006. She shares how her first visits to our area influenced her to move to this area and her interest to become



The new members of the Board of Trustees for Ausbon Sargent (L-R) Frances Harris, Peter Fichter and Kathy Carroll.

involved. Frances wrote, “My husband and I were drawn to the Sunapee/New London area back in the early 80s with our first visit to Twin Lake Villa. The beauty of the area and the friendliness of the community were attractions then and remain so today. Once I became acquainted with committee members and trustees of Ausbon Sargent and saw firsthand how knowledgeable, energetic, and committed they are to protecting our rural environment, I knew that it would be a pleasure and a privilege to work with such a group.” Frances is a retired financial manager who currently serves on the Membership and Finance committees for Ausbon Sargent. Her expertise will help Ausbon Sargent to fill the void left by retiring board members in both finance and membership.

The strength of our Board of Trustees helps to define the land trust. Ausbon Sargent has always tried to surround itself with strong, credentialed individuals. We share credit with them for much of our success. Welcome to the team, Kathy, Peter and Frances!

Wish List

10 Quad Compasses
for our volunteers to use when monitoring conservation easement properties.

\$379.50

2 Fold-in-half folding tables

\$150

The Enhanced Tax Incentive for Conservation Easement Donations Has Been Made Permanent

In strong bipartisan action, the House voted 318-109 and the Senate voted 65-33 to pass bills that made the tax incentive for conservation easement donations permanent. The president signed these bills into law on December 18, 2015. The incentive will be applied retroactively to start January 1, 2015. An earlier version of the incentive expired December 31, 2014. The incentive encourages landowners to place a conservation easement on their land to protect important natural, scenic and historic resources.

How does the Enhanced Incentive Work?

The enhanced incentive can make a big difference for landowners who are thinking about donating a conservation easement. In particular, it allows working farmers and ranchers, as well as landowners with modest incomes, to realize more of the value of the deduction.

Here's what the enhanced incentive does:

- *Raises the maximum deduction a donor can take for donating a Conservation easement from 30% of their adjusted gross income (AGI) in any year to 50%*
- *Allows qualified farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100% of their AGI*
- *Increases the number of years over which a donor can take deductions from 6 to 16 years*

Stronger incentives mean more voluntary land conservation — a cost-effective way to save farms, forests, watersheds, wildlife habitat, scenic views, historic landmarks, natural areas and trails.

If you are interested in conserving your land, please contact our Land Protection Specialist Andy Deegan at adeegan@ausbonsargent.org or call 603-526-6555.



Members of the Ausbon Sargent Special Events Committee as they help to host the 2015 Ausbon Sargent Holiday Party. (front L-R) Laura Beth Foster and Kathleen Belko (back L-R) Susan Showalter, Betsy Lyon, Cindy Lawson and Bonnie Guterl. Missing from photo is Ruth Cave. Photo by Sandy DeLaat



The Emerald Ash Borer

by Dode Gladders

Emerald ash borer (EAB) was detected in Concord in March of 2013, and has since spread to more than a dozen towns in four counties across southern New Hampshire. Originally from eastern Asia, EAB was accidentally imported to Detroit in wooden packing materials in the early 1990's. All of North America's native ash species are vulnerable to this exotic beetle. In New Hampshire, this includes white, green, and black ash (but not mountain-ash, which is not a true ash).

Adult EAB become active in late spring, around the time black locust trees are flowering. Within a few weeks females lay eggs on the bark of ash trees. After the eggs hatch, the larvae burrow in and begin to feed on the phloem tissue just under the bark. Phloem is part of the tree's "plumbing" system and eventually the cumulative damage from hundreds or thousands of EAB will kill the tree.

Detecting new infestations as quickly as possible is important because it gives homeowners, woodlot owners, and towns time to implement a response plan. To identify EAB, we look for the distinctive feeding galleries under the bark, D-shaped holes where the adults emerged, and general decline of the tree. The best sign to look for, though, is evidence of woodpecker activity. Certain woodpeckers feed on EAB larvae and in the process create smooth, light-colored patches of bark, known as "blonding," first seen high in a tree's crown. In New Hampshire, most new infestations are identified when someone recognizes this blonding and investigates further.

Recommendations on what to do can be viewed on nhbugs.org. The first step is to determine which of the three EAB management zones you're in. For each zone, there are specific recommendations for homeowners as well as for woodlot owners. Depending on your zone, this may include inventorying your ash, proactive harvesting, chemical treatments, removals, or a wait-and-see approach.

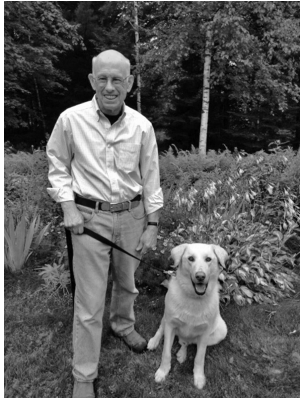
All towns should consider developing an EAB response plan and taking a few common-sense steps now to prepare for EAB's arrival. Recommendations for municipalities are available on nhbugs.org, and your UNH County Extension Forester can provide further assistance.



Evidence of the Emerald Ash Borer can be noted by the "blonding" on the bark of the ash tree. Photo by Dode Gladders



Glenn "Dode" Gladders of New London is the Extension Forester for Sullivan County from UNH Cooperative Extension. Dode has broad experience with outreach on invasive forest insects and plants, particularly the Emerald Ash Borer, Asian longhorned beetle and beech bark disease.



David Karrick. And Chapman

From Acorns, the Mighty Oak Will Grow

The Ausbon Sargent Acorn Society provides our supporters an opportunity to create a lasting legacy by designating Ausbon Sargent to receive a portion of their assets after they are gone. There are a number of ways that folks choose to make a gift to the land trust and the value of the designated gifts vary widely.

Ausbon Sargent is always honored to add another member to The Acorn Society. Each gift reinforces that the work we do to protect the rural character of the region is valued and, of course, each gift helps to sustain the organization and guarantee that this work will continue in perpetuity.

David Karrick, a NH State Representative in Merrimack District 25, who serves the people in Andover, Danbury, Salisbury, Warner and Webster, is the most recent member of The Acorn Society. His planned gift represents Ausbon Sargent's first bequest using a "Designated Fund" through the NH Charitable Foundation. David established his "Pumpkin Hill Fund" as a way to support a number of his favorite non-profit organizations and Ausbon Sargent is proud to have been named as one of the recipients of David's philanthropy.

David owns acreage in Warner on which he lives and recreates and which protects the view from his home. His property is bordered by at least 200 acres of undeveloped land, most of which is not in conservation. David has a great appreciation for protecting the rural character of this area.

Regarding his decision to name the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust as a beneficiary of his "Pumpkin Hill Fund," David shared, "I chose Ausbon Sargent as my conservation organization because it is a local organization, chooses its properties wisely, actively monitors them, and is a small enough group so one doesn't have to navigate through bureaucracy. I feel confident that Ausbon Sargent will continue to do its excellent work long after I'm gone."



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

***If you would like
more information,
feel free to call the
Ausbon Sargent office at
603-526-6555 or email
dstanley@ausbonsargent.org
Members who prefer not to
be recognized can remain
anonymous.***

***The individuals listed below
have either made a bequest
or notified us that they have
provided for Ausbon Sargent
in their estate plans.***

Mr. and Mrs. James D. Abbott*
Anonymous (9)
Rich and Heidi Anderson
Theodore S. Bacon, Jr.*
Ann C. Bemis*
Catherine Bogardus*
Roland P. Carreker*
Rick Cole
Naia L. Conrad*
Chris and Janice Cundey
Tim and Lorraine Davis
Joe and Laurie DiClerico
John and Maggie Ford
Cotton M. Cleveland and
John B. Garvey
Gerard and Jane Gold
David Karrick
Doug Lyon
Andrew J. McDonald*
Dave and Bev Payne
John and Sage Scott
John and Nancy Denny Solodar
Virginia Anthony Soule*
Peter and Debbie Stanley
Mary-Seymour P. Wastcoat*

*denotes deceased

To David and to all of those who have put their faith in the continued good work of Ausbon Sargent, please be assured that we have made a promise to preserve the rural landscape that we intend to keep. Thank you for your confidence and financial support.



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

STAFF (L-R)

Front row:

Patsy Steverson,
Bookkeeper

Deborah Stanley,
Executive Director

Laurie DiClerico,
Development Associate

Back row:

Andy Deegan,
*Land Protection Specialist -
Stewardship Manager*

Kristy Heath,
Administrative Assistant

Sue Ellen Andrews,
Operations Manager

Peggy Hutter,
Communications Coordinator



OFFICERS

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

TRUSTEES

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

Special Thanks to all of our guest authors!

*Newsletter layout & design by Lee T. Morrill, On Track Design
Photo by Sandy Delaat*

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**



- ☐ \$10,000+ Ausbon Sargent Society
- ☐ \$5,000+ Legacy Circle
- ☐ \$2,500+ Leadership Circle
- ☐ \$1,000+ Benefactor
- ☐ \$500+ Patron
- ☐ \$250+ Steward
- ☐ \$150+ Protector
- ☐ \$60+ Advocate
- ☐ Other \$ _____



Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

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

02/16